

First terrestrial (land) organisms appear
(amphibians, arthropods) - 430 mya

First evidence of life - 3500 mya
(prokaryotic single-celled bacteria & archaea)

First placental mammals appear
in fossil record - 220 mya

First dinosaurs and early mammals
appear in fossil record - 245 mya

First eukaryotes as unicellular organisms
with nuclei in cells -1400 mya

Development of multicellular organisms
(sponges, soft-bodied invertebrates) -570 mya

Extinction of dinosaurs; see rise
of mammals & birds - 65 mya

Cambrian Explosion seen with increased
diversity in marine life - 543 mya

Permian-Triassic extinction of 95% of marine
species and 50% of all animals - 251 mya

Rise in oxygen levels; photosynthetic
bacteria form stromatolites - 2400 mya

Modern humans appear amid four ice ages
that change Earth's ecosystems - 0.2 mya

First flowering plants
appear on Earth - 245 mya

First hominids appear - 5 mya
(oldest human ancestors)

Earth's crust cools and solidifies
No life/fossils - 4500 mya

First plants moved to land; diversity in
marine life continues to increase - 505 mya

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