

World and Human Timeline

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It's time to put world history into perspective. Dates are approximate, some sources may differ by 10% or more. Several pre-humans were only discovered in the last few decades. Geological time periods are:

Eon Era Period Epoch (not included here)

Years Ago	Event	Notes
400	World population	550 million
650	World population	370 million, after the Black Death.
1000	Ducks domesticated	
1200	World population	220 million
1600	World population	200 million
2000	Turkeys domesticated	
2500	World population	100 million
2500	Pants invented (Greek)	
2550	Bronze Age ends	Only 1200 years ago in Scandinavia.
3000	World population	50 million
3000	1-hump camels domesticated	Dromedary
3200	Iron Age started	Iron Age started c 2600 in some places. End of Bronze Age
3500	Iron discovered	
4000	World population	27 million
4000	Chickens domesticated	
4300	Copper Age ends	
4500	2-hump camels domesticated	Bactrian
5000	World population	14 million
5000	Alpacas domesticated	
5000	First human writing	
5200	Copper Age starts Europe	Dates fuzzy on the Copper Age
5300	Bronze Age started	Stone age ends.
5500	Horses domesticated	
5650	Wheel invented	
6000	First civilization	Sumerians, in Mesopotamia.
6000	Wool first used	
6000	Llamas domesticated	
6500	Plow invented	
7000	Structured society	In southeast Europe.
8000	First irrigation	
8200	Copper smelted	Anatolia
9500	First cities (Mesopotamia)	

Years Ago	Event	Notes
9500	Cats domesticated	
10,000	Pottery fired in ovens	
10,000	World population	5 million
10,300	Pigs and cows domesticated	
10,500	Goats domesticated	
11,000	Sheep domesticated	Zagros mountains
11,000	Agriculture invented	Cereals grown in the Fertile Crescent
12,000	First cities	
15,000	Denisovans died off	Left 3-5% of DNA in Asians
15,000	Dogs domesticated	
28,000	Neanderthal dies off.	
33,000	<i>Homo erectus</i> dies off.	First cave paintings
50,000	Pygmy tribe	<i>Homo floresiensis</i> in Indonesia, died off 18,000 YA.
50,000	Humans advance	First animal hide clothing, death rituals, complex hunting traps.
55,000	Major migration from Africa to Europe	
58,000	First chickens	
60,000	First musical instrument	Flute
90,000	Spearfishing invented	
100,000	People lived in China	
100,000	First jewelry	
110,000	First beads in jewelry	
140,000	First long-distance trade	
150,000	Eve lived in East Africa	Mother of all existing humans
150,000	First human speech	
160,000	First <i>Denisovans</i>	A pre-human identified by DNA in 2010.
177,000	People lived in Israel	
200,000	First true <i>Homo sapiens</i>	Brain volume 1350 cc. Not extinct yet.
300,000	Oldest <i>Homo sapiens</i>	A primitive version
300,000	Spears thrown	Yay!
325,000	First humanoid footprints	Volcano in Italy
400,000	Spears invented	But not thrown yet 😞
450,000	First Neanderthal	<i>Homo neanderthalensis</i>
500,000	First known shelters	
600,000	<i>Homo heidelbergensis</i>	In Europe and Africa, brain size of ours.
1,600,000	First use of fire	
1,750,000	Axes invented	
1,800,000	<i>Homo erectus</i>	First hunter-gatherer, brain 1000 cc
2,000,000	<i>Homo ergaster</i>	Much larger brain size, 850 cc
2,300,000	<i>Paranthropus boisei</i>	First found in Olduvai Gorge. Extinct after 1.3 million years.
2,300,000	<i>Paranthropus robustus</i>	Extinct after 1.3 million years.

Years Ago	Event	Notes
2,500,000	<i>Homo habilis</i>	Used stone tools, brain 600 cc
2,580,000	Quaternary Period until today	Giant mammals, early humans, Saber toothed cats. Several ice ages.
2,600,000	Stone age begins	
2,700,000	<i>Paranthropus aethiopicus</i>	Extinct after 400 thousand years.
3,200,000	<i>Australopithecus afarensis</i>	Lived in Ethiopia, best example known as Lucy.
3,300,000	First use of stone tools	
4,000,000	<i>Australopithecines</i>	First to live on the savannah
5,500,000	<i>Ardipithecus romidus</i>	First proto-human, 4' tall, tiny brain, found in Ethiopia.
5,800,000	<i>Orrorin tugenensis</i>	First bipedal primate
6,000,000	First big cat	<i>Panthera blytheae</i> , related to snow leopards.
8,000,000	First gorilla	
23,000,000	Neogene Period, lasted 20.45 million years	High ocean levels, develop mastodons, raccoons, and weasels. Camels, dog-like carnivores, and rhinoceroses. Last pig dinosaurs go extinct.
30,000,000	First cats	<i>Proailurus</i>
35,000,000	First dog	<i>Cynodictis</i> , descended from <i>Miacis</i>
50,000,000	First cetaceans exist	<i>Pakicetus</i>
55,000,000	First primates	
66,000,000	Paleogene Period started, lasted 43 million years	Mammals grew larger, more birds, more Deciduous plants, first grasses, cooler climate.
66,000,000	Cenozoic Era, lasts until today	Age of Mammals! Cave lions, sabre-toothed cats, cave bears, giant deer, woolly rhinoceroses, sloths, and woolly mammoths
128,000,000	First snakes	
130,000,000	First flowers	
145,000,000	Cretaceous Period started, lasted 79 million years	Hadrosaurs, ichthyosaurs, mosasaurs, plesiosaurs, pterosaurs. High sea level (300-800' above today)
200,000,000	Jurassic Period started, lasted 55 million years	Allosaurus, Apatosaurus, Ankylosaurus, Brontosaurus, Diplodocus, T. Rex, Triceratops, and Stegosaurus.
225,000,000	First mammal	Brasilodon quadrangularis, like a shrew.
243,000,000	First dinosaur	Nyasasaurus pirringtoni
252,000,000	Mesozoic Era started, lasted 55 million years	Age of reptiles, age of conifers. five major extinction events.
252,000,000	Triassic Period started, lasted 50 million years	Age of dinosaurs, pterosaurs, ichthyosaurs and plesiosaurs, crocodiles, lizards, and turtles. Pangea breaks up.
310,000,000	First egg laying creatures	<i>Hylonomus</i> and <i>Paleothyris</i>
400,000,000	First trees	Tree ferns, horsetails and lycophytes.
450,000,000	First sharks	<i>Doliodus problematicus</i>
520,000,000	First fish	Jawless <i>Haikouichthys</i>
520,000,000	First trilobites	Thrived 300 million years

Years Ago	Event	Notes
540,000,000	Phanerozoic Eon, lasted until today	Abundant animal and plant life has existed, dinosaurs to today.
800,000,000	First mushroom	Mycelium
1,000,000,000	Neoproterozoic Era, lasted 460 million years	Ice age reached equator, first multicellular animals, more continental crust formed
1,600,000,000	Mesoproterozoic Era, lasted 600 million years	Breakup of the Columbia supercontinent, formation of the Rodinia supercontinent.
2,000,000,000	First sexual reproduction	By single-celled protists
2,500,000,000	Proterozoic Eon, lasted 1.96 billion years	Single-celled anaerobic prokaryotes, and multicellular organisms evolved.
2,500,000,000	Paleoproterozoic Era, lasted 900 million years	Continents form, first cyanobacteria.
2,700,000,000	First eukaryotes	Atmospheric oxygen rising.
3,500,000,000	First prokaryotes	Bacteria. First viruses date unknown.
3,700,000,000	First microbes exist.	Microorganisms, the first life forms
4,000,000,000	Archean Eon, lasted 1.5 billion years	Rocks and continents form. Methane atmosphere.
4,600,000,000	Hadean Eon, lasted 600 million years	Earth formed. No rocks from this period except meteorites.