

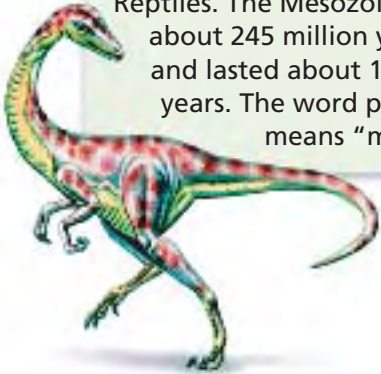


Cenozoic Era

The Cenozoic (sen uh zOH ik) began about 66 million years ago and continues to the present. The word part *ceno-* means "recent," and *-zoic* means "life." Mammals became common during this time.

Mesozoic Era

People often call the Mesozoic (mez uh zOH ik) the Age of Reptiles. The Mesozoic began about 245 million years ago and lasted about 180 million years. The word part *meso-* means "middle."



Paleozoic Era

The Paleozoic (pay lee uh zOH ik) began about 544 million years ago and lasted for 300 million years. The word part *paleo-* means "ancient or early."

Geologic Time Scale

Era	Period	Millions of Years Ago	Duration (millions of years)
Cenozoic	Quaternary	1.8	1.8 to present
	Tertiary	66.4	65
Mesozoic	Cretaceous	144	78
	Jurassic	208	64
	Triassic	245	37
Paleozoic	Permian	286	41
	Carboniferous	360	74
	Devonian	408	48
	Silurian	438	30
	Ordovician	505	67
	Cambrian	544	39
Precambrian		544 million years ago–4.6 billion years ago	