

Transparency Worksheet

# The Geologic Time Scale

1. The division of periods into epochs depends in part on the richness of the fossil record. Why would it be easier to divide more recent periods into epochs than to divide earlier periods?

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2. How many millions of years ago did Earth's atmosphere attain the oxygen levels it has today?

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3. How many years passed between the appearance of the first primates and the evolution of the earliest humans?

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4. What is the longest geologic time span in Earth's history? Why is it so poorly represented in this table?

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5. The fossil fuels we use today formed during the Carboniferous Period. What characteristics of the time period most likely contributed to the formation of these deposits?

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