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Grade & Section: _____

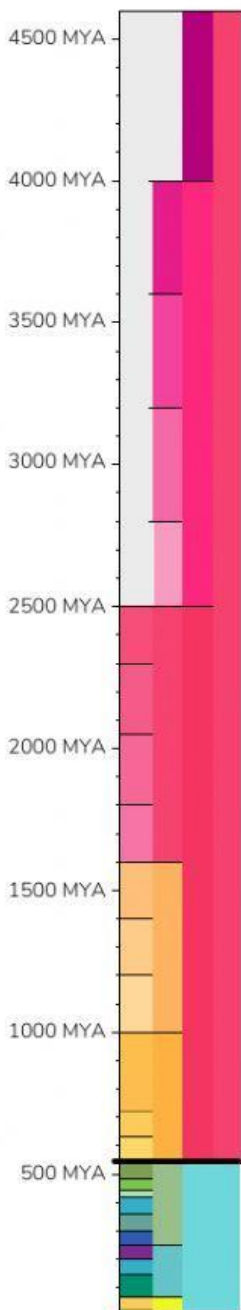
Date: _____

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GEOLOGIC TIME SCALE



Cambrian Period

Cenozoic Era

Hadean Eon

Mesozoic Era

Paleozoic Era

Precambrian

The [red box] is the time span from the formation of the Earth around 4.6 billion years ago to the beginning of the Cambrian period.

The [magenta box] is named after the Greek god of the underworld because of the hellish conditions on Earth at that time -- our planet had just been formed, was still very hot, and frequently collided with other solar system bodies.

The [cyan box] marked a profound change in life on Earth. Prior to it, most living organisms were small, simple, and unicellular.

The [light green box] was when complex life forms evolved and took their first breath of oxygen on dry land. It features the rise of fish, amphibians and reptiles.

The [cyan box] is also known as "the age of the dinosaurs" because it features the rise of reptiles and their conquest of the Earth's land, seas, and air.

The [yellow box] features the rise of mammals -- and more recently, humans in particular -- as the dominant class of animals on earth.