



Atop a tall conical mound are fossil hunters with their dog and pickup truck. One kneels, pointing to a Pterodactyl flying below.

Colorful striped layers list the geological periods, starting with Earth's origin at the bottom through hundreds of millions of years to the top, at present. Each geologic period is labeled, and the earth beside it displays the fossils of the typical life forms found in each layer. Each layer has a number indicating how many millions of years ago it formed.

The top seven layers comprise the Cenozoic Era:

- Holocene (the most recent 10,000 years)
- Pleistocene (starts 1.8 million years ago)
- Pliocene (starts 5.3 million years ago)

- Miocene (starts 23 million years ago)
- Oligocene (starts 33.9 million years ago)
- Eocene (starts 55.8 million years ago)
- Paleocene (starts 65.5 million years ago)

A label reads "Big, Big Extinction."

The next three layers comprise the Mesozoic Era. Fossils shown at these levels are dinosaur skulls and ferns.

- Cretaceous (starts 145.5 million years ago)
- Jurassic (starts 199.5 million years ago)
- Triassic (starts 252.2 million years ago)

A label below this layer reads "Gigantic Extinction."

Moving downward, the next seven layers comprise the Paleozoic Era. Fossils shown at these levels are fish and sea creatures, like trilobites.

- Permian (starts 299 million years ago)
- Pennsylvanian (starts 318 million years ago)
- Mississippian (starts 359.2 million years ago)
- Devonian (starts 416 million years ago)
- Silurian (starts 443 million years ago)
- Ordovician (starts 488.3 million years ago)
- Cambrian (starts 542 million years ago)

The bottom two layers are Proterozoic (beginning 2.5 billion years ago) and Archean, from when Earth formed 4.6 billion years ago.

Arrows from several layers point to illustrations of the life forms that correspond with that era:

- Late Ordovician: Tiny ocean creatures
- Early Silurian: Colorful more complex ocean creatures
- Middle Devonian: Fish in a dark ocean
- Early Mississippian: A shark navigates a sand bank of diverse life
- Late Pennsylvanian: Among steamy swamps, giant insects and amphibians
- Early Permian: Land dinosaurs, conifer forests, and birds
- Late Pleistocene: Massive glacier on the horizon. In a meadow, mammoths, bears, and other mammals move alongside a stream.