

Chemical Biology and Evolutionary Medicine

MIT ESP Junction

Assignment 1 *Summer 2014*

Due at the beginning of class on Tuesday, 7/8

On the next page of this assignment, there is a Geologic Time Scale showing the history of the Earth, with the various Eons, Eras, Periods, and Epochs indicated. You may notice, however, that it is not drawn to scale. In other words, the amount of space allocated for each time period is not proportional to the amount of time that elapsed in each period. To get a better sense of the relative lengths of each time period, please redraw this timeline to scale.

Specifically:

- Take a paper of any size (does not have to be 8.5 x 11!).
- Using a ruler, draw a straight line across the paper.
- You will be using “millions of years ago,” abbreviated “mya,” as your units.
- Label the beginning, “5000.”
- Label the ending, “Today.”
- Using a ruler and proper spacing, mark “4000,” “3000,” “2000,” and “1000.”
- Using a ruler and proper spacing, place the Eons, Eras, and Periods on the timeline.
- Label each important event with its name and the number of years before present, in mya.
- You do not need to include the Epochs.

Geologic Time Scale					
Eon	Era	Period		Epoch	Start (Million Years Ago)
Phanerozoic	Cenozoic	Quaternary		Holocene	0.01
				Pleistocene	2.6
		Tertiary	Neogene	Pliocene	23
				Miocene	
			Paleogene	Oligocene	65
				Eocene	
		Paleocene			
	Mesozoic	Cretaceous			146
		Jurassic			201
		Triassic			250
	Paleozoic	Permian			299
		Carboniferous			359
		Devonian			416
		Silurian			444
		Ordovician			488
		Cambrian			542
Proterozoic				2500	
Archean				4000	
Hadean				4600	

Notes:

- This timeline is not drawn to scale.
- The major time periods are included.
- The Hadean Eon is not formally recognized.
- Some scientists recognize the Anthropocene as an Epoch from 1850 to the present.
- This timeline has been edited from that of James Morris and <http://geomaps.wr.usgs.gov/parks/gtime/>