

Age of Universe Creation. The creation of the Universe from the Big Bang to the formation of planet Earth would occupy two entire years on our relative time scale. The subsequent events in the history of the Earth would take place over the final period of one calendar year.

Age of Water Formation. The final year would start 4.6 billion years ago when the Earth condensed from its nebular cloud of gas and dust particles. During January of this last year nothing of significance would happen. About the beginning of February the Earth would start to outgas its primordial atmosphere of water vapor and carbon dioxide. With the arrival of March, the water vapor would begin condensing to form the Earth's first liquid water. By the end of March, the Earth would be covered by a shallow sea.

Age of Land Formation. The first continental cratons would begin to appear at the end of March. By the middle of June the era of great vertical movement in the Earth's crust would be essentially complete. Thereafter the Earth's crust would be divided into large continental cratons and interconnected deep ocean basins.

Age of Vegetation. The age of blue-green algae would also begin at the end of March. It would dominate life until the arrival of October when more advanced forms of algae would appear.

Age of Transformation of the Sun's Energy. Photosynthesis of the blue-green algae would also begin at the end of March. It would not have an appreciable effect on the atmosphere until July 20. It would take from July 20 until October for enough free oxygen to accumulate to form the Earth's ozone screen. The Sun's energy would become increasingly beneficial to advanced forms of life.

Age of Marine Life. About the middle of November the Cambrian explosion of marine life would take place. Primitive fish would dominate the oceans by the end of the month.

Age of Life on the Land and Man. The Age of Amphibians would begin on December 4, and reptiles would appear on December 10. The dinosaurs would rule the Earth from December 15 until Christmas. About the end of Christmas Day, mammals would begin their explosive adaptive radiation. In less than a week familiar cattle, horses, dogs, and elephants would be present.

Cro-Magnon man would not appear on the calendar until six minutes before midnight on New Year's Eve! The beginning of agriculture and civilization -- the appearance of modern man as we know him -- would occur about one minute before midnight. About twelve seconds before midnight Christ would be born. The Industrial Revolution would last for about the final one second in this relative time history of the planet Earth.