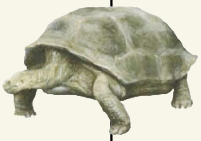
Cenozoic

Quaternary 2.6 million years ago - present day

This period started out as what we know as the ice age and was home to many species (or their direct ancestors) that we see today, it is also when humans began to spread across the planet

Neogene 23-2.6 million years ago

Animals began to resemble forms that would be familiar today including whales, herons and the advanced primates that would eventually lead to humans



Paleogene 66-23 million years ago

The extinction of dinosaurs and many large reptiles (excluding turtles and crocodilians) led to a dramatic shift in terrestrial habitats being dominated mammals

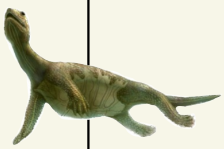
Mesozoic

Cretaceous 145-66 million years ago

Reptiles dominated the planet during this time, mosasaurs in the ocean, dinosaurs on land, and pterosaurs in the skies.

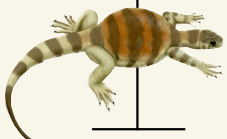
Jurassic 201.3-145 million years ago

This period is marked by the Triassic-Jurassic extinction event at its start, and the growing dominance of marine reptiles and dinosaurs.



Triassic 251.9-201.3 million years ago

The period after the Permian extinction was marked by the dominance of the vertebrate groups of reptiles (Dinosaurs, mammal-like reptiles, and flying reptiles) and the first true mammals



Eunotosaurus africanus- The first turtle

Paleozoic

Permian 298.9-251.9 million years ago

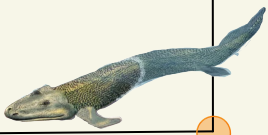
Period of high biodiversity that gave rise to some of the most important reptile lineages for everything from dinosaurs, to crocodiles all the way to the earliest turtles species.

Carboniferous 358.9-298.9 million years ago

Amphibians and reptiles began to emerge in full force during this period, accompanied by colossal insects and arthropods.

Devonian 419.2-358.9 million years ago

Known as the “Age of Fishes” due to the diversity and peculiarity of fish species during the time period.



-Mass extinction event