



INTERNATIONAL STRATIGRAPHIC CHART

International Commission on Stratigraphy

Phanerozoic					Eonothem Eon
Cenozoic					Erathem Era
Neogene					System Period
Holocene	Upper	Middle	Lower	Age Ma	GSSP
Pleistocene	Upper	Middle	Lower	Age Ma	GSSP
Pliocene	Upper	Middle	Lower	Age Ma	GSSP
Miocene	Upper	Middle	Lower	Age Ma	GSSP
Oligocene	Upper	Middle	Lower	Age Ma	GSSP
Eocene	Upper	Middle	Lower	Age Ma	GSSP
Paleocene	Upper	Middle	Lower	Age Ma	GSSP
Cretaceous	Upper	Middle	Lower	Age Ma	GSSP
Mesozoic	Upper	Middle	Lower	Age Ma	GSSP
Phanerozoic	Upper	Middle	Lower	Age Ma	GSSP

Phanerozoic					Eonothem Eon
Mesozoic					Erathem Era
Jurassic					System Period
Upper	Upper	Middle	Lower	Age Ma	GSSP
Triassic	Upper	Middle	Lower	Age Ma	GSSP
Permian	Upper	Middle	Lower	Age Ma	GSSP
Carboniferous	Upper	Middle	Lower	Age Ma	GSSP
Paleozoic	Upper	Middle	Lower	Age Ma	GSSP
Phanerozoic	Upper	Middle	Lower	Age Ma	GSSP

Phanerozoic					Eonothem Eon
Paleozoic					Erathem Era
Devonian					System Period
Upper	Upper	Middle	Lower	Age Ma	GSSP
Silurian	Upper	Middle	Lower	Age Ma	GSSP
Ordovician	Upper	Middle	Lower	Age Ma	GSSP
Cambrian	Upper	Middle	Lower	Age Ma	GSSP
Phanerozoic	Upper	Middle	Lower	Age Ma	GSSP

Precambrian					Eonothem Eon
Proterozoic					Erathem Era
Paleo-proterozoic					System Period
Upper	Upper	Middle	Lower	Age Ma	GSSP
Mesoproterozoic	Upper	Middle	Lower	Age Ma	GSSP
Archean	Upper	Middle	Lower	Age Ma	GSSP
Phanerozoic	Upper	Middle	Lower	Age Ma	GSSP

Subdivisions of the global geologic record are formally defined by their lower boundary. Each unit of the Phanerozoic interval (~542 Ma to Present) and the base of the Ediacaran is defined by a Global Standard Section and Point (GSSP) at its base, whereas the Precambrian interval is formally subdivided by absolute age. Global Standard Stratigraphic Age (GSSA).

This chart gives an overview of the international chronostratigraphic units, their rank, their names and formal status. These units are approved by the International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS) and ratified by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS).

The Guidelines of the ICS (Renne et al., 1996, Episodes, 19: 77-81) regulate the selection and definition of the international units of geologic time. Many GSSPs actually have a 'golden' spike (📌) and Stage and/or System name plaque mounted at the boundary level in a rock section on Earth. Updated descriptions of each GSSP and GSSA are posted on the ICS website (www.stratigraphy.org).

Some stages within the Ordovician and Cambrian will be formally named upon international agreement on their GSSP limits. Most intra-stage boundaries (e.g., Middle and Upper Ordovician) are not formally defined. Numerical ages of the unit boundaries in the Phanerozoic are subject to revision. Colors are according to the Commission for the Geological Map of the World (www.cgmw.org). The listed numerical ages are from 'A Geologic Time Scale 2004', by Gradstein, Ogg, Smith, et al. (2004, Cambridge University Press).

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Figure 2 The International Stratigraphical Chart summarizes the set of chronostratigraphic units (geologic stages, periods) and their computed ages, which are the main framework for Geologic Time Scale 2004. Uncertainties on ages expressed at 2-sigma (95% confidence).