

TAKE A WALK THROUGH TIME

Life began on the earth a very long time ago. Compared with when life first appeared, humans have been around for a very, very short period of time. This activity will help you think about geologic time compared to human time.


1 Ask a friend or an adult to help you. Find a place where you can walk safely for 10 minutes or so without stopping, such as a walking path or your school playground. Start walking and count out loud together for every step you take.

2 When you get to the steps listed in the chart, say the step first, then what happened. Then keep walking and counting. Each step you take represents 10 million years.


THINGS TO NOTICE: Whew! That was a lot of walking! Humans only came into the picture at the very, very end of your walk. What does this tell you about our place in geologic time?



PS

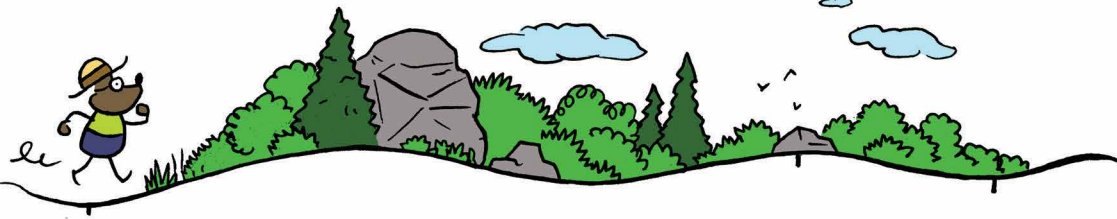
Many of the names in this book are hard to say, but you can hear them spoken online. Go to [Merriam-Webster.com](https://www.merriam-webster.com), search for the word, and press the  symbol next to your word to hear it spoken.

KEYWORD PROMPTS

merriam-webster 

ACTIVITY!

PROJECT TIME!



Precambrian	Step 1: 4 billion, 600 million years ago.	Earth formed
	Step 110: Stromatolites from cyanobacteria probably appeared about 3 billion 500 million years ago.	Oldest fossils
	Step 250: Cells with nuclei appeared about 2 billion 100 million years ago, possibly earlier.	First cells with a nucleus
	Step 390: Simple sponges appeared about 600 million years ago.	First sponges
Paleozoic	Step 405: The earth teemed with life starting about 542 million years ago.	First abundant life
	Step 407: Early jawless fish appeared 530 million years ago.	First fish
	Step 435: A major extinction kills up to 96 percent of life about 250 million years ago.	The Great Dying
Mesozoic	Step 436: Dinosaurs first appeared almost 225 million years ago.	First dinosaurs
	Step 438: Mammals first appeared about 220 million years ago.	First mammals
	Step 453: Dinosaurs became extinct 65 million years ago.	Dinosaurs extinct
Cenozoic	Step 458: Horses appeared about 23 million years ago.	First horses
	Step 459^{1/2}: Human ancestors appeared about 5.5 million years ago.	First human ancestors
	Step 459^{3/4}: Humans appeared almost 3 million years ago.	First humans
	Step 459^{999/1000}: Ancient Egyptians build the pyramids 4,645 years ago.	First Pyramids
	Step 460	Present day