

GEOLOGIC TIME CHART

Relative Age Dating Terminology					Years ago (millions)	Cities and towns in Texas where the geologic units are located.							
Eonothem	Erathem	System	Series										
Absolute Age Dating Terminology													
Eon	Era	Period	Epoch										
P h a n e r o z o i c	Cenozoic	Quaternary	Holocene		0.01	Galveston, Port Aransas							
			Pleistocene		1.8	Brownsville, Houston							
		Tertiary		Pliocene		5.3	Amarillo, Beeville, Lubbock, San Diego						
				Miocene		23.7							
				Oligocene		36.6	Jasper, Brenham, Freer						
				Eocene		57.8	Alpine, Canton, Laredo						
				Paleocene		66.4	Mexia, Texarkana						
		Mesozoic	Cretaceous (See Details)		Late		144	Austin, Dallas, Sonora, Glen Rose, San Antonio, Terlingua					
					Early								
			Jurassic		Late		208	No significant exposures at the surface.					
	Middle												
	Early												
	Triassic			Late		245	Colorado City, Post						
				Middle									
				Early									
	Paleozoic		Permian		Lopingian		286	Abilene, Pine Springs, Wichita Falls					
		Guadalupian											
		Cisuralian											
		Carboniferous	Pennsylvanian		Late		320	Brownwood, Graham					
					Middle								
					Early								
		Devonian			Late		360	Marathon and Llano.					
					Middle								
					Early								
					Silurian					Late		408	Marathon: Rocks of these ages are not differentiated in Texas.
										Middle			
										Early			
					Ordovician					Pridoli		438	
Ludlow													
Wenlock													
Cambrian			Llandovery		505								
			Late										
			Middle										
			Early										
Cambrian			Furongian		570	Mason							
			Epoch 3										
			Epoch 2										
Proterozoic	Precambrian	Vendian / Ediacaran			600	Llano: No fossils in igneous rocks							
					2,500								
Archean	Precambrian				3,900?	Not present in Texas.							
Hadean					4,6000?	Not present in Texas.							
Earth forms					4,6000?	Texas will eventually exist.							

Absolute age dating is based on radioactive decay of specific elements. Relative age dating uses various methods of comparison including fossils. The terminology for each technique is presented for comparison only.