

ZUHL COLLECTION: ALUMNI BUILDING

Fill in the blanks with the correct time range and answer the questions.

Name _____

Precambrian

Million years ago _____

Things that lived then: _____

1. What gives Banded Iron Formations their colors?
2. How does the Banded Iron Formation sample look like the stromatolite samples?

Paleozoic Era

Million years ago _____

Things that lived then:

1. What animal had legs and crawled around on the sea floor? How many different kinds (species) do you see here?
2. Find one animal that moved around on the sea floor but had no legs.
3. Some animals lived on the sea floor but didn't move. Name 3.
4. Find a Paleozoic animal that looks something like a flower. What is it? Does its kind exist today?
5. When did land plants first appear?
6. When did the first conifers appear? In what formation in New Mexico are they found?

Mesozoic Era

Million years ago _____

Things that lived then:

1. How many different ammonites do you see here? What is the range of sizes?
2. Name 5 other Mesozoic marine organisms. Which ones are similar to Paleozoic species?
3. When did flowering plants first appear?
Which came first- plants with flowers or plants without flowers?
4. Name 1 gymnosperm that appeared in the Mesozoic and is still around today.
5. What reptile do you see here that lived and swam in the ocean?
6. Find a reptile that lived on the land. What is it?
8. The Jurassic is the middle period of the Mesozoic Era. What fossilized Jurassic insects do you see? Are they generally larger, smaller, or about the same size as similar insects today?

Cenozoic Era

Million years ago _____

Things that lived then:

1. What kinds of Pliocene and Pleistocene animals lived in the area occupied by modern-day southern New Mexico?
2. How old is the oldest bat?
3. What did modern-day Wyoming and Utah look like in the Eocene?
4. What kind of reptile crawled around in the Oligocene in what is now South Dakota? How big is the biggest shell of one of these? (Hint: the biggest one is not in the display case.)
5. Other than the tree trunk, what other parts of a tree may be fossilized?

MIDDLE SCHOOL