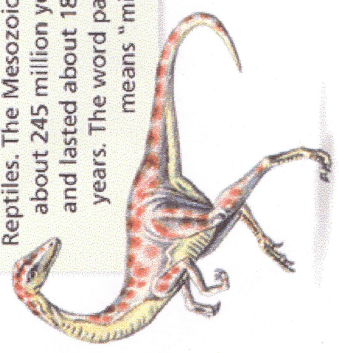


## Geologic Time Scale

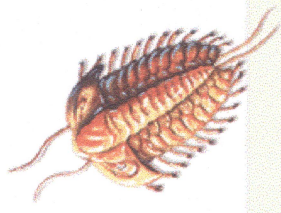
| Era       | Period        | Millions of Years Ago | Duration (millions of years)                  |
|-----------|---------------|-----------------------|---|
| Cenozoic  | Quaternary    | 1.8                   | 1.8 to present                                |
|           | Tertiary      | 66.4                  | 65  |
|           | Cretaceous    | 144                   | 78  |
| Mesozoic  | Jurassic      | 208                   | 64  |
|           | Triassic      | 245                   | 37  |
|           | Permian       | 286                   | 41  |
| Paleozoic | Carboniferous | 360                   | 74  |
|           | Devonian      | 408                   | 48  |
|           | Silurian      | 438                   | 30  |
|           | Ordovician    | 505                   | 67  |
|           | Cambrian      | 544                   | 39  |
|           | Precambrian   |                       | 544 million years ago - 4.6 billion years ago |



**Cenozoic Era**  
 The Cenozoic (sen uh zoh ik) began about 66 million years ago and continues to the present. The word part *cenozo-* means "recent," and *-zoic* means "life." Mammals became common during this time.



**Mesozoic Era**  
 People often call the Mesozoic (mez uh zoh ik) the Age of Reptiles. The Mesozoic began about 245 million years ago and lasted about 180 million years. The word part *meso-* means "middle."



**Paleozoic Era**  
 The Paleozoic (pay lee uh zoh ik) began about 544 million years ago and lasted for 300 million years. The word part *paleo-* means "ancient or early."