

# How We Got Here

## The Universe and Life on Earth

GMAC MEETING 15 DECEMBER 2023 BEIJING, CHINA



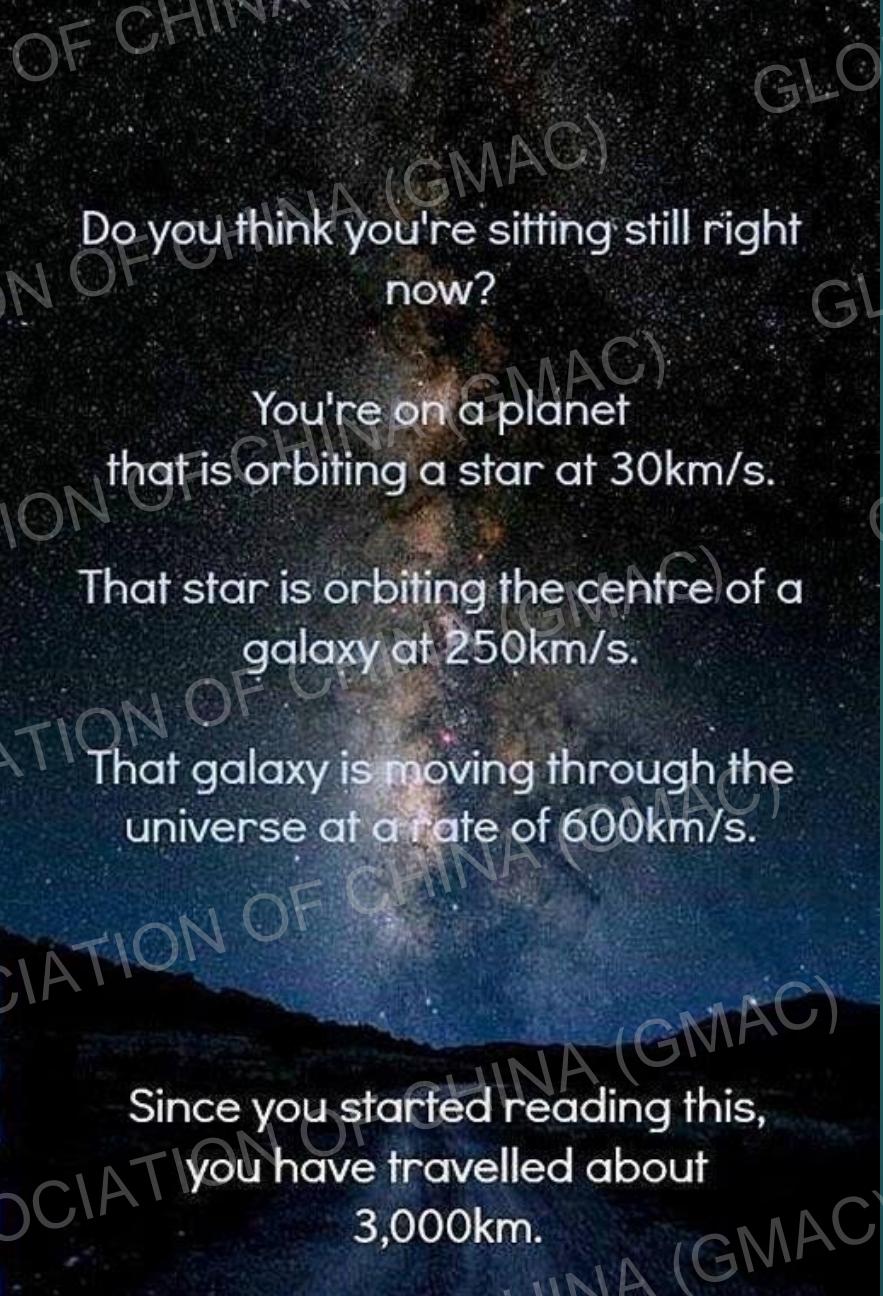
Did you know:

The solar system rotates around the galaxy once every 225-million years.

The last time we were in our current position, dinosaurs were just beginning to walk the Earth!

...now you do

<https://agustina-nadearagon-school.blogsspot.com/2016/10/solar-system-infographic.html>



Do you think you're sitting still right now?

You're on a planet that is orbiting a star at 30km/s.

That star is orbiting the centre of a galaxy at 250km/s.

That galaxy is moving through the universe at a rate of 600km/s.

Since you started reading this, you have travelled about 3,000km.

# Todays Talk

- ▶ The History of The Universe
- ▶ Dimensions and Locations
- ▶ Formation of Solar System, our Earth and the Moon
- ▶ How Life Began on Earth
- ▶ Evolution
- ▶ Extinctions
- ▶ Human Evolution
- ▶ Human Global Expansion



<https://dailymagazine.com/the-history-of-planet-earth-from-the-big-bang-to-humans>

Known from telescopes looking back in time, physical models

Geologic record, fossils, genetic drift

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
The Big Bang				Milky Way disk forms				Solar System and life	Photo-synthesis	Eukaryotic cells	
December 1	2	3	4	5	6	7					
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Sponges					
15	16	17 Fish	18	19	20 Land plants	21 Insects					
22	23 Reptiles	24	25 Dinosaurs	26 Mammals	27 Pangaea splits	28 Birds, flowers					
29 Dinosaurs at top of food chain 	30 Dinosaurs go extinct, mammals diversify and return to the sea 	31 Human evolution		10:15 AM Ape / gibbon divergence 8:10 PM Human / chimpanzee divergence 10:48 PM Homo erectus evolves 11:54 PM Anatomically modern humans evolve 11:58 PM Modern humans migrate out of Africa 11:59 PM Neanderthals die out, megafauna stressed							

Known from radiocarbon dating, DNA extraction from remains

Written record

The last 60 seconds of the year...



Peak of last glacial period, humans migrate to the Americas

Agriculture, permanent settlements

Columbus arrives in America (one second to midnight)

Christ born

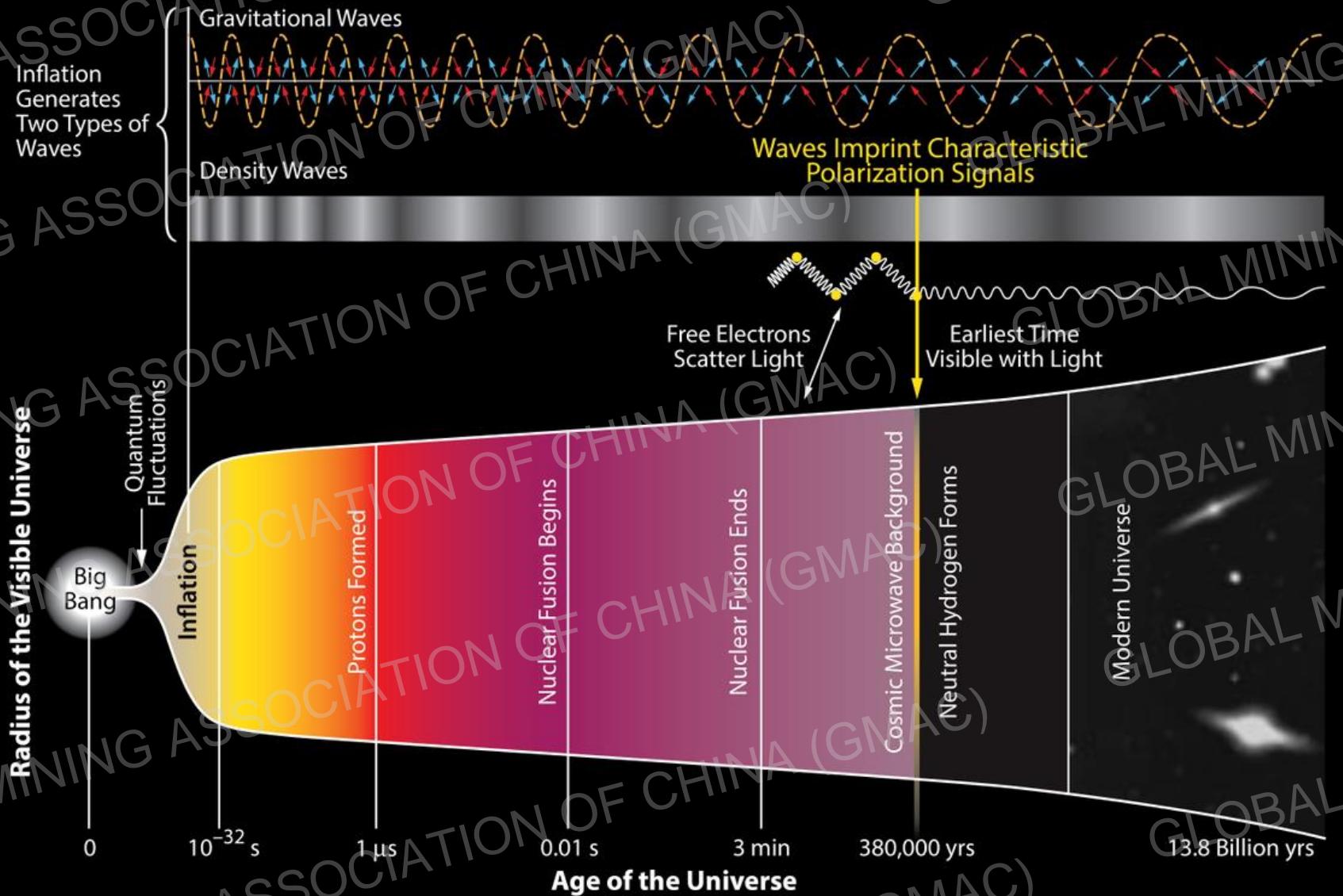
Mohammed born

Roman republic, Old Testament, Buddha

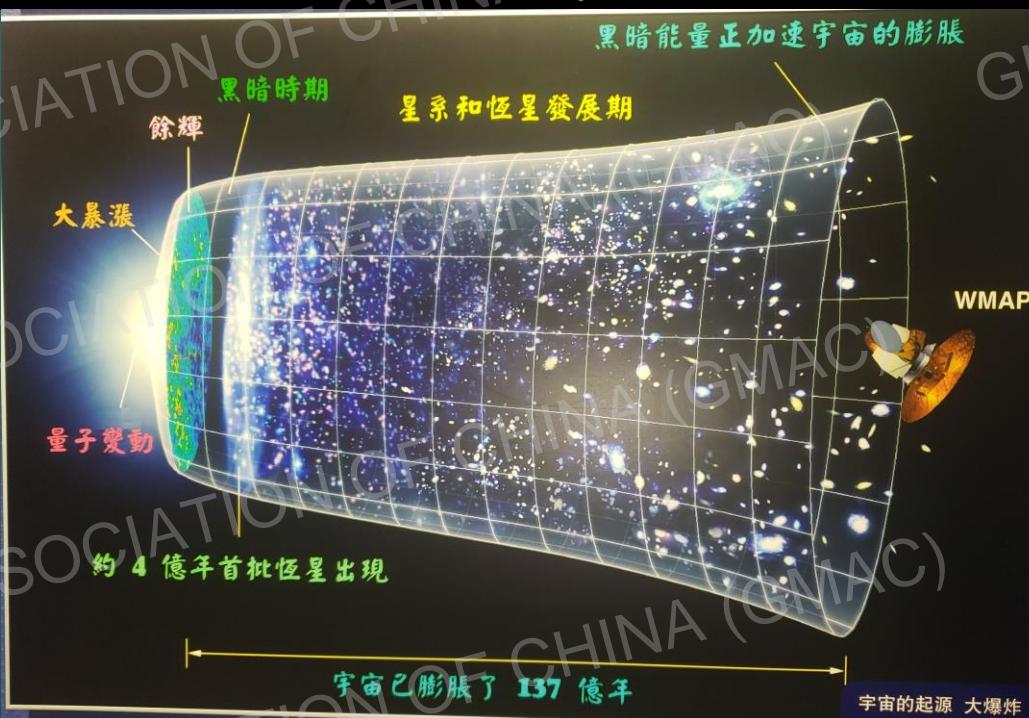
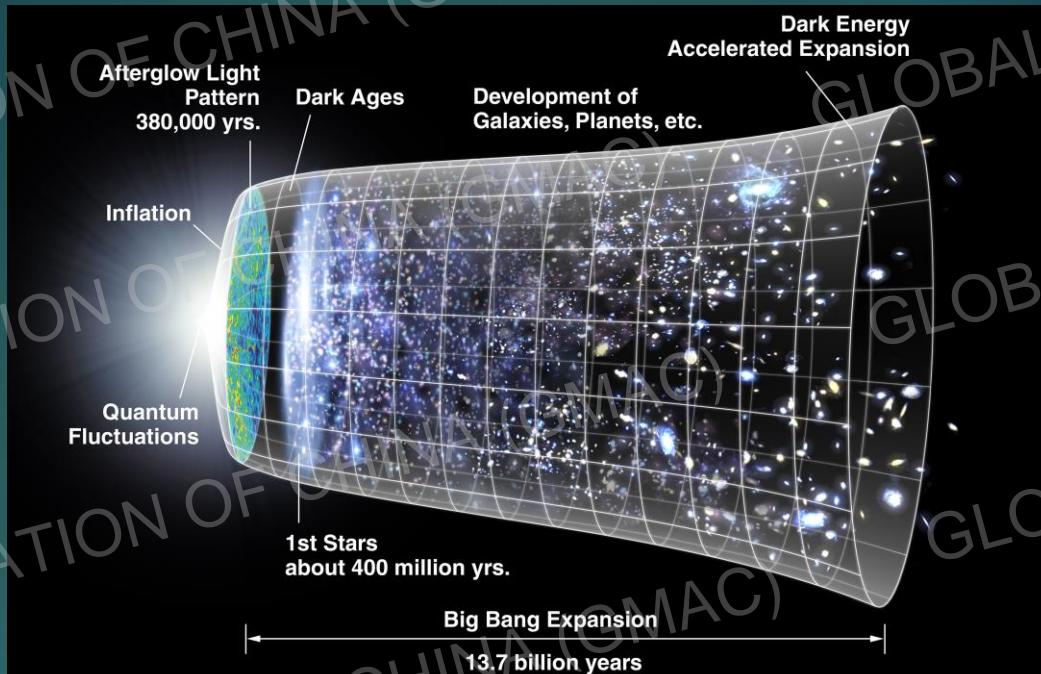
First cities in Mesopotamia

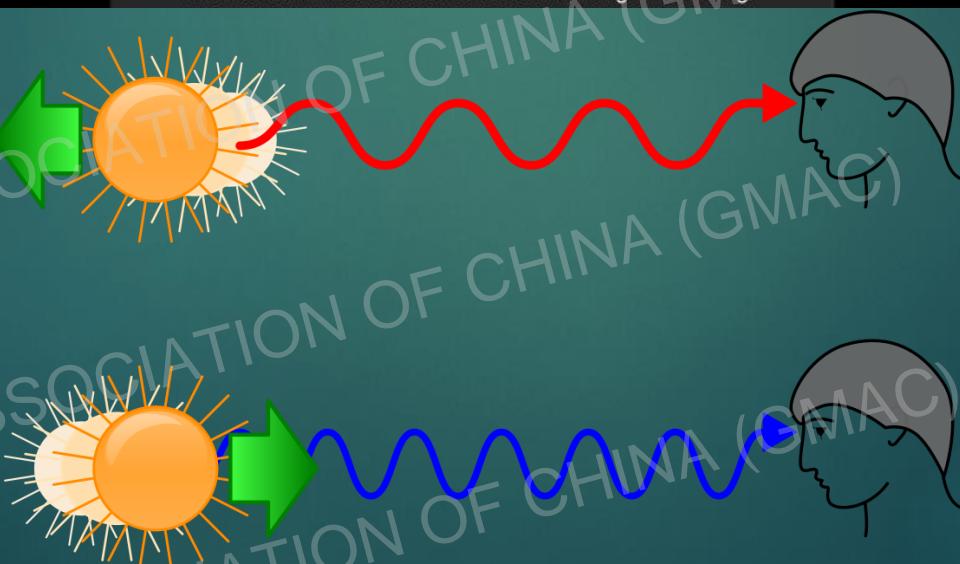
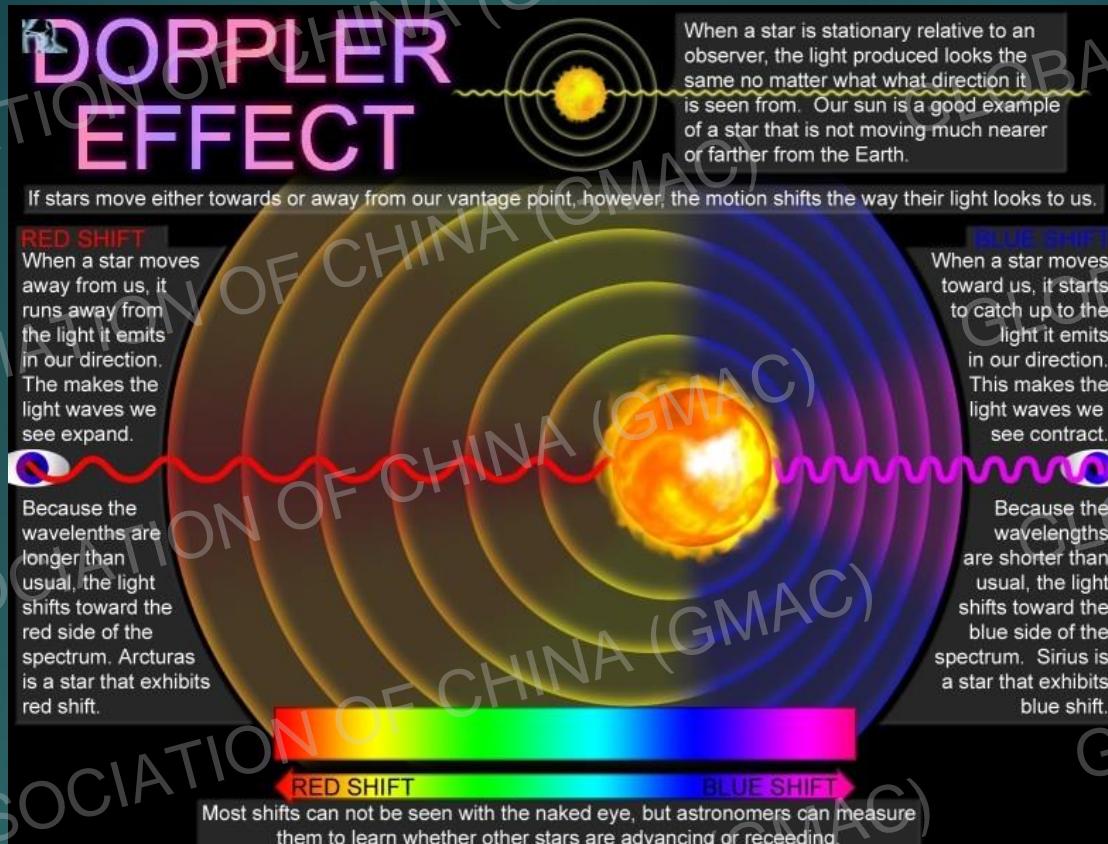
Dynastic China

# History of the Universe

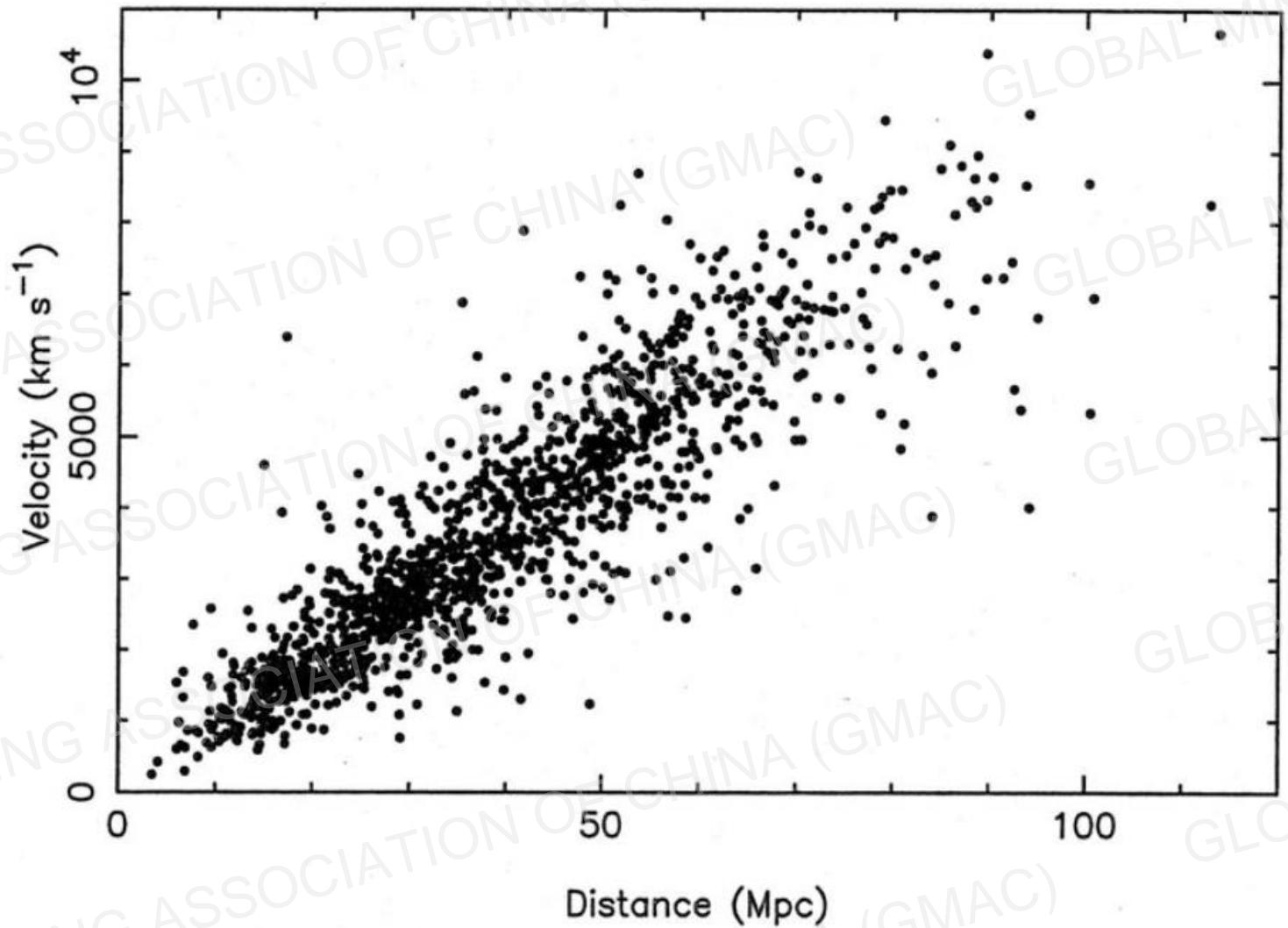


<https://www.collegesidekick.com/study-guides/geophysicalformation-of-the-universe>

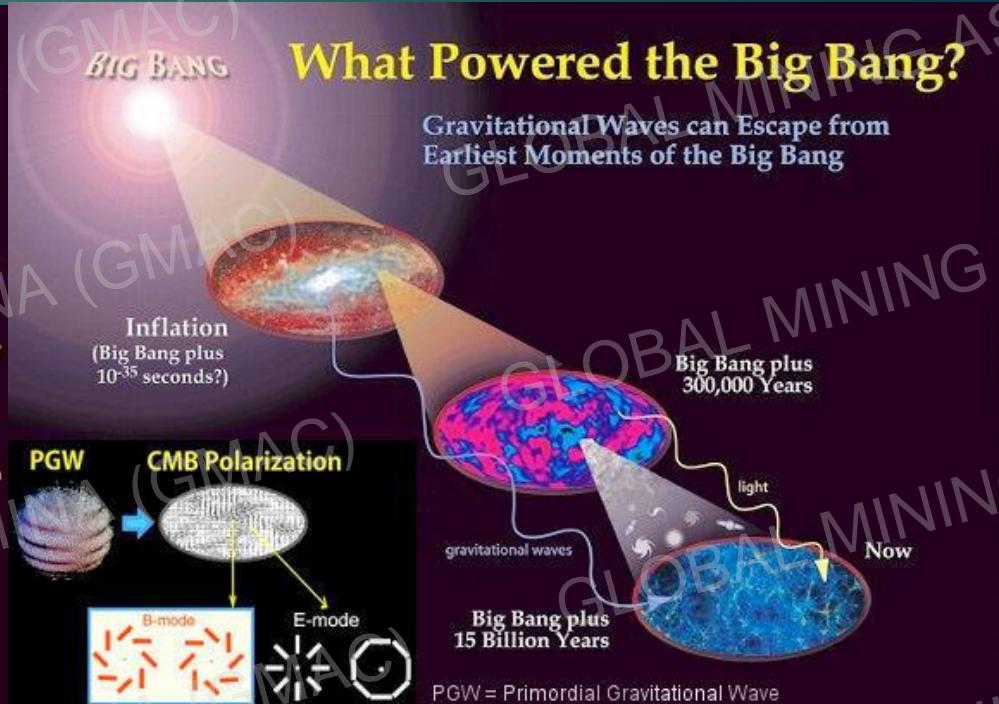
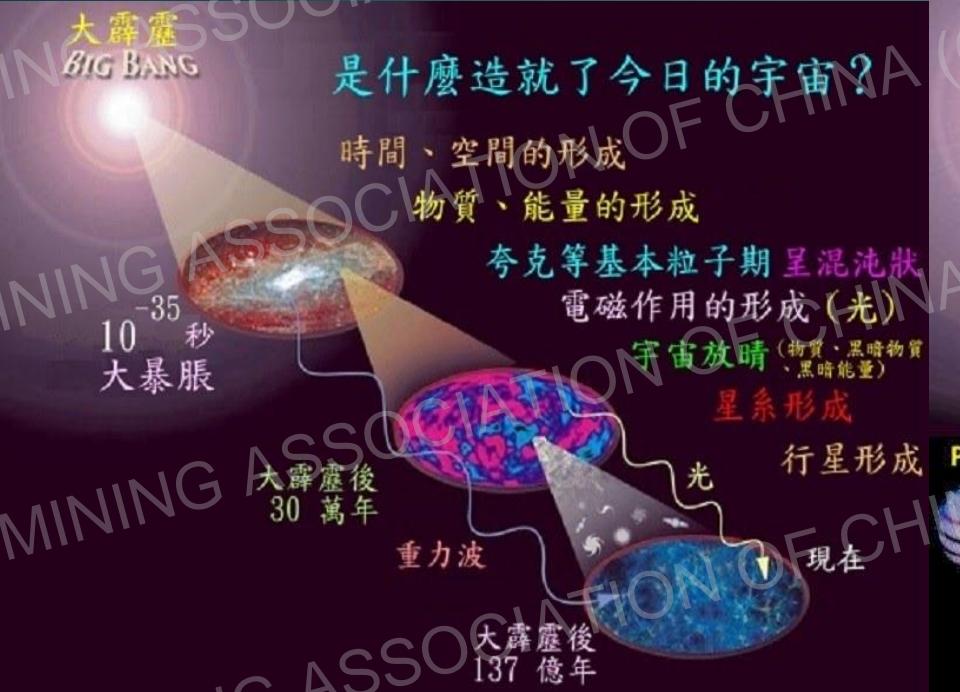




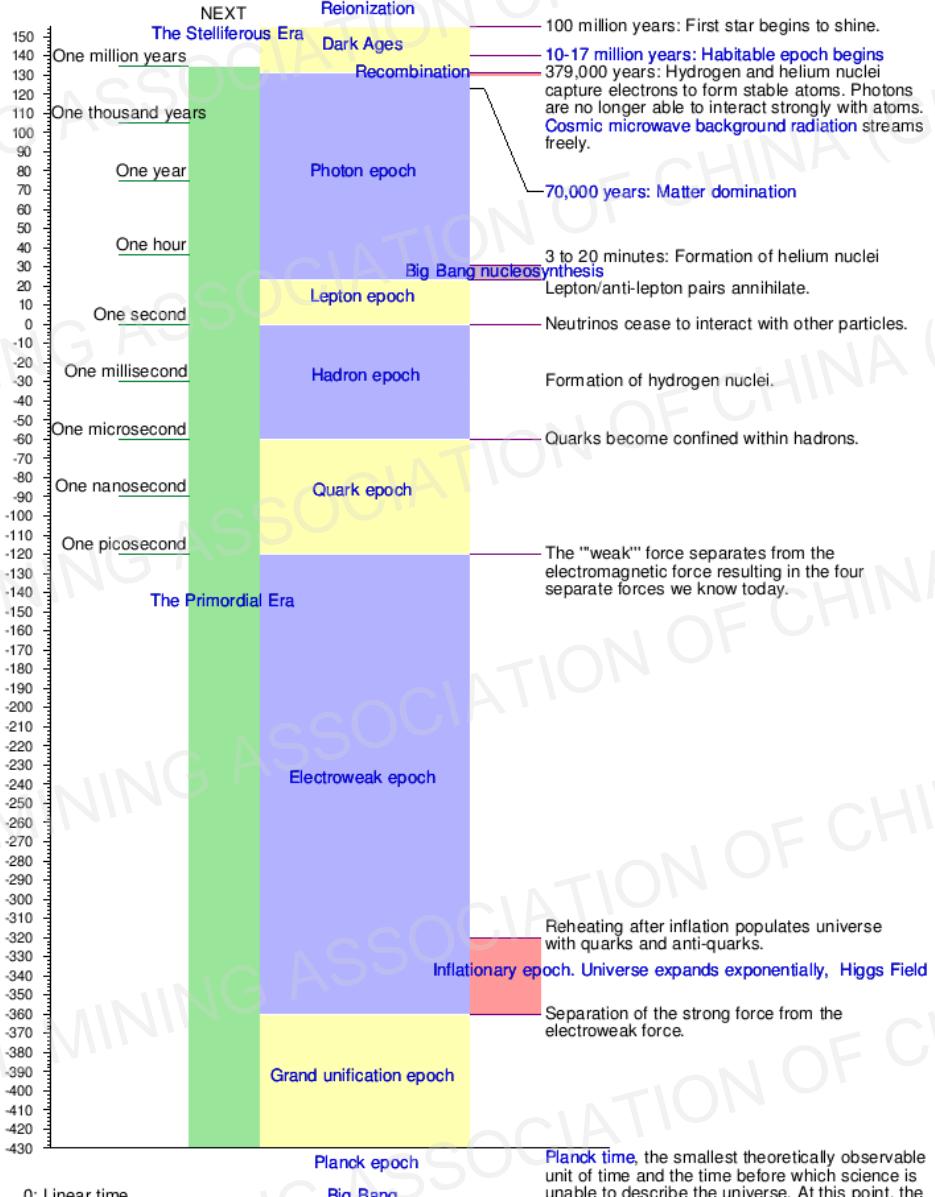
<https://socrati.c.org/question/s/how-does-the-expansion-of-the-universe-affect-light>



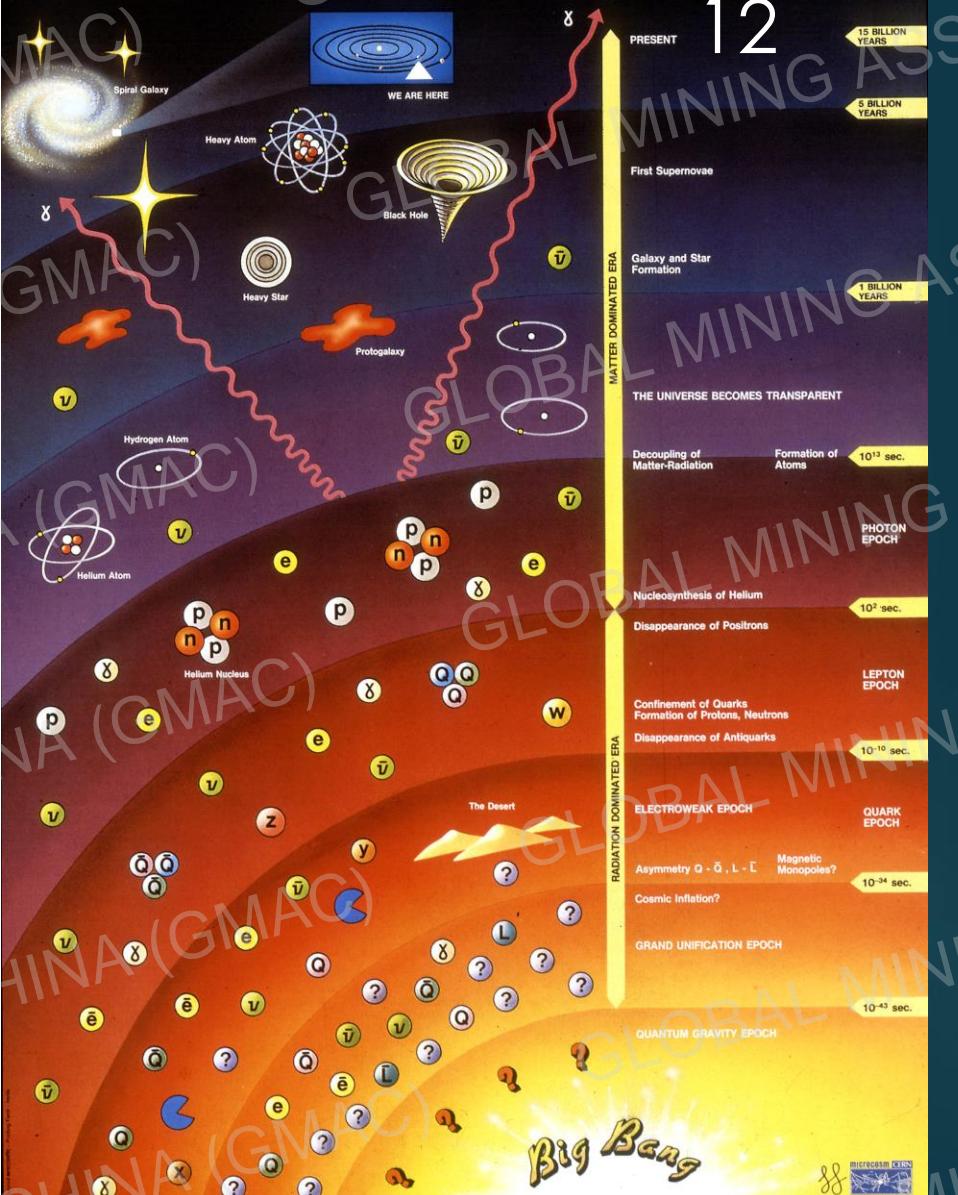
**Figure 2.5** A plot of velocity versus estimated distance for a set of 1355 galaxies. A straight-line relation implies Hubble's law. The considerable scatter is due to observational uncertainties and random galaxy motions, but the best-fit line accurately gives Hubble's law. [The  $x$ -axis scale assumes a particular value of  $H_0$ .]

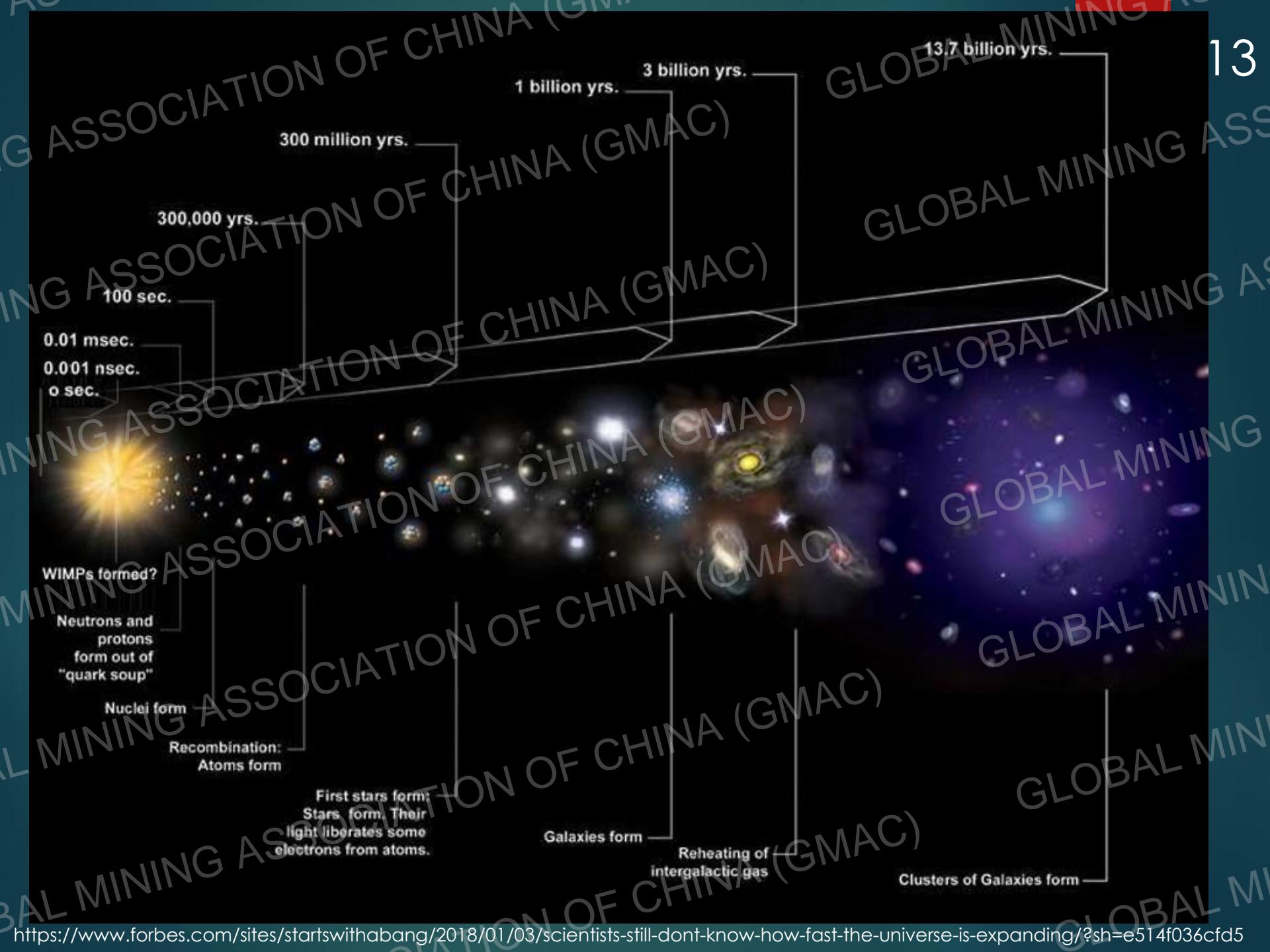


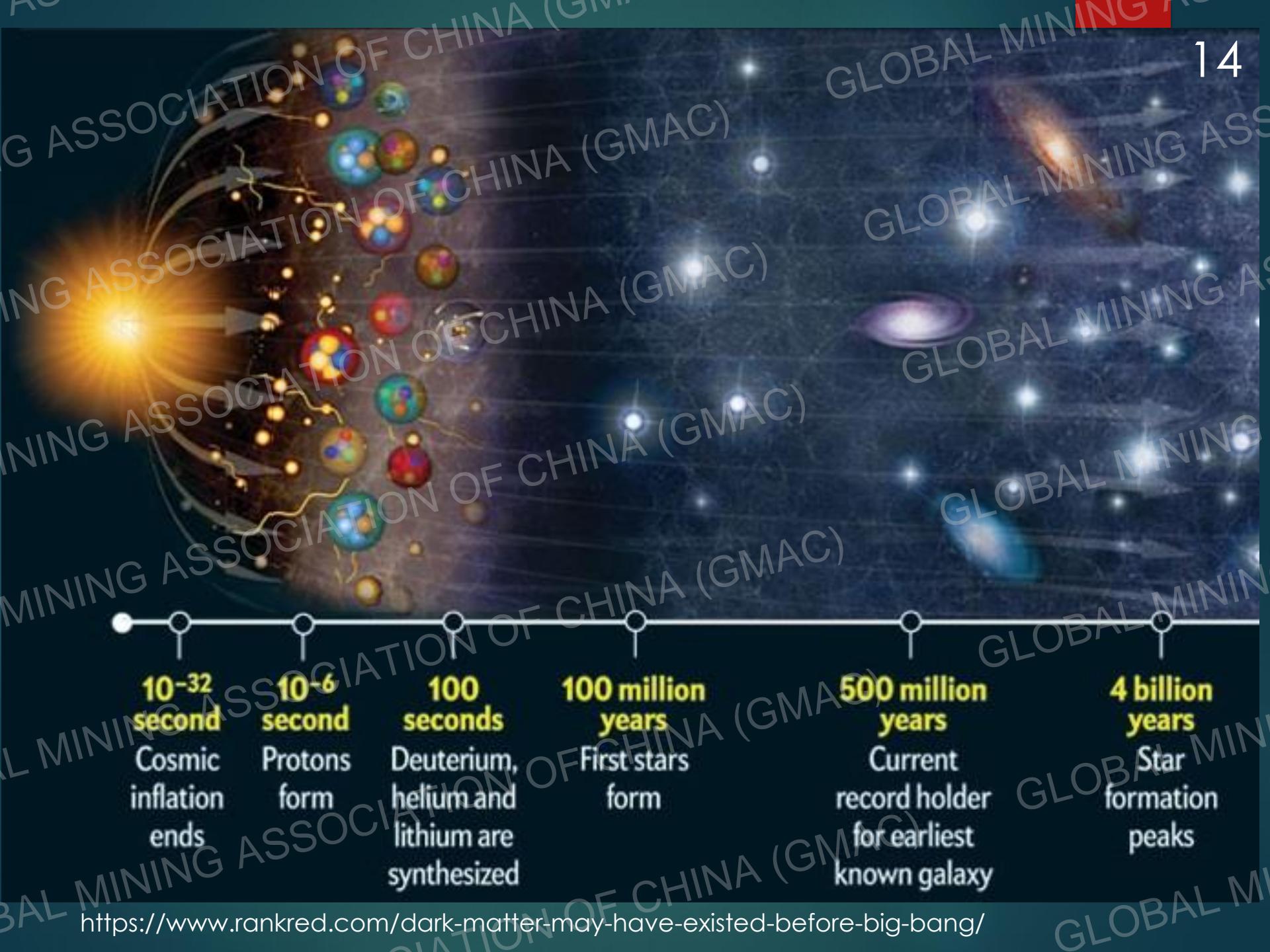
Logarithmic time:  
10 · log<sub>10</sub> second

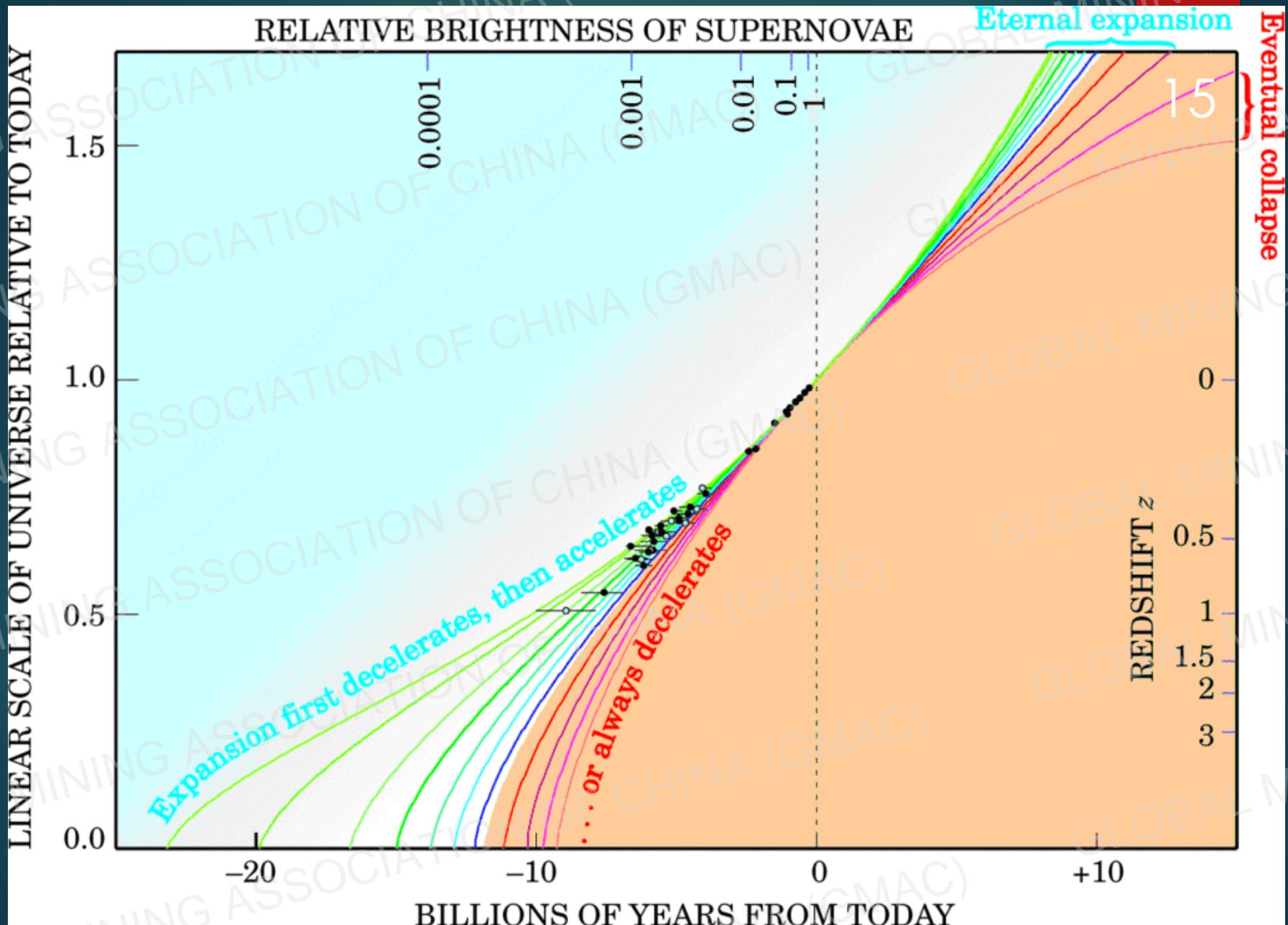


# History of the Universe



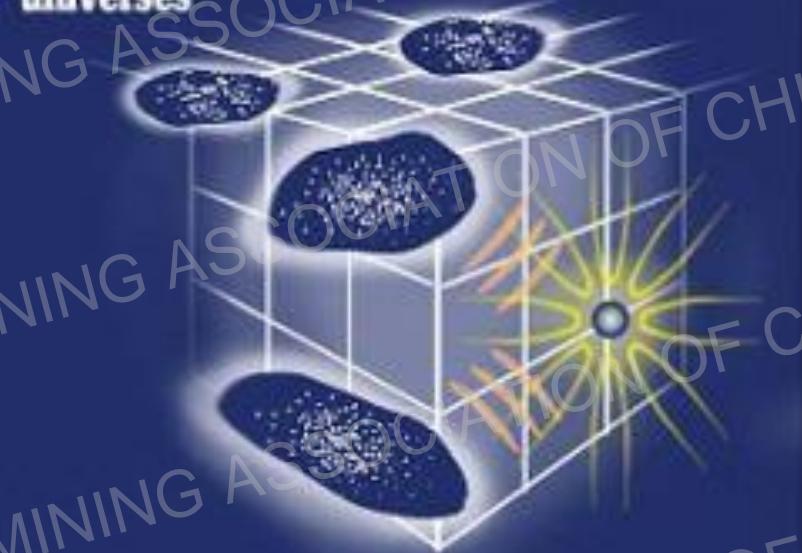






# Multiverse: The evidence

Anomalies in cosmic background radiation could be the first hard evidence for other universes



**1** Other universes exerted a 'pull' on our universe as it formed - leaving an imprint in the cosmic background radiation

© daily mail / european space agency

Map of cosmic background radiation

Plank satellite

6

North  
South

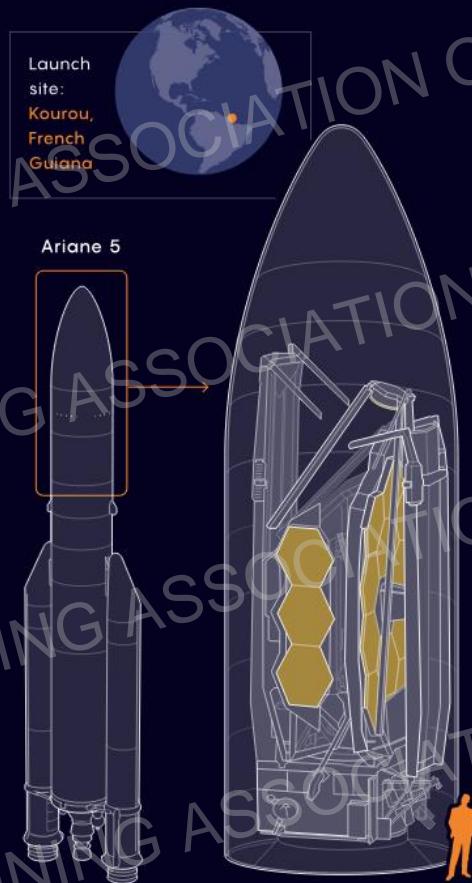
Cold Spot

**2** Cosmic microwave radiation should be evenly spread out but it is stronger in southern half of the sky

**3** A large 'cold spot' is also inexplicable under conventional physics

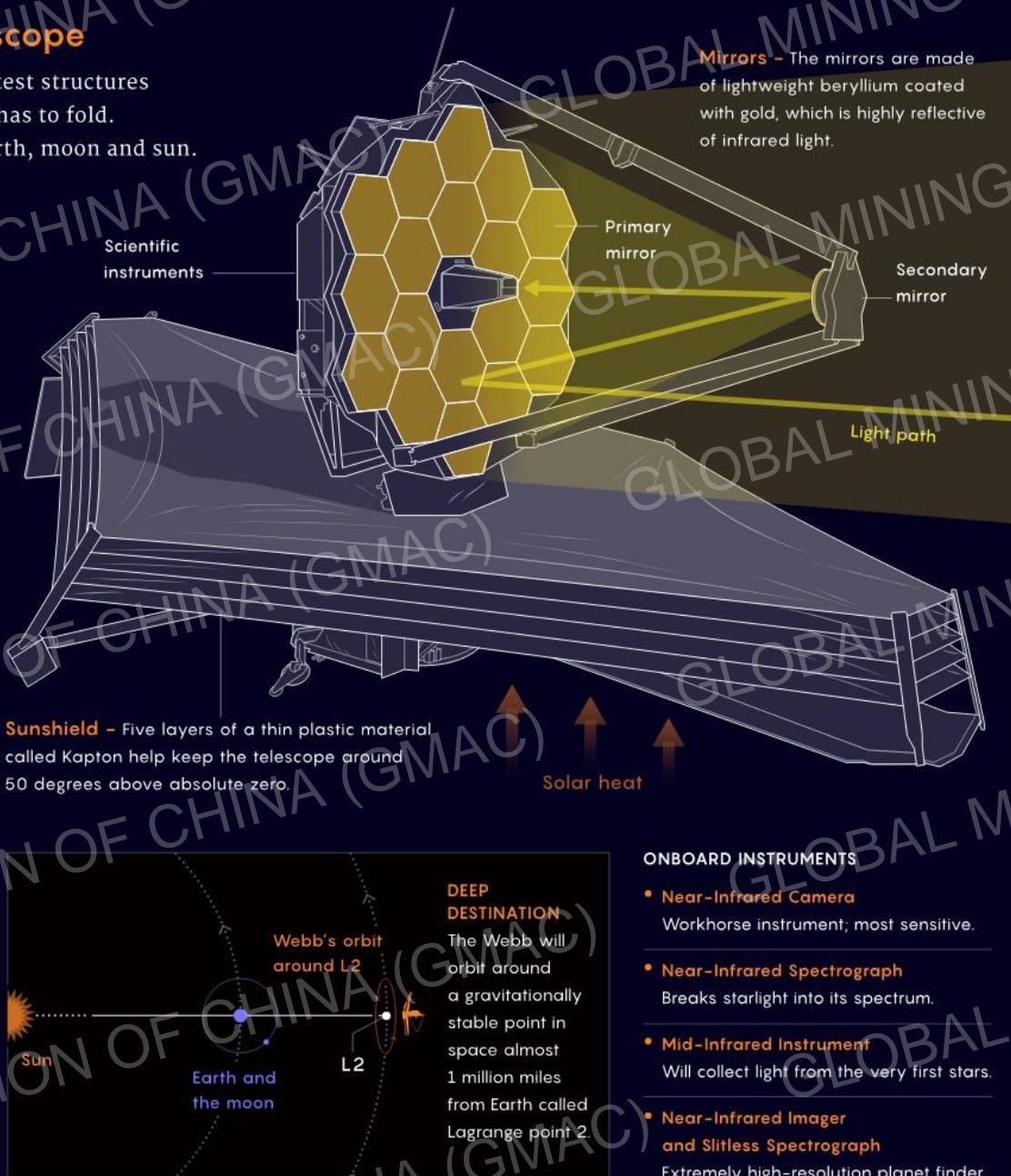
## The James Webb Space Telescope

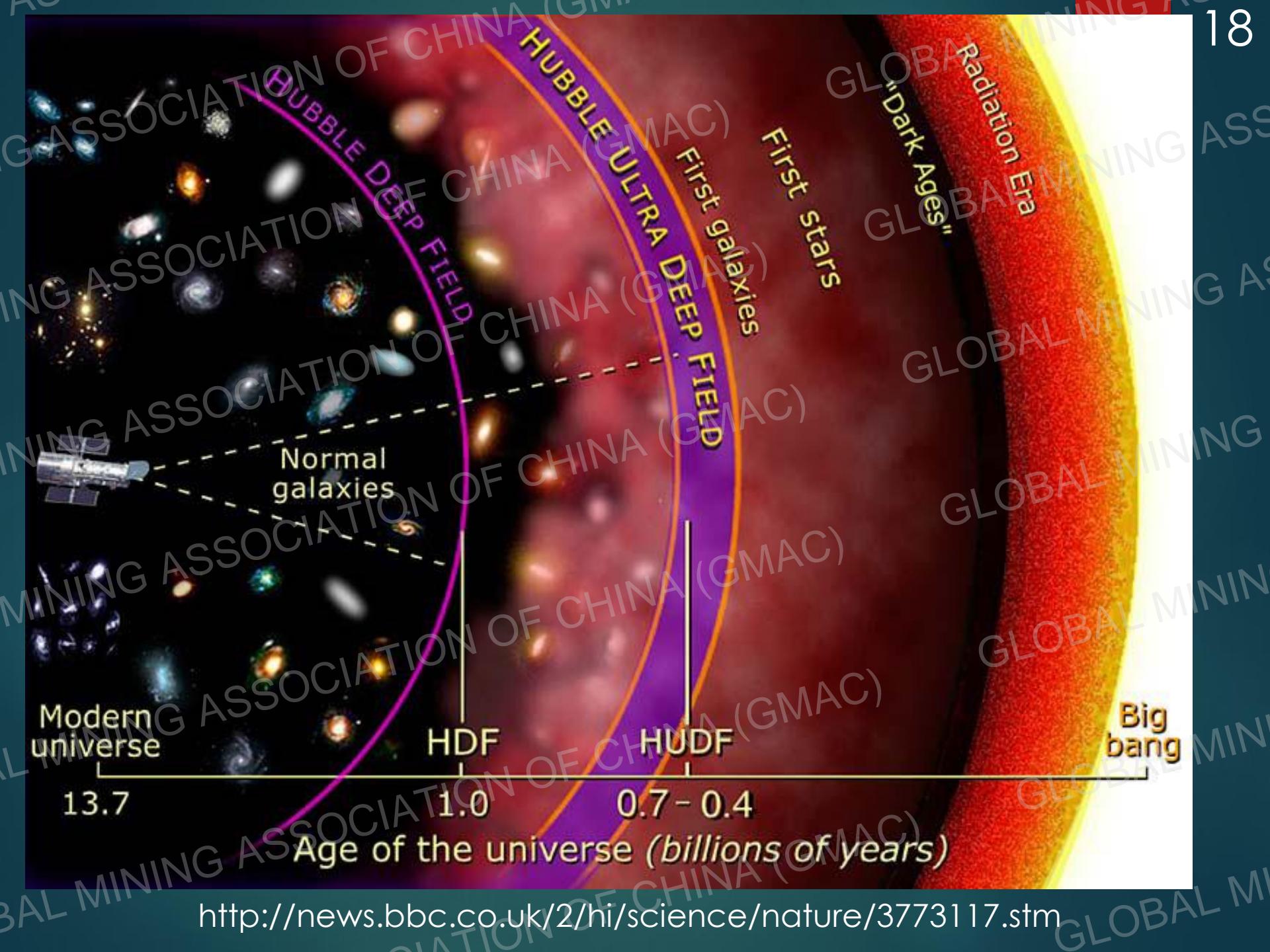
To collect enough infrared light to see the faintest structures in the cosmos, the JWST must be so big that it has to fold. It also needs to block heat coming from the Earth, moon and sun.



### ASTRO ORIGAMI

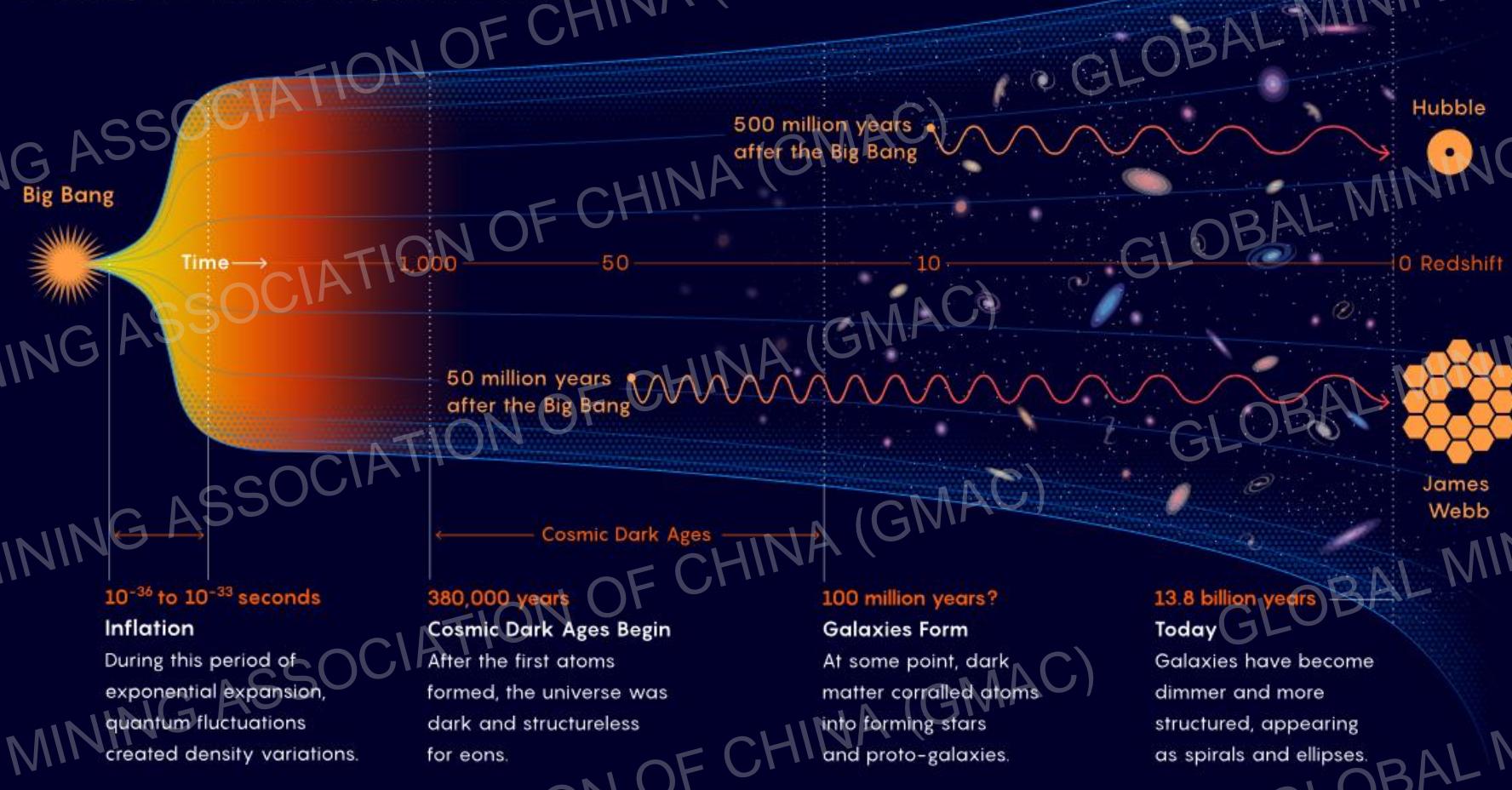
The telescope's 6.5-meter-wide segmented mirror and 20-meter-wide sunshield fold to fit in the 5.4-meter-wide fairing of the European Space Agency's Ariane 5 rocket.



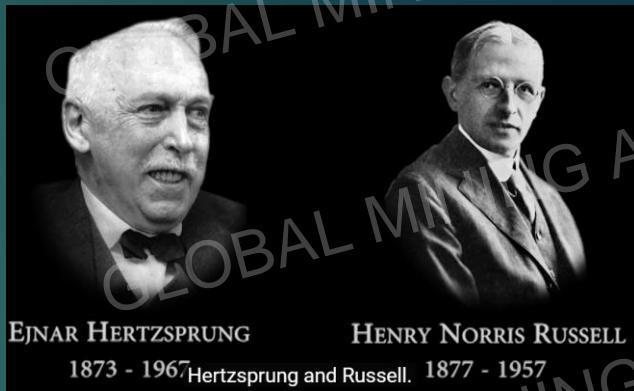


## The Growth of Cosmic Structure

Over billions of years, the universe went from smooth to structured. Powerful space telescopes have gradually uncovered much of the story of how this happened. The James Webb Space Telescope aims to reveal the crucial period when stars and galaxies first formed.



<https://www.quantamagazine.org/why-nasas-james-webb-space-telescope-matters-so-much-20211203/>

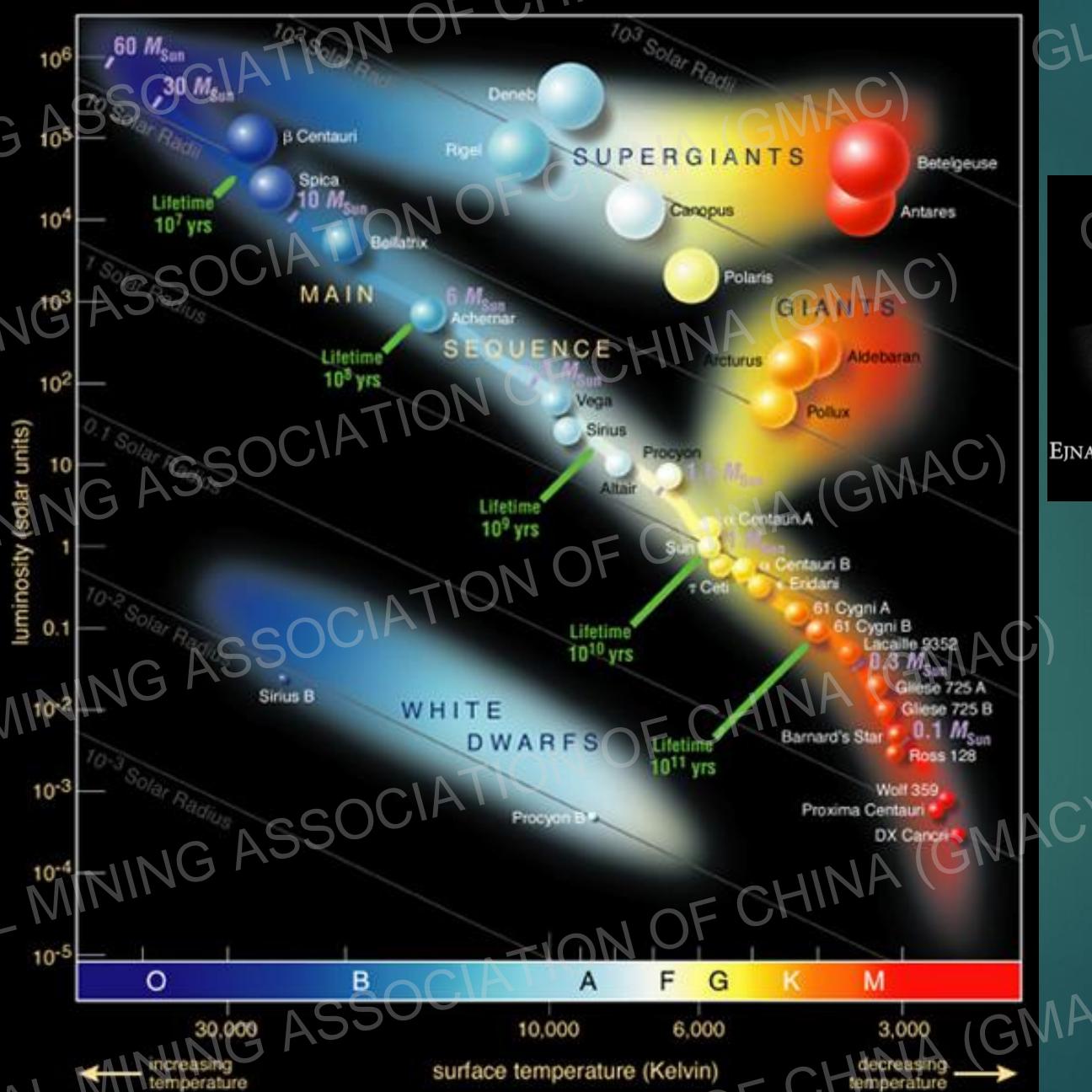


EJNAR HERTZSPRUNG

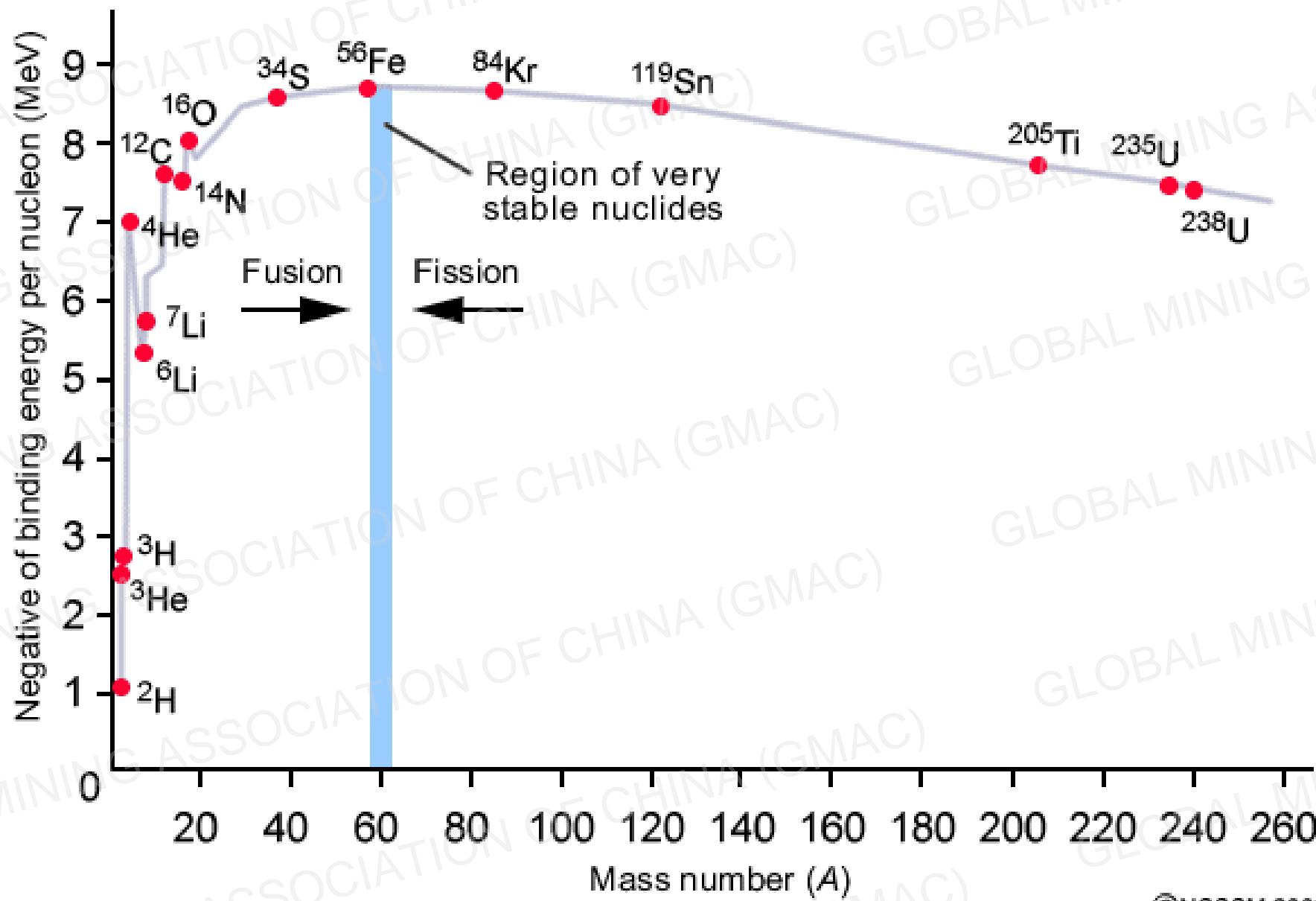
1873 - 1967

HENRY NORRIS RUSSELL

1877 - 1957

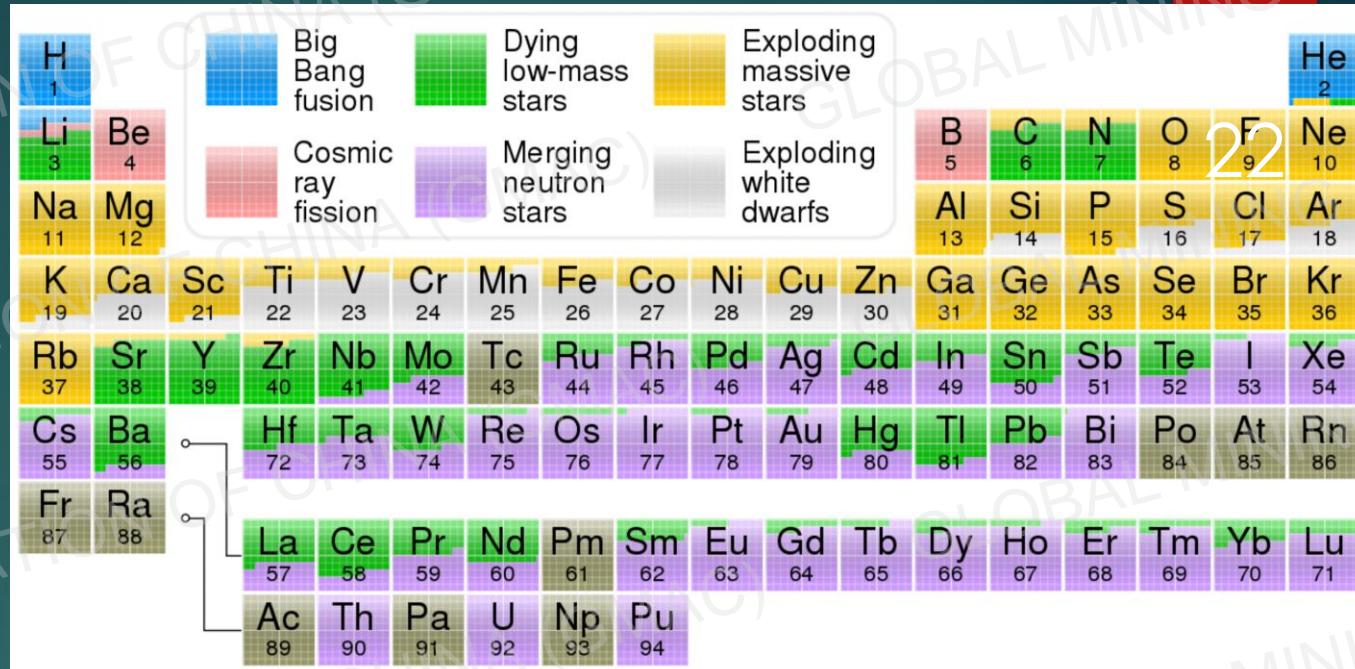


[https://www.researchgate.net/figure/1-An-HR-diagram-showing-many-well-known-stars-in-the-Milky-Way-galaxy\\_fig1\\_326412740](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/1-An-HR-diagram-showing-many-well-known-stars-in-the-Milky-Way-galaxy_fig1_326412740)

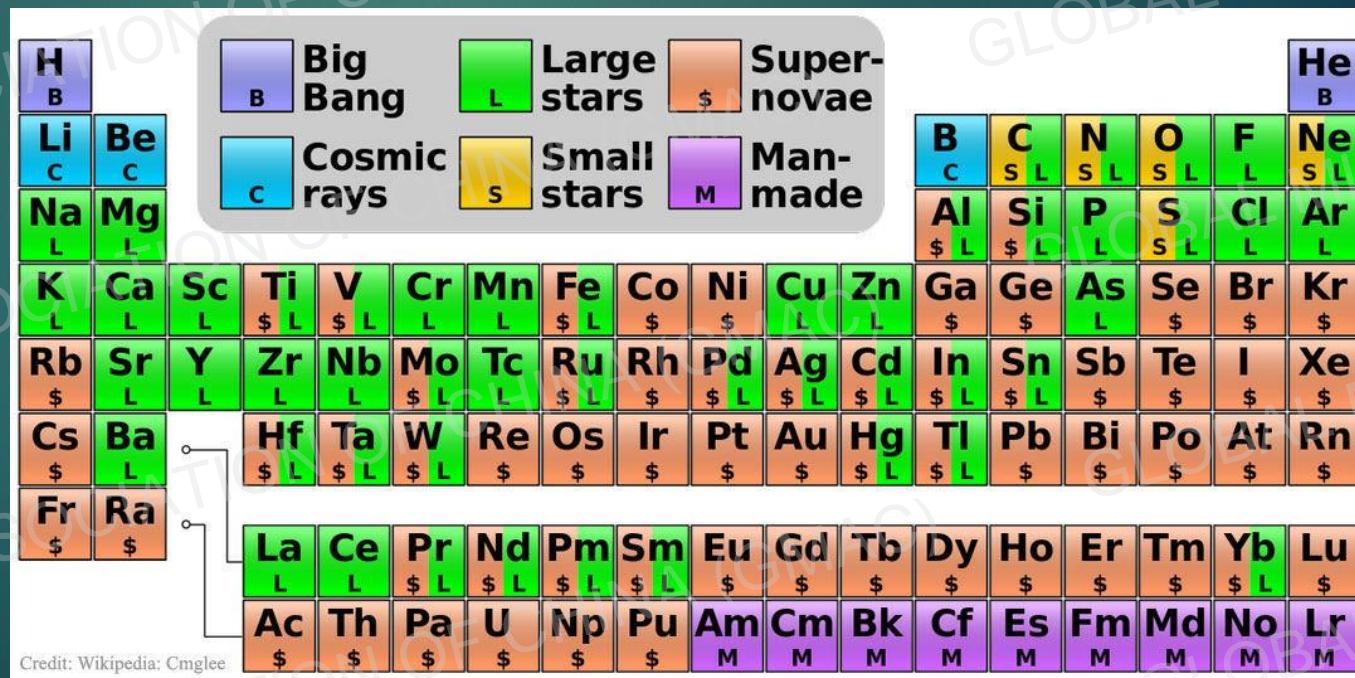


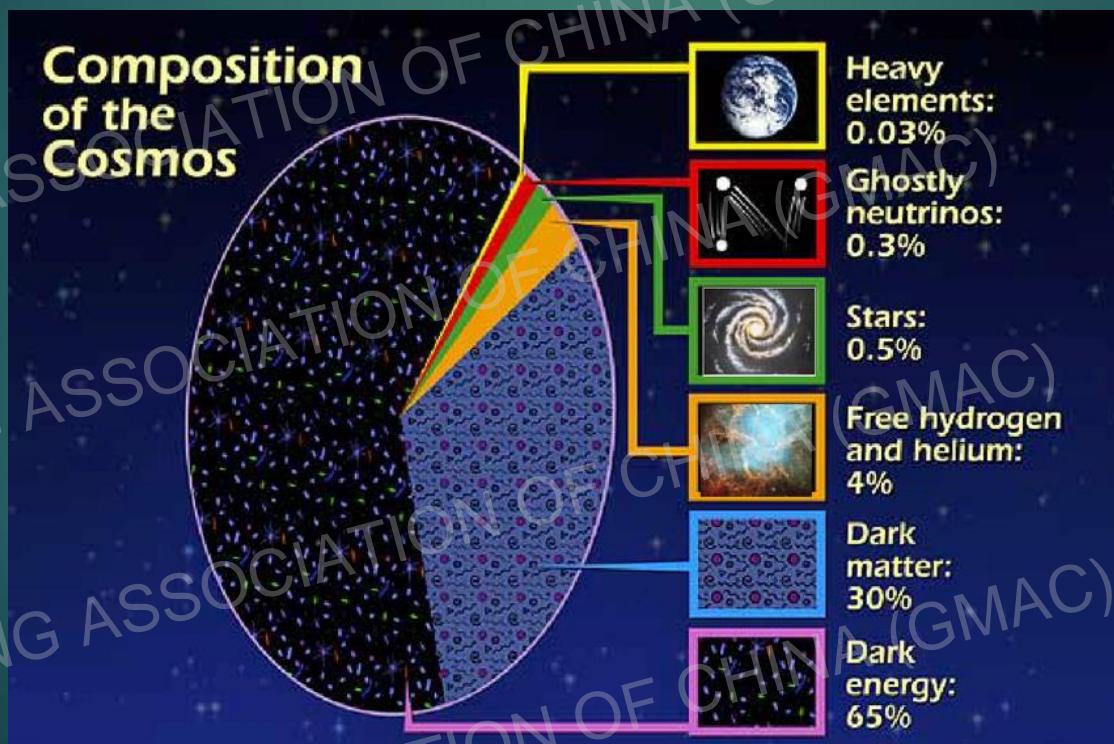
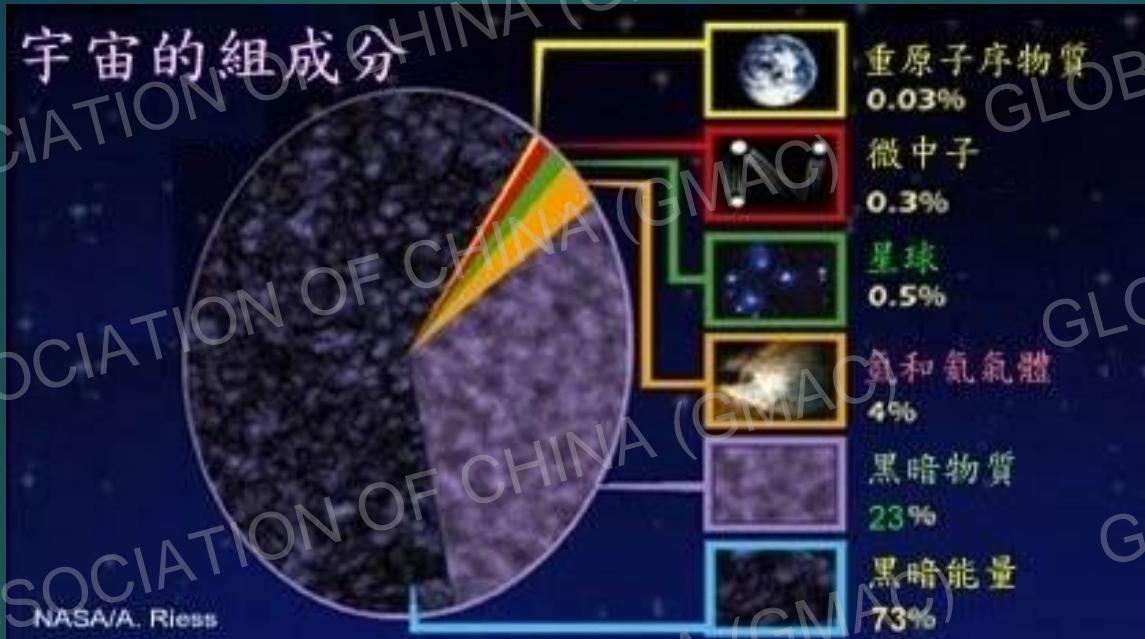
©NCSSM 2002

<https://apo.d/ap200809.html>



<https://universereview.ca/F14-nucleus01.htm>





[https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Our-Changing-View-of-the-Universe-courtesy-of-Jonathan-M-Dorfman-Conceptions-of-the\\_fig1\\_2372344](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Our-Changing-View-of-the-Universe-courtesy-of-Jonathan-M-Dorfman-Conceptions-of-the_fig1_2372344)

# Dimensions and Locations

光速：299792458米/秒

地球到月球：1.3光秒

地球到太阳：8.3光分

地球到火星最远距离：22.3光分

地球到比邻星(最近的太阳系外恒星)：4.2光年

地球到银心的距离：2.6万光年



Earth to Moon = 1.3 Light seconds



Earth to Sun = 8 Light minutes



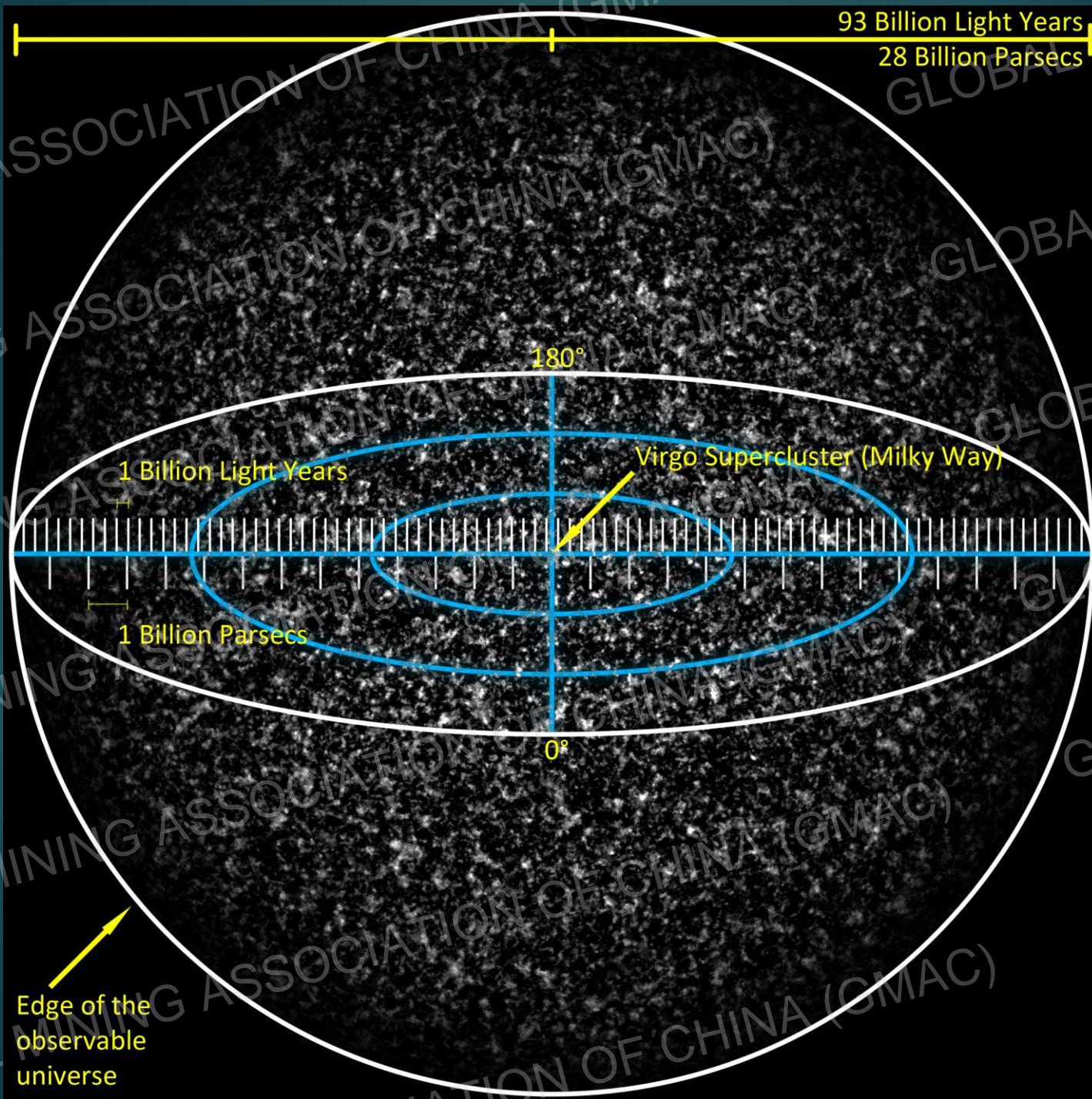
Earth to Mars = 12.7 Light minutes



Earth to Alpha Centauri = 4.4 Light years

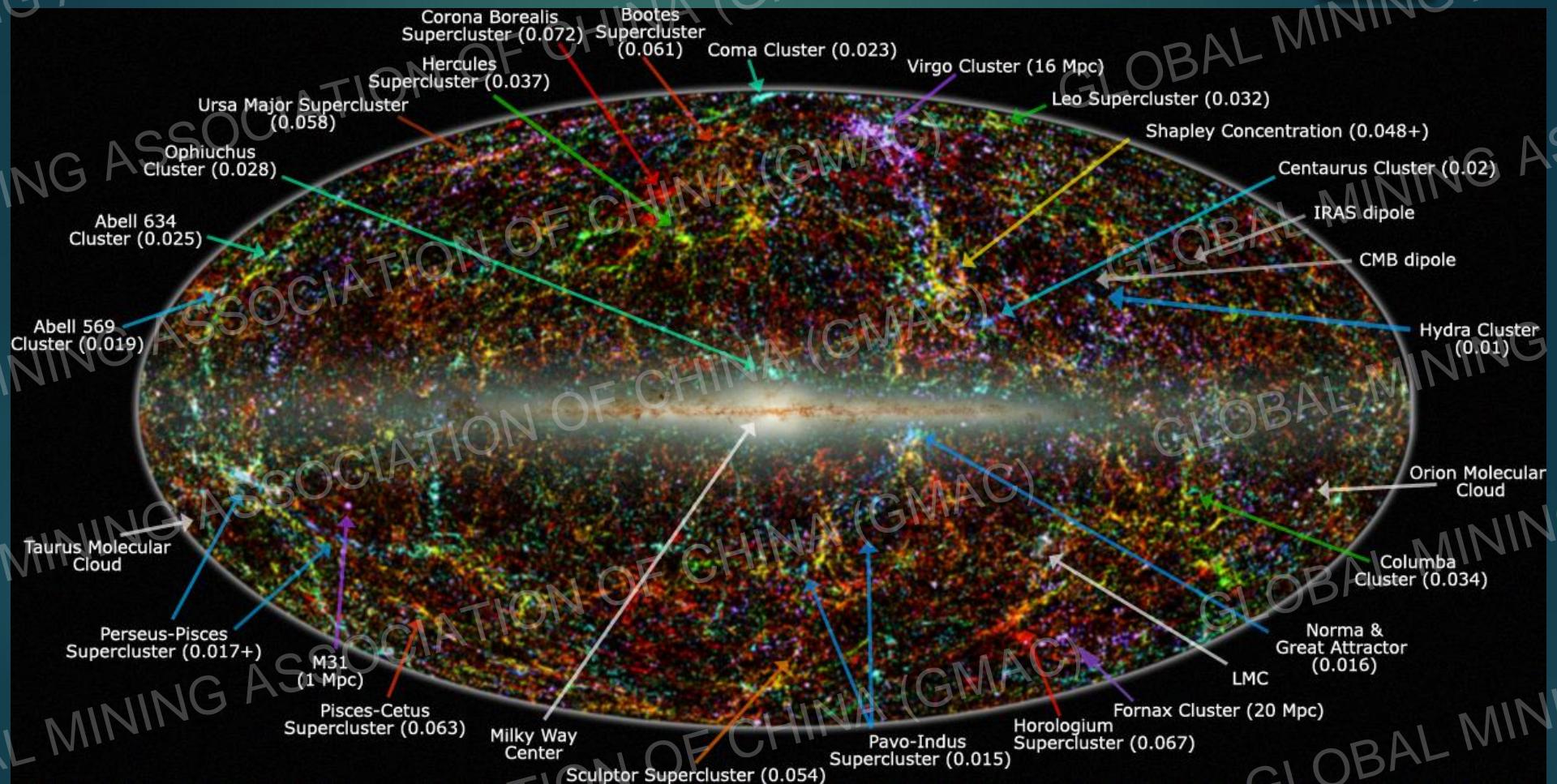


Earth to far side of our Milky Way Galaxy = 52,000 Light years

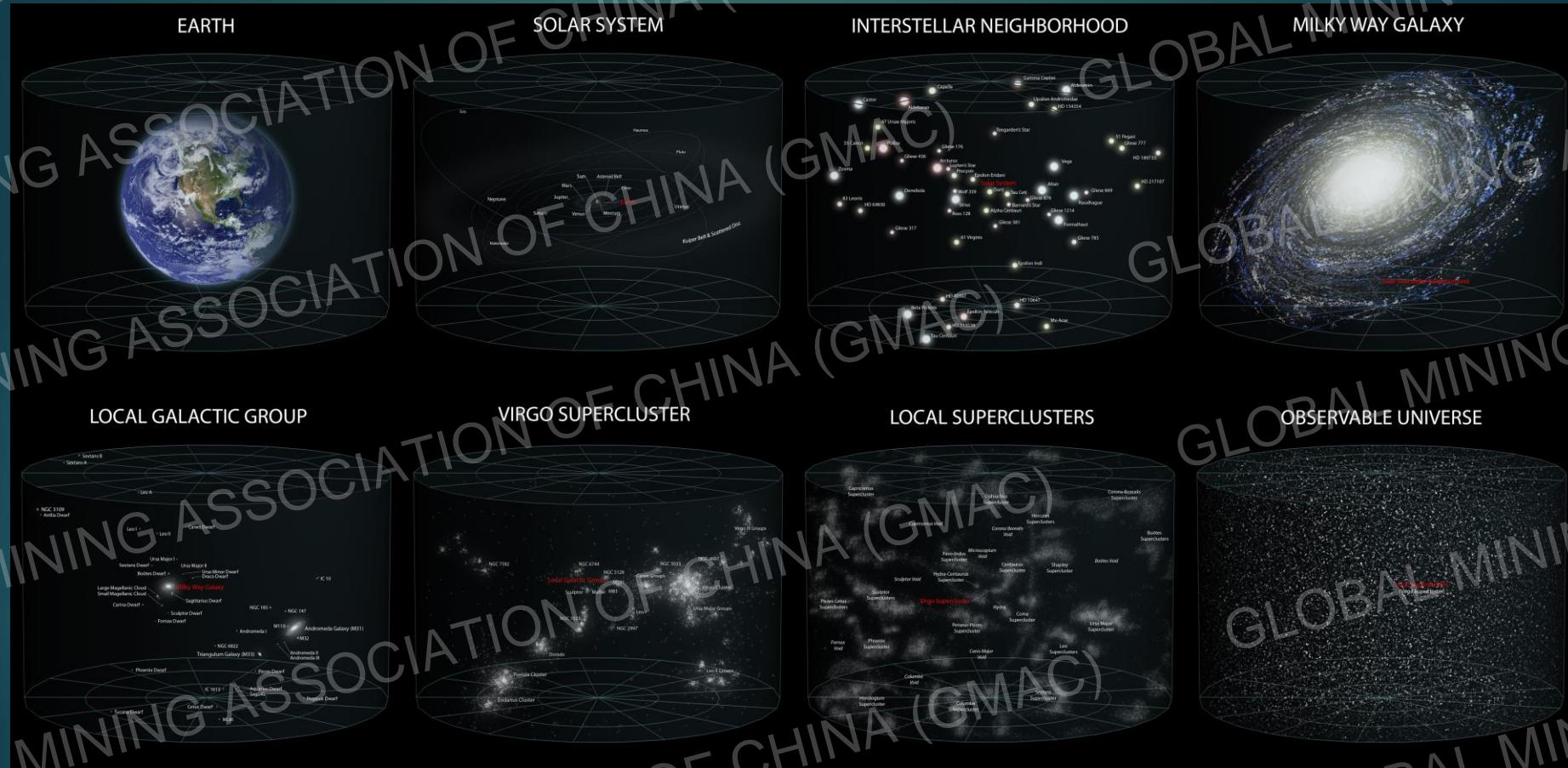


<https://www.mapsland.com/space/large-detailed-map-of-the-universe>

# Panoramic view of the entire near-infrared sky reveals the distribution of galaxies beyond the Milky Way 27



[https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Panoramic-view-of-the-entire-near-infrared-sky-reveals-the-distribution-of-galaxies\\_fig14\\_232084490](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Panoramic-view-of-the-entire-near-infrared-sky-reveals-the-distribution-of-galaxies_fig14_232084490)



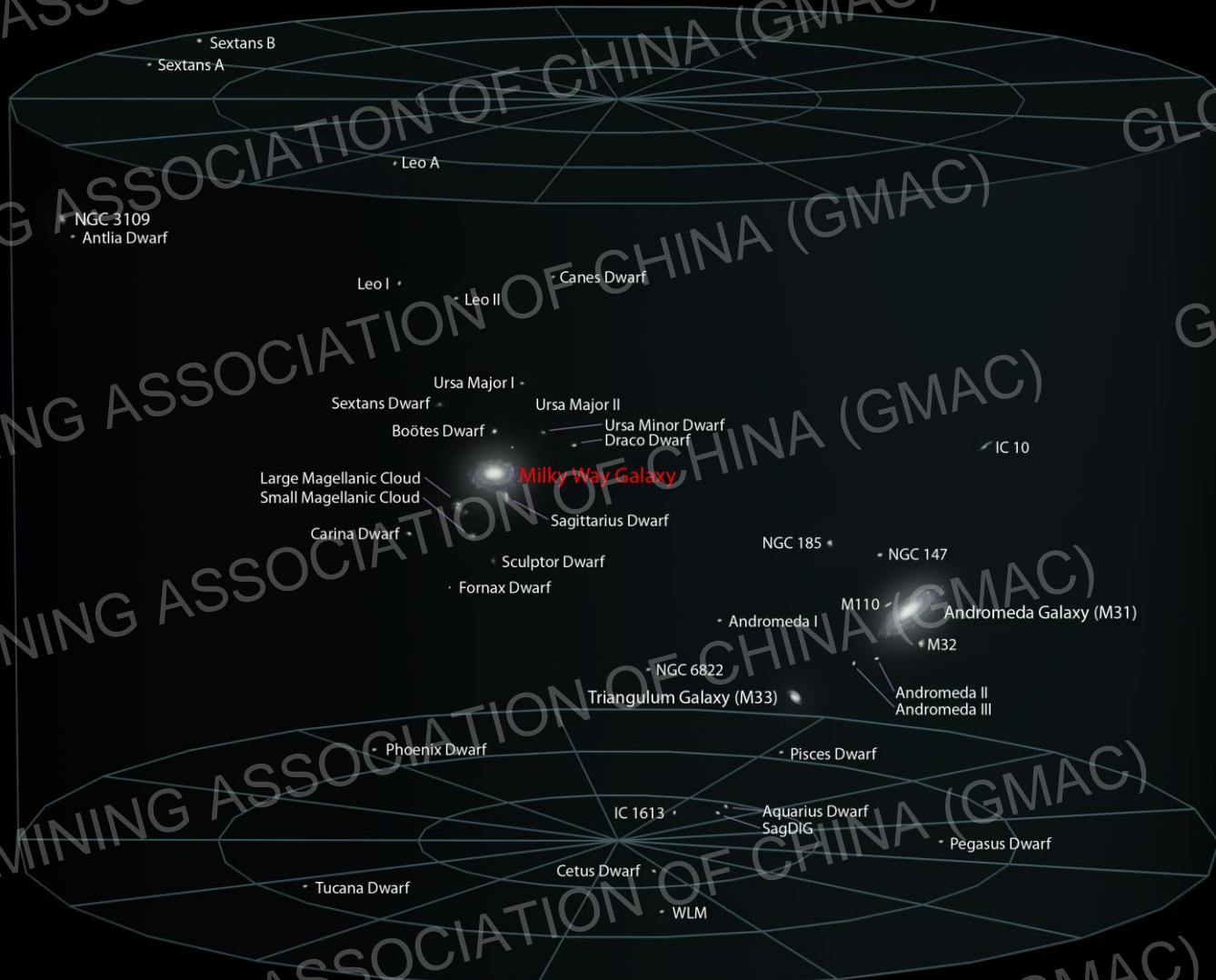
<https://www.quora.com/Is-the-solar-system-bigger-than-some-galaxies>

## Local Group and nearest galaxies



<https://www.quora.com/How-big-is-our-observable-universe-in-comparison-to-the-estimated-size-of-our-galactic-cluster-and-supercluster>

# LOCAL GALACTIC GROUP

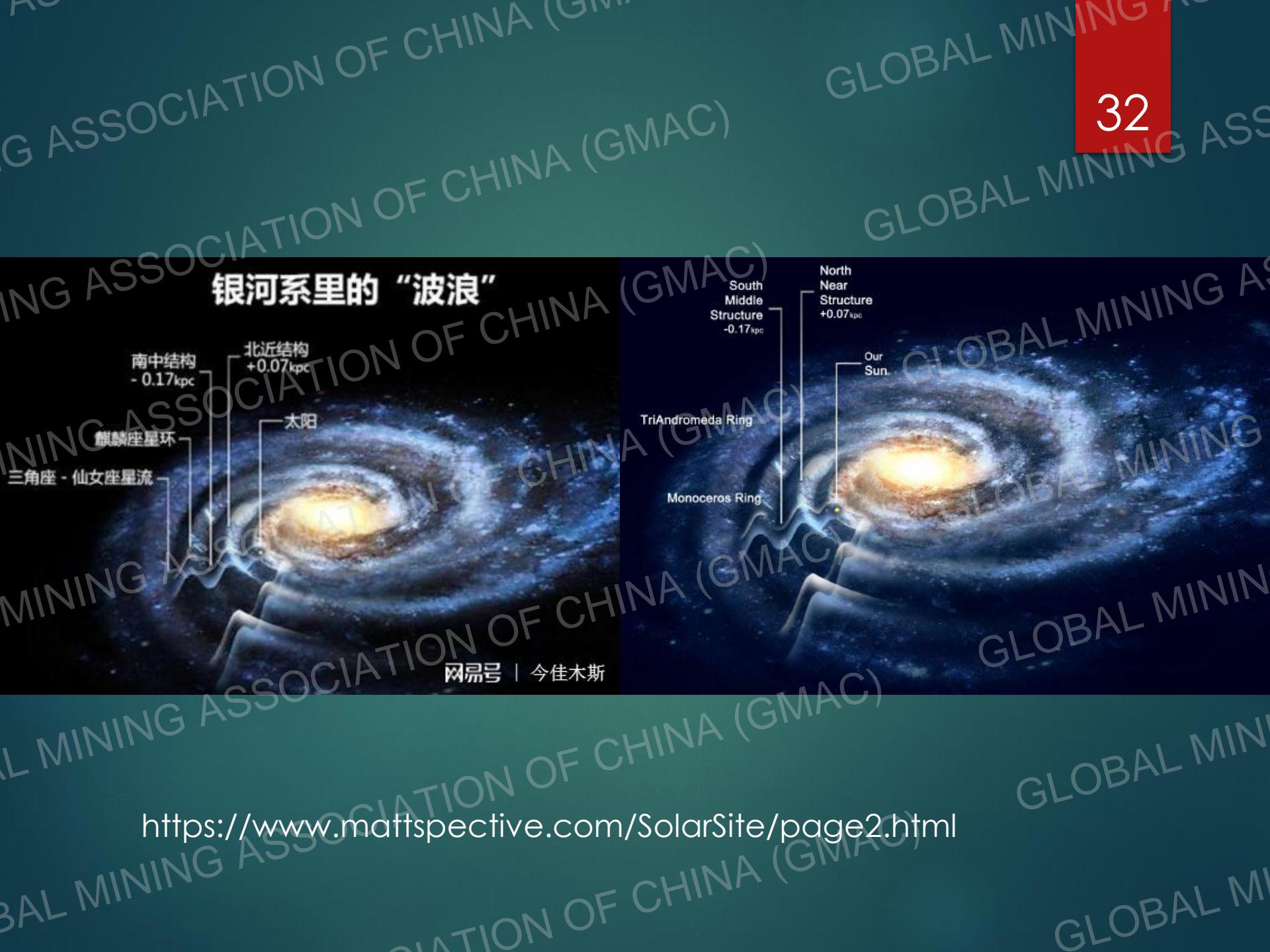


# Milky Way Galaxy

About 13.2 billion years old.

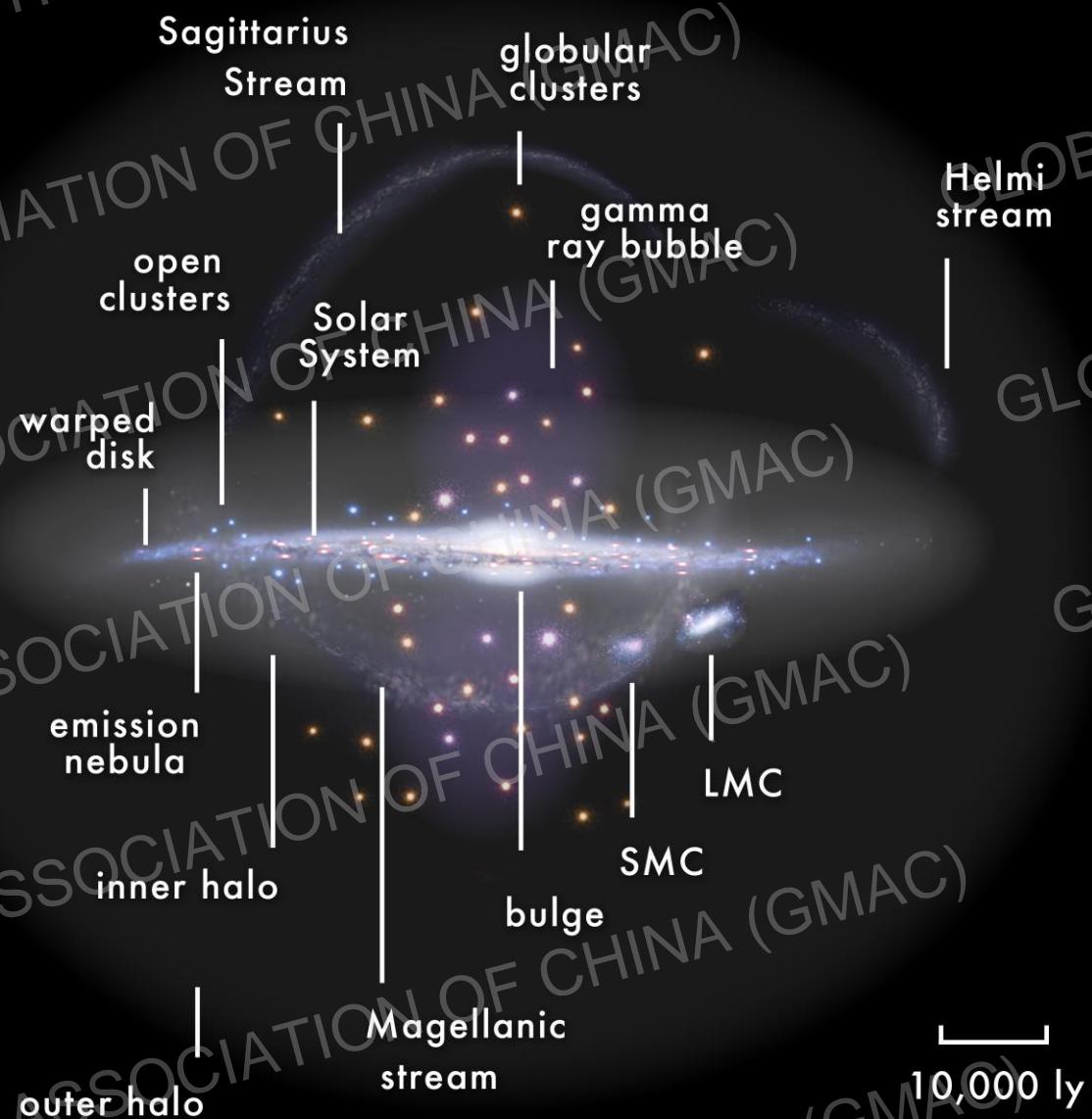
200–400 billion Stars, with at least 100 billion Planets, 500 million of which may support Life





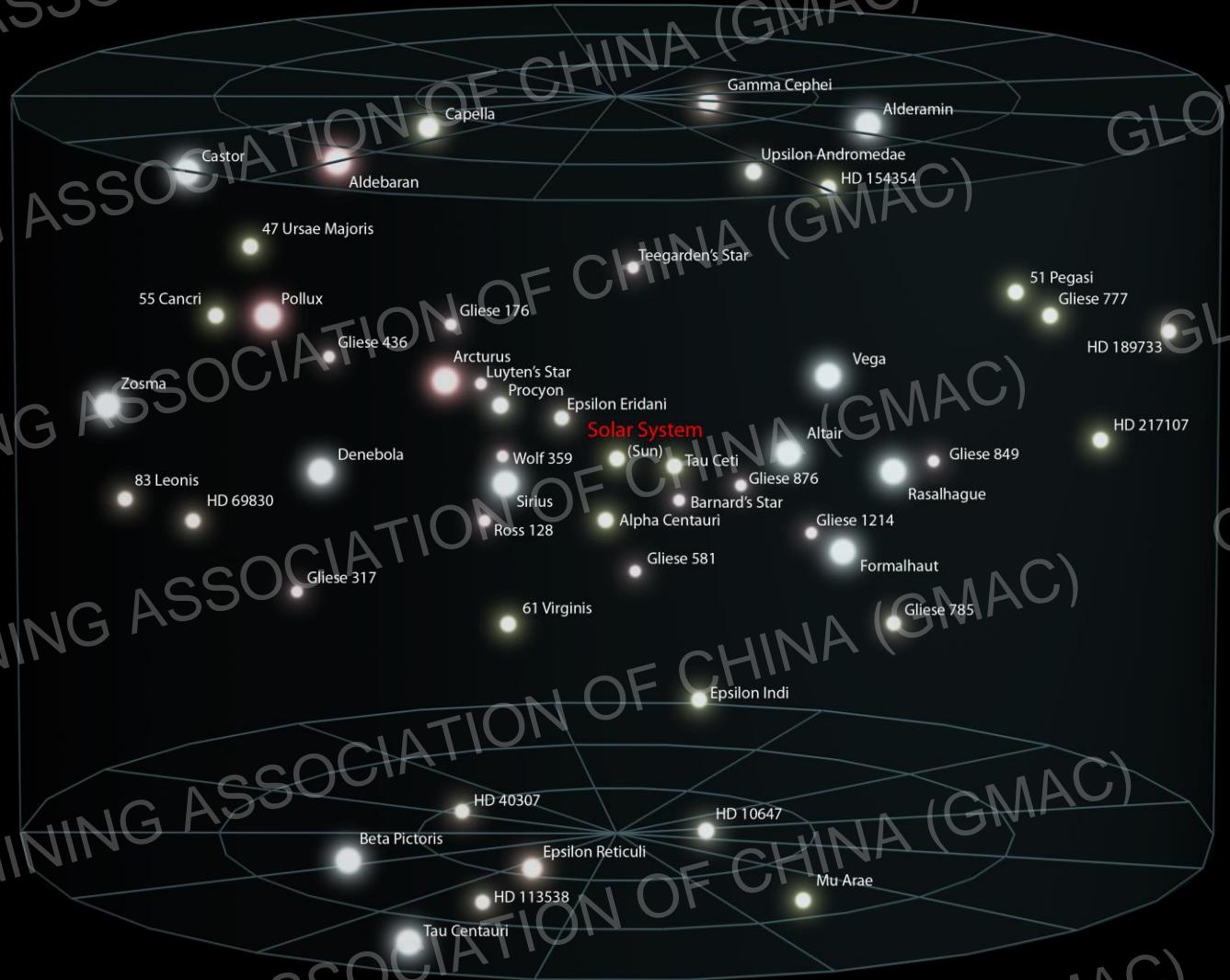
<https://www.mattspective.com/SolarSite/page2.html>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Milk\\_Way\\_side\\_view.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Milk_Way_side_view.png)



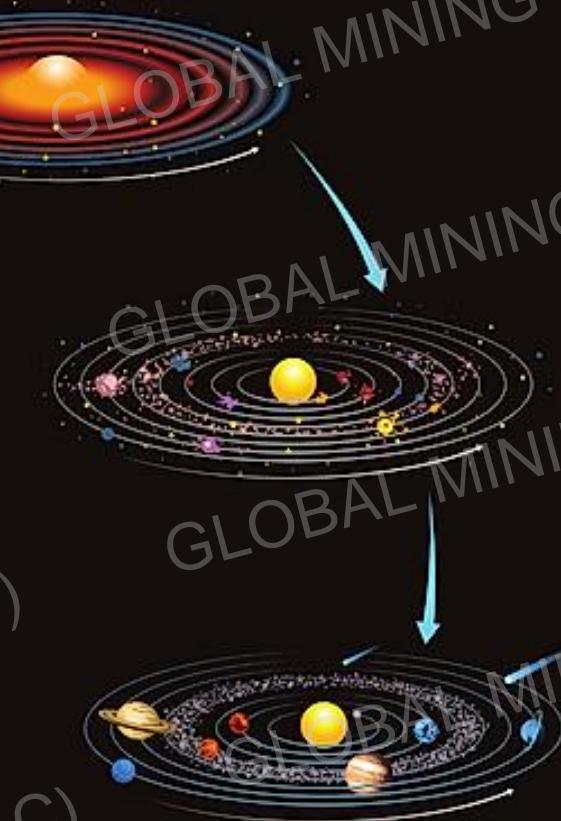
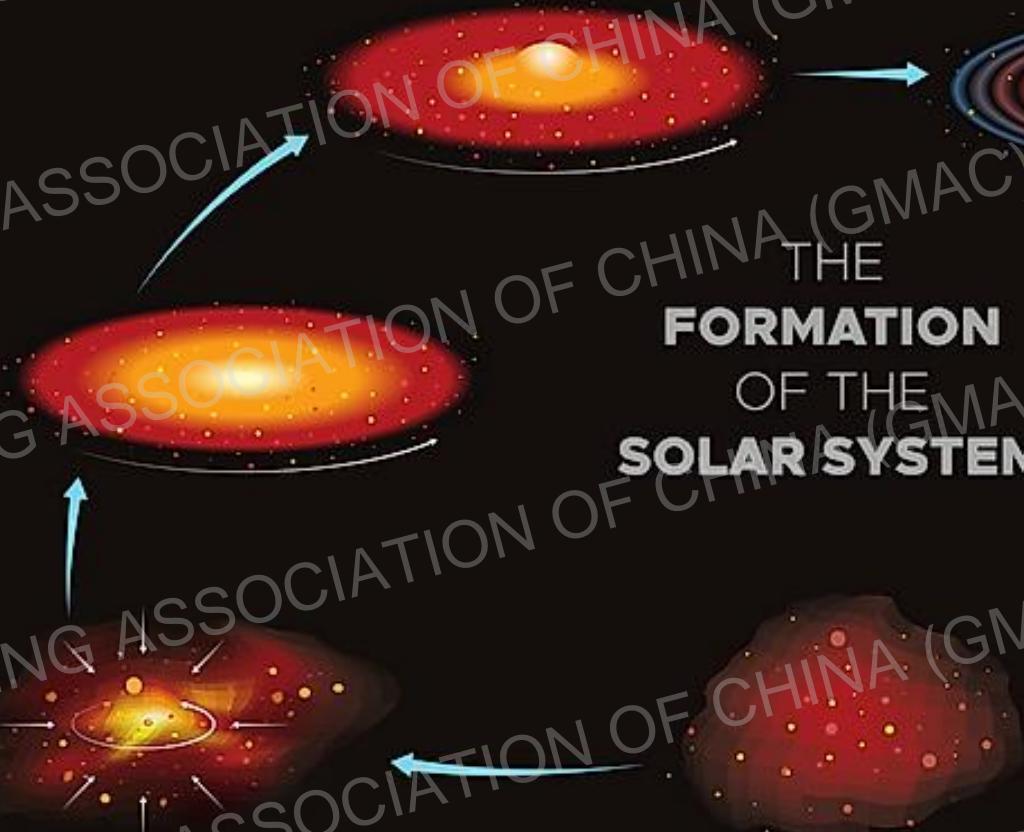
[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:3\\_Solar\\_Interstellar\\_Neighborhood\\_\(ELitU\).png](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:3_Solar_Interstellar_Neighborhood_(ELitU).png)

# INTERSTELLAR NEIGHBORHOOD



# Formation of the Solar System, our Earth and the Moon

THE  
**FORMATION**  
OF THE  
**SOLAR SYSTEM**



<https://www.worldatlas.com/space/the-origin-of-planet-earth.html>

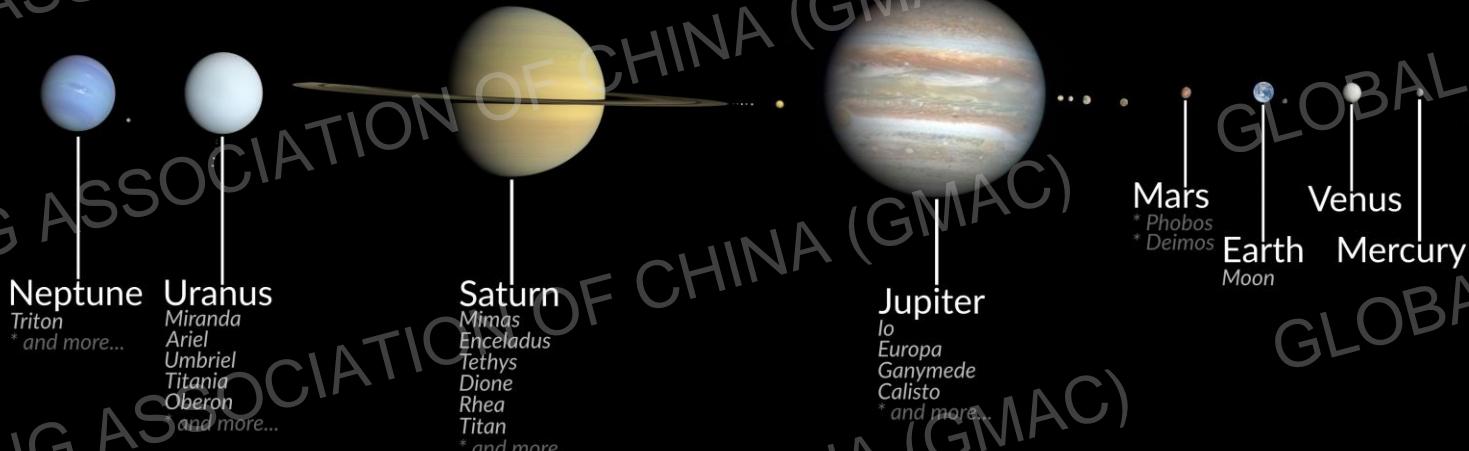
# Solar System

in true imagery, color and size

37

- Sedna
- Gonggong Xiangliu
- Eris Dysnomia
- Orcus Vanth
- Quaoar Weywot
- Makemake S/2015 (136472) 1
- Haumea Namaka, Hi'iaka
- Pluto Charon, \* Styx, Nix, \* Kerberos, \* Hydra

Ceres



\* Moons that are not shown

Neptune

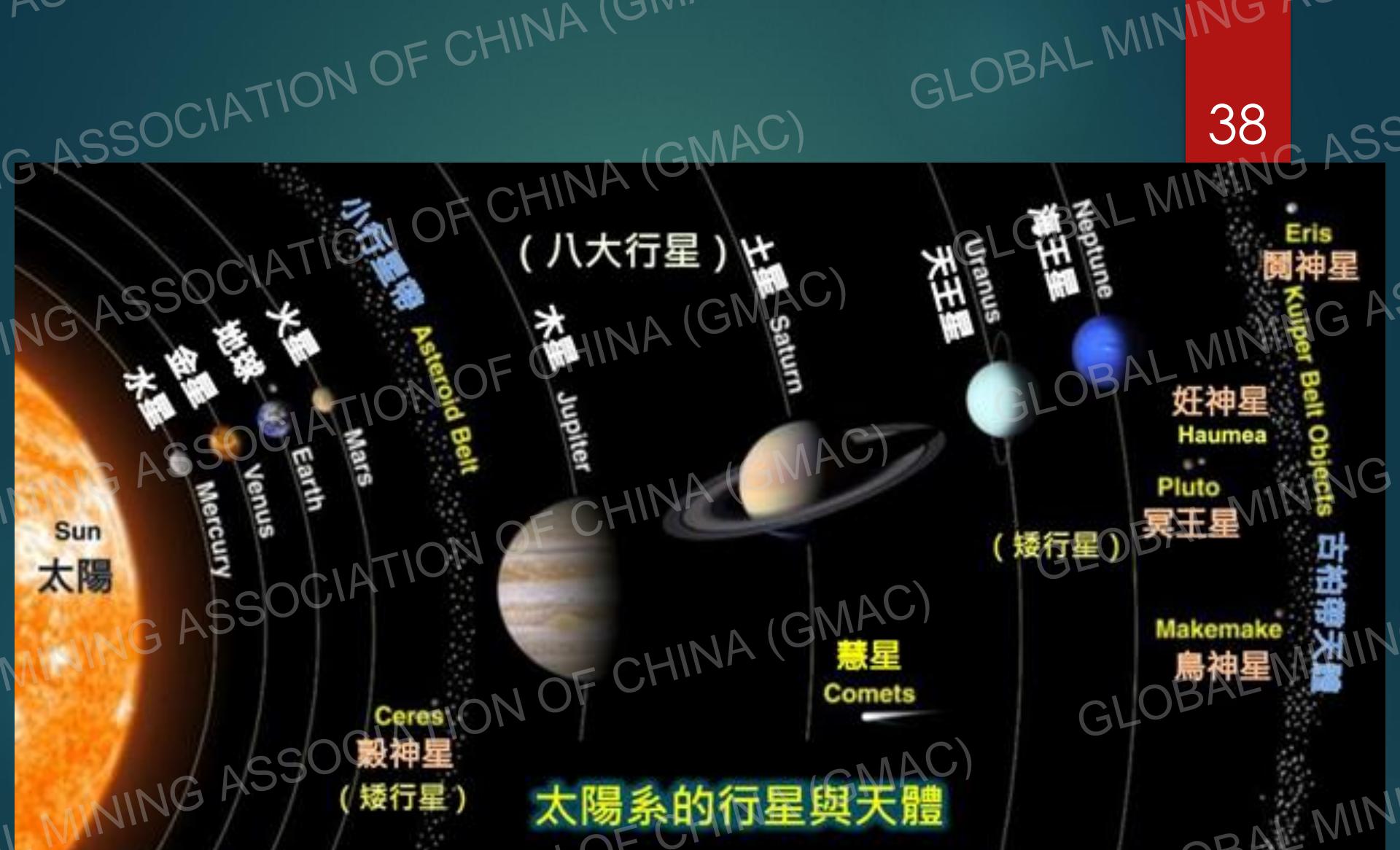
Uranus

Saturn

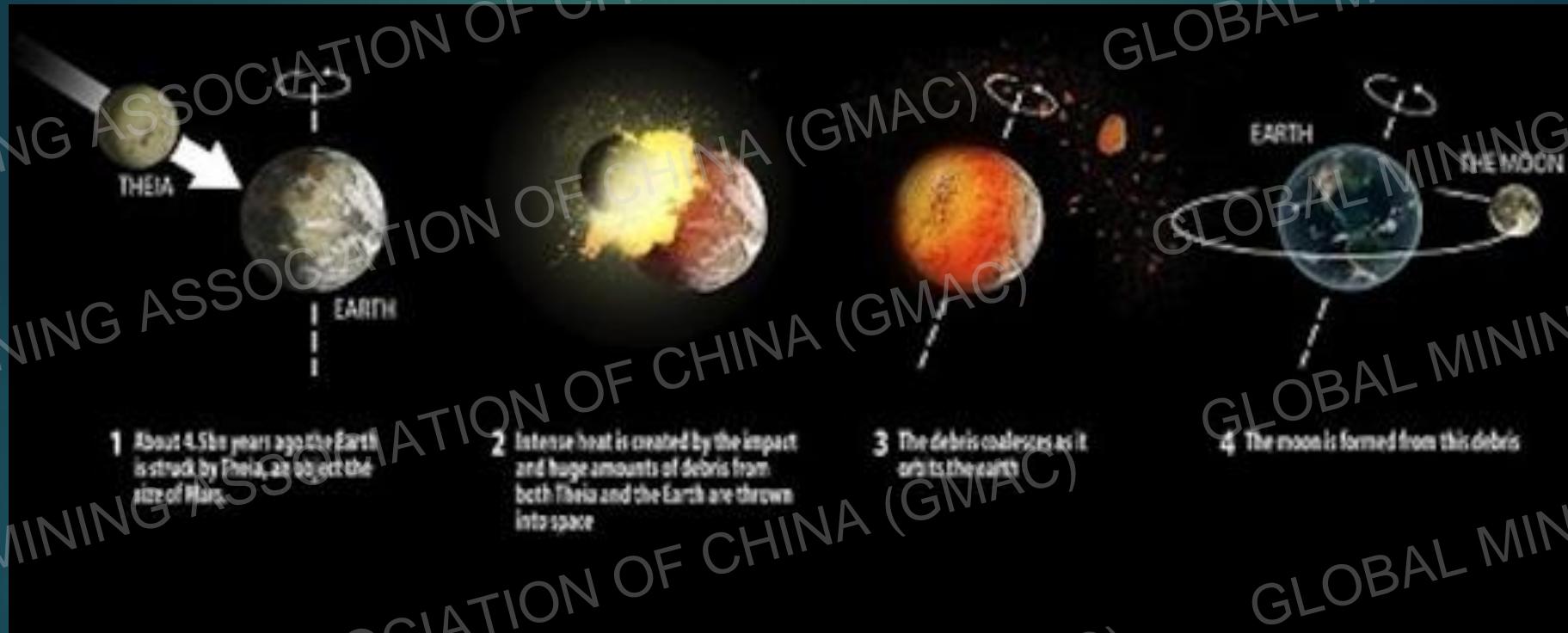
Jupiter

Sun

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar\\_System](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar_System)

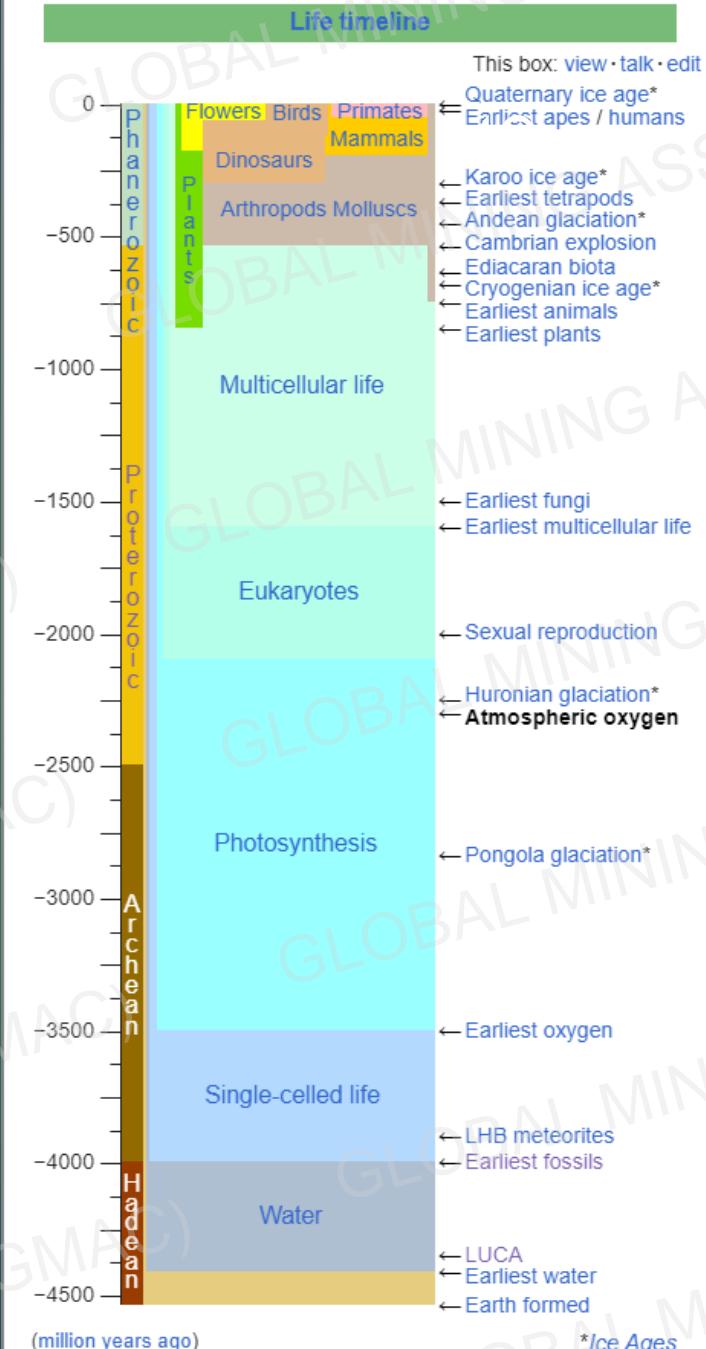
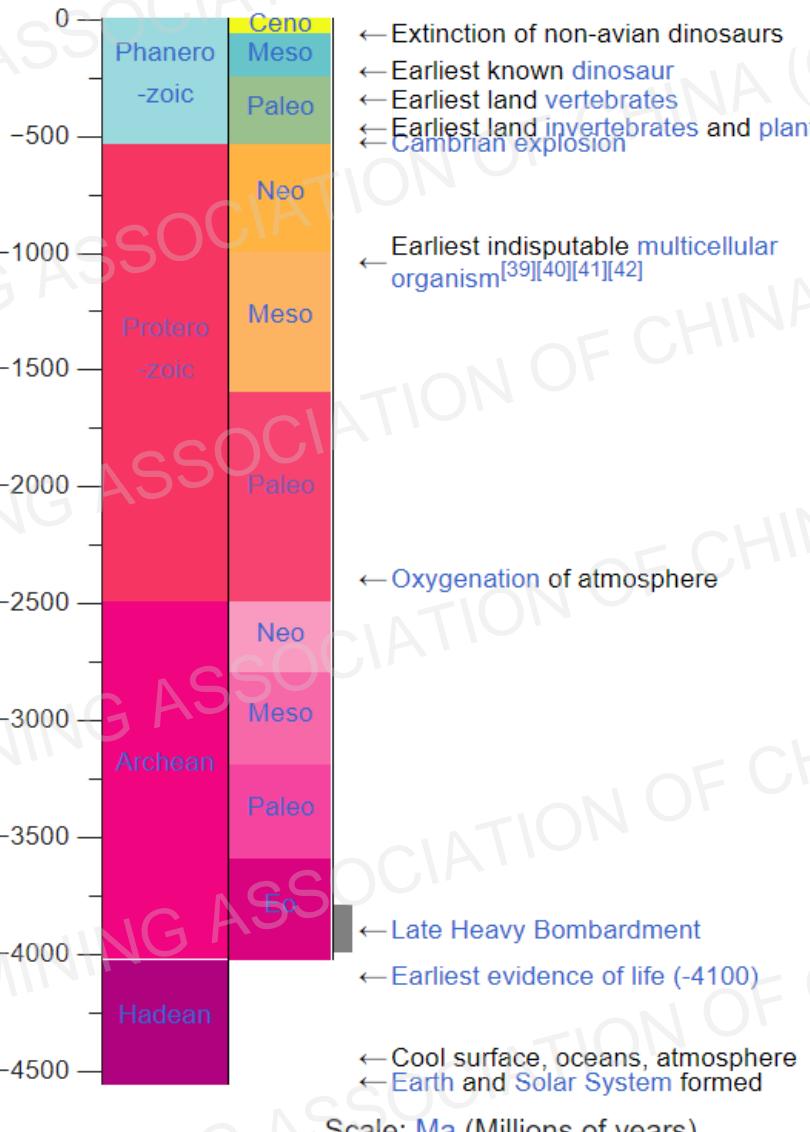


# Formation of the Moon

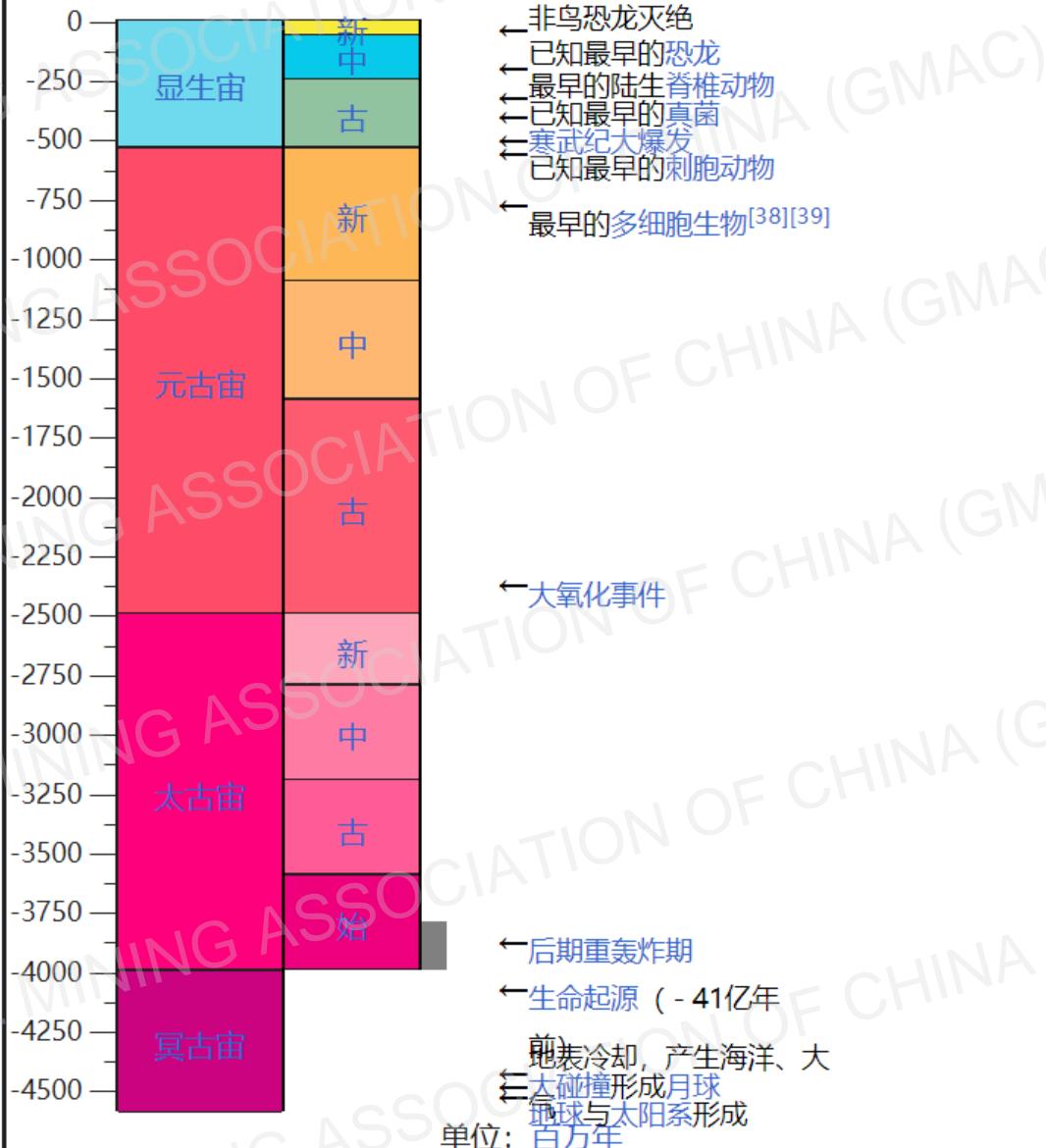


- ▶ <https://woostergeologists.scotblogs.wooster.edu/2015/07/07/classifying-the-unknown-the-lunar-edition/>

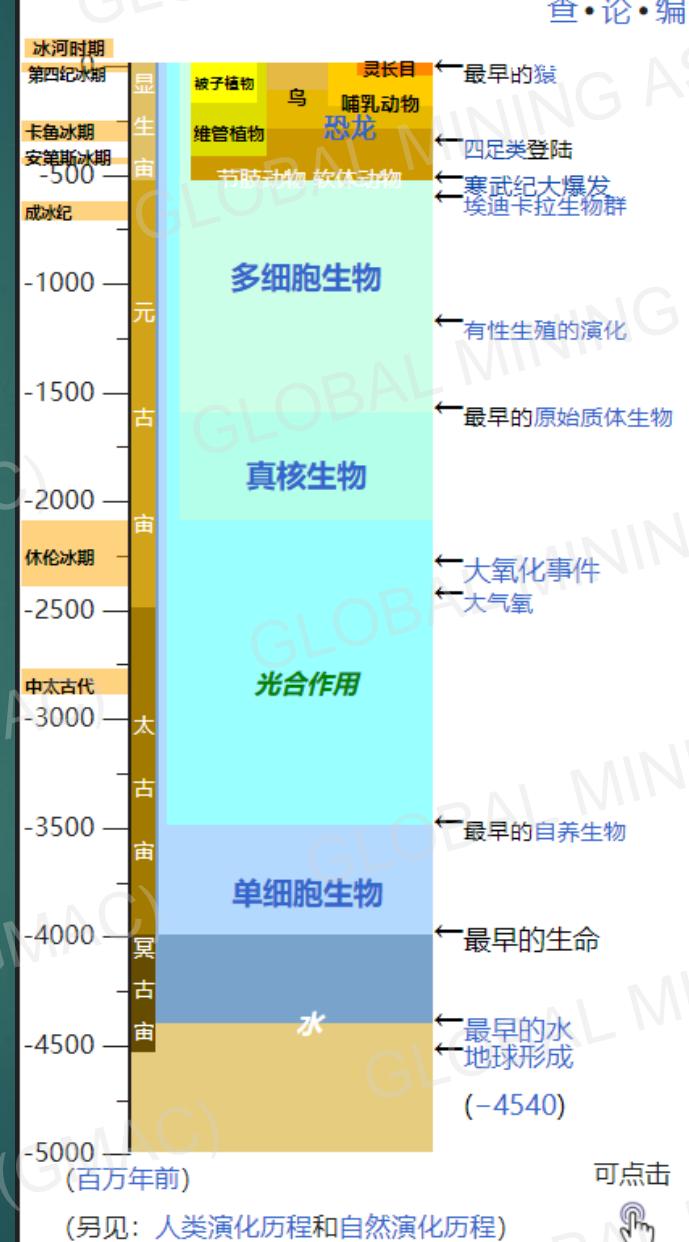
## History of Earth and its life



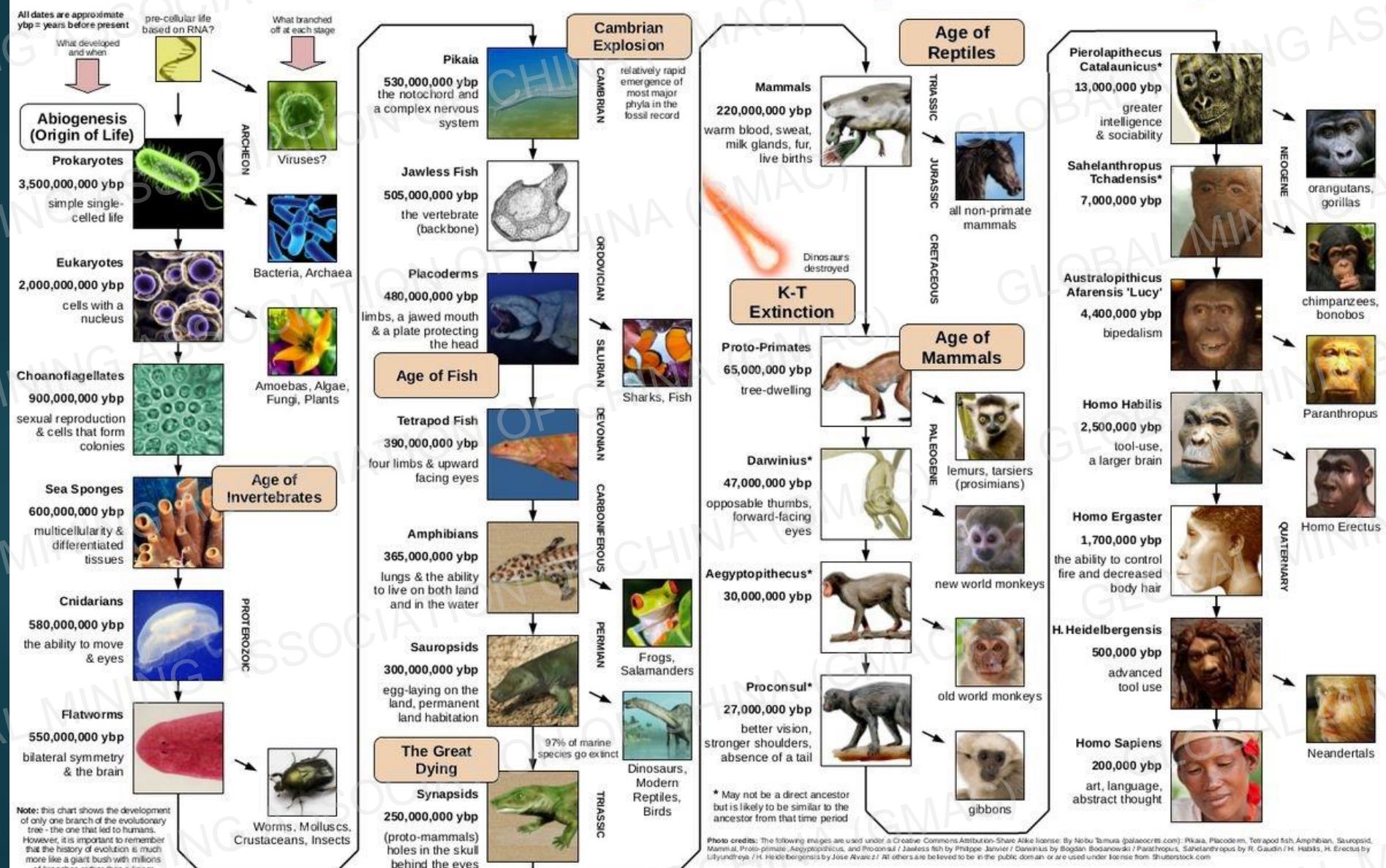
## 地球及生命史

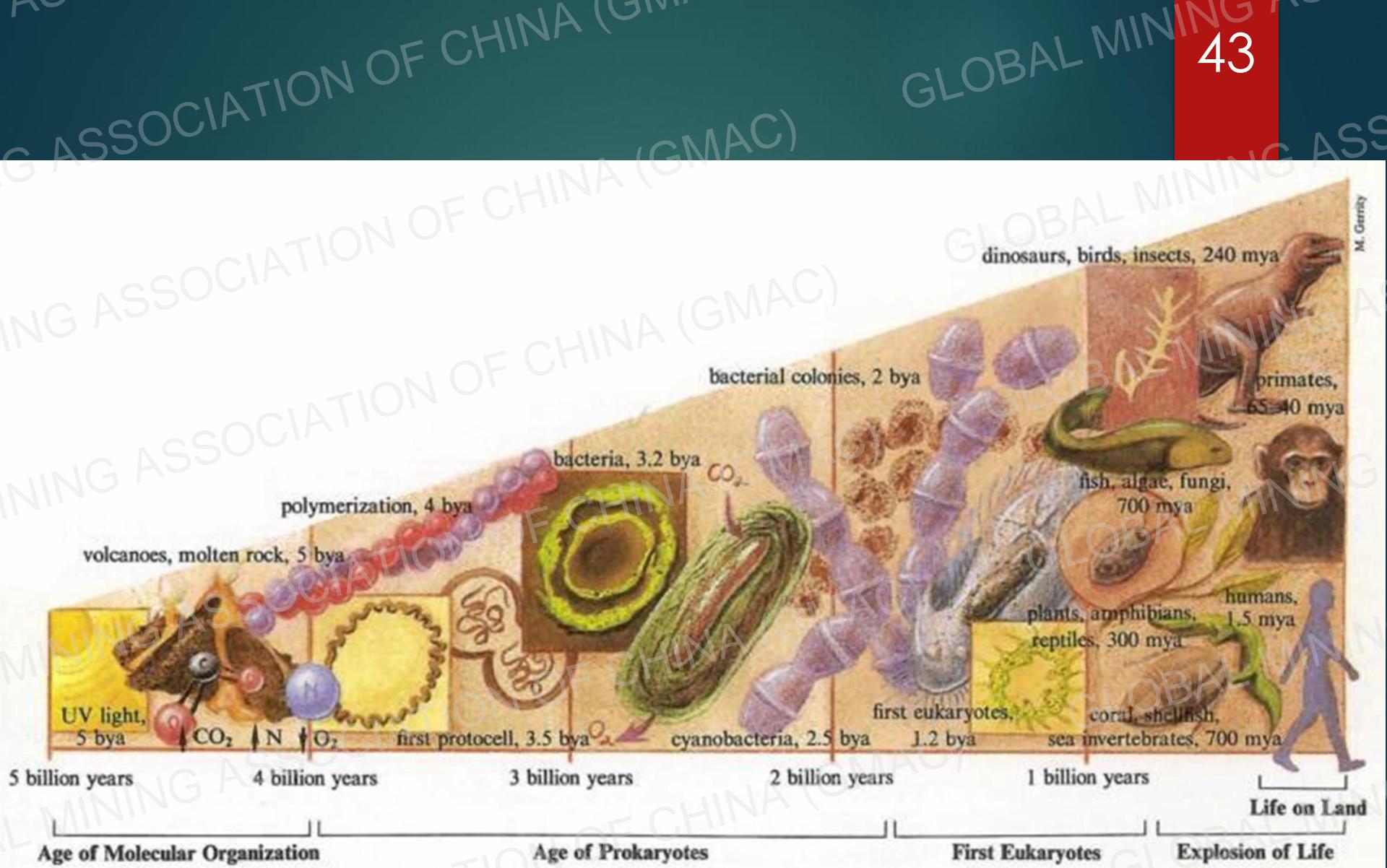


## 生命演化历程



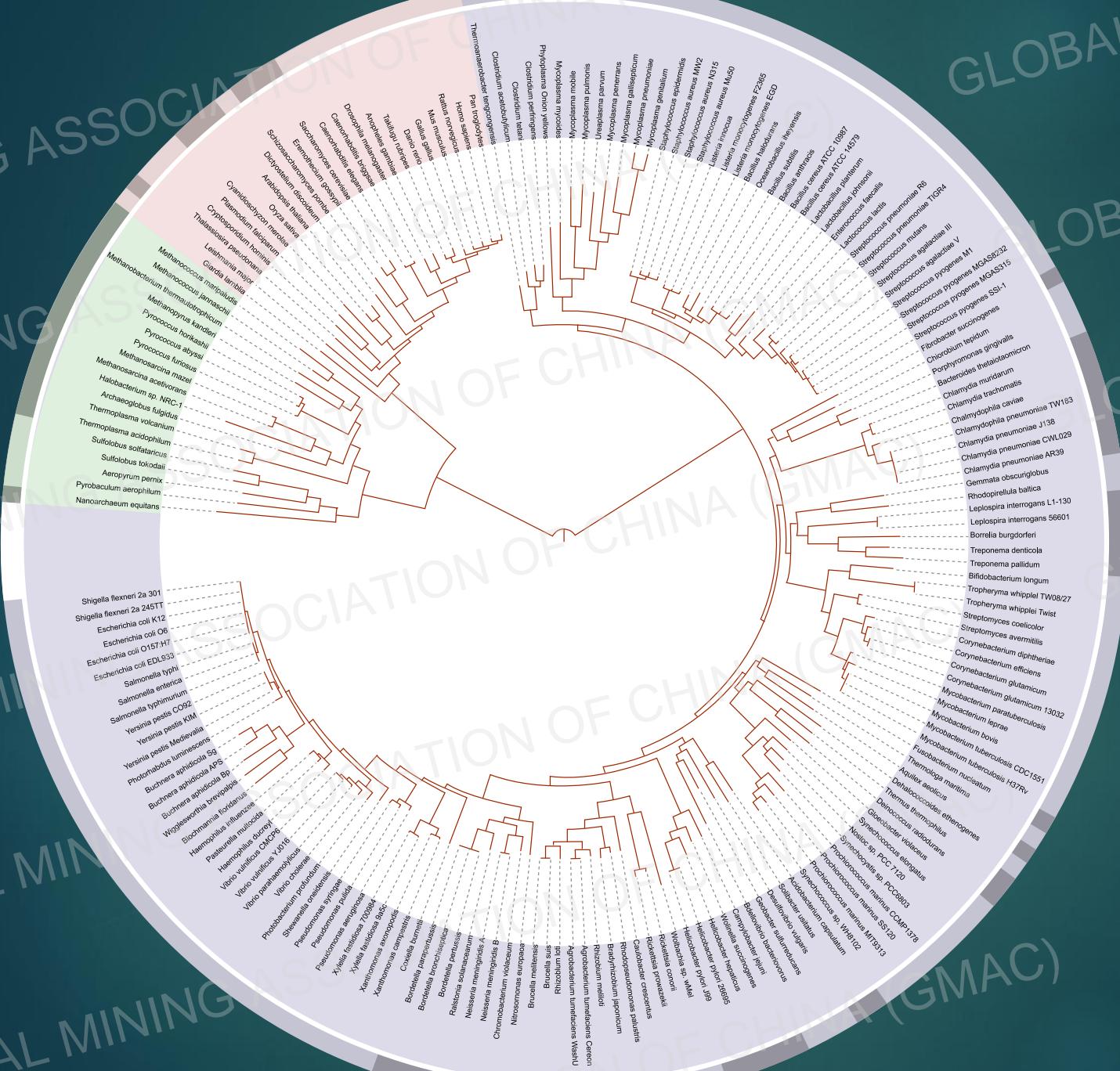
# The Evolution of Humans from Single Cells to Today

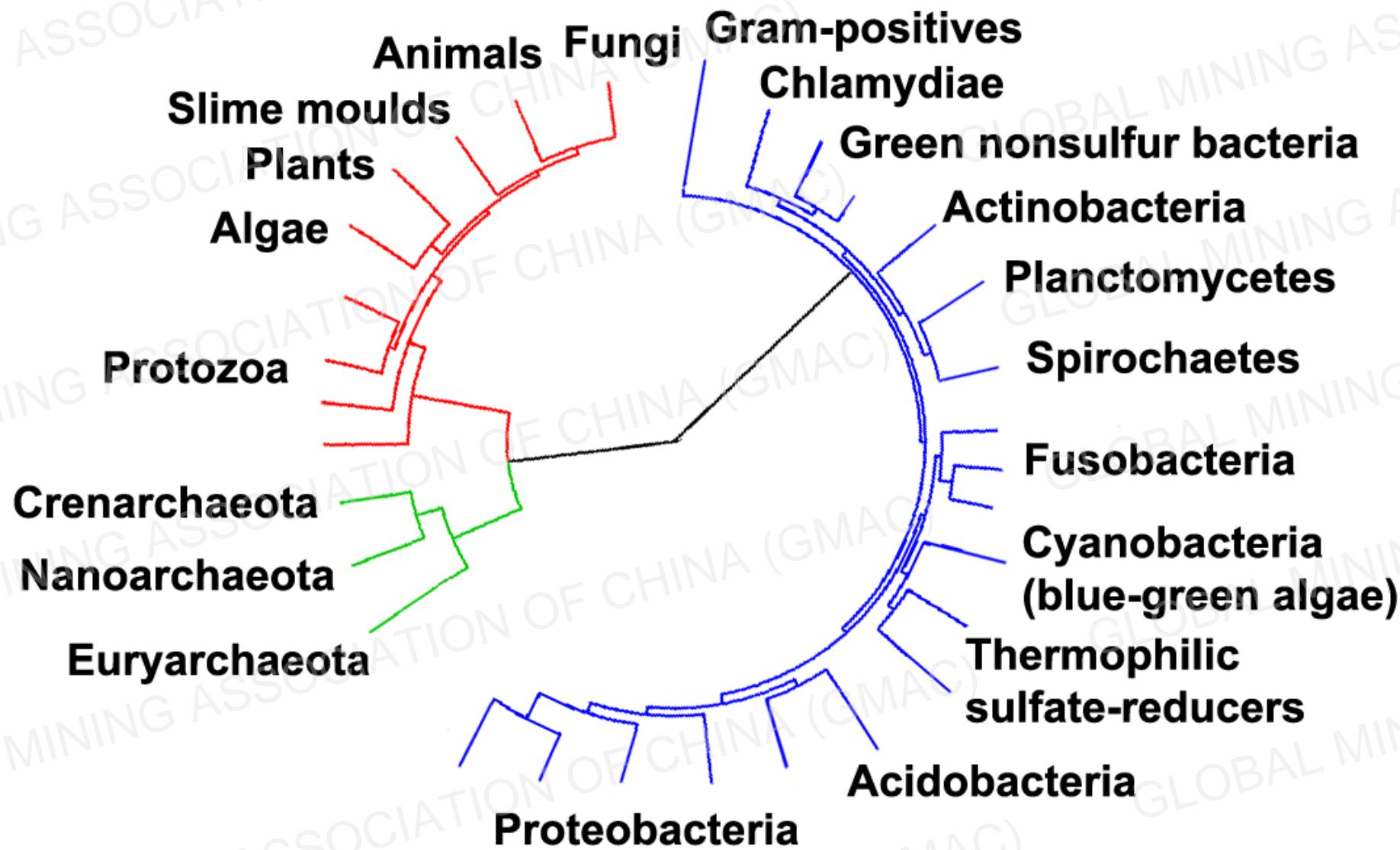




A highly resolved,  
automatically  
generated tree of  
life, based on  
completely  
sequenced  
genomes

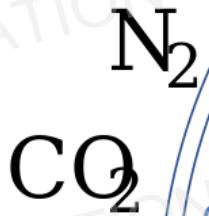
Letunic, Ivica; Bork, Peer (1 January 2007). "Interactive Tree Of Life (iTOL): an online tool for phylogenetic tree display and annotation".







Hydrothermal vent

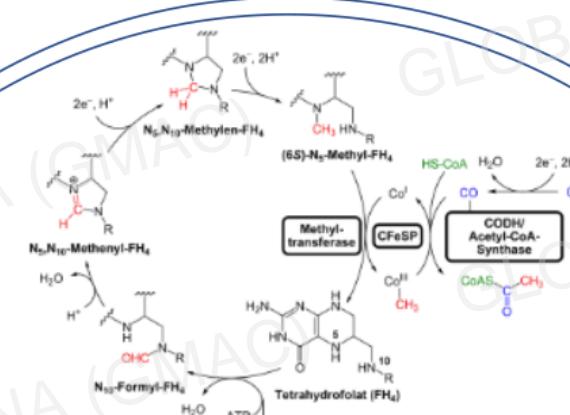


Nitrogen fixation

Carbon fixation

Chemiosmosis,  
Ion transport

Thermophilic



Wood-Ljungdahl pathway  
(reductive Acetyl CoA)

LUCA



DNA

Genetic code, mRNA, tRNA, ribosomes

Transcription

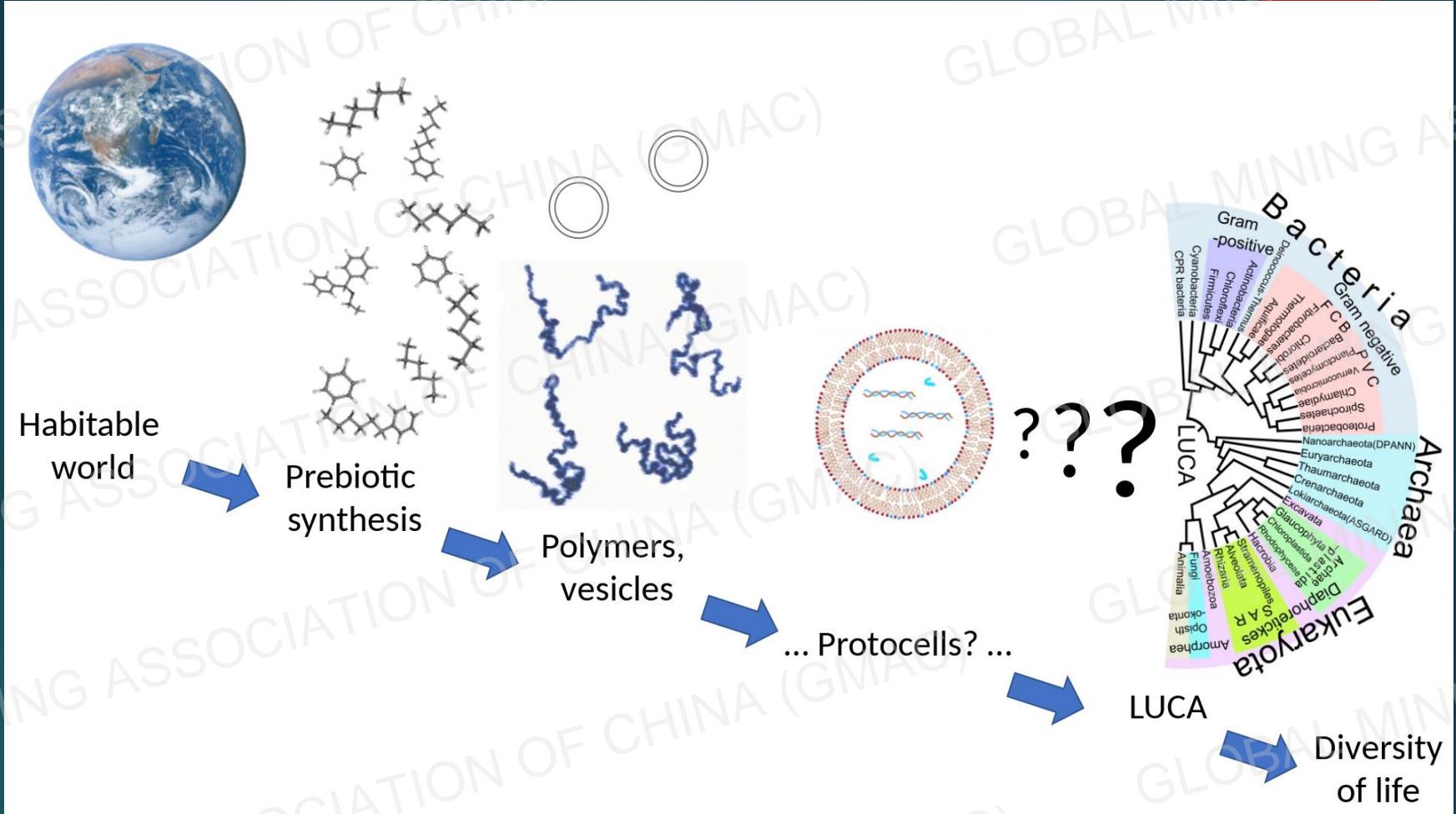
Cell division

Translation

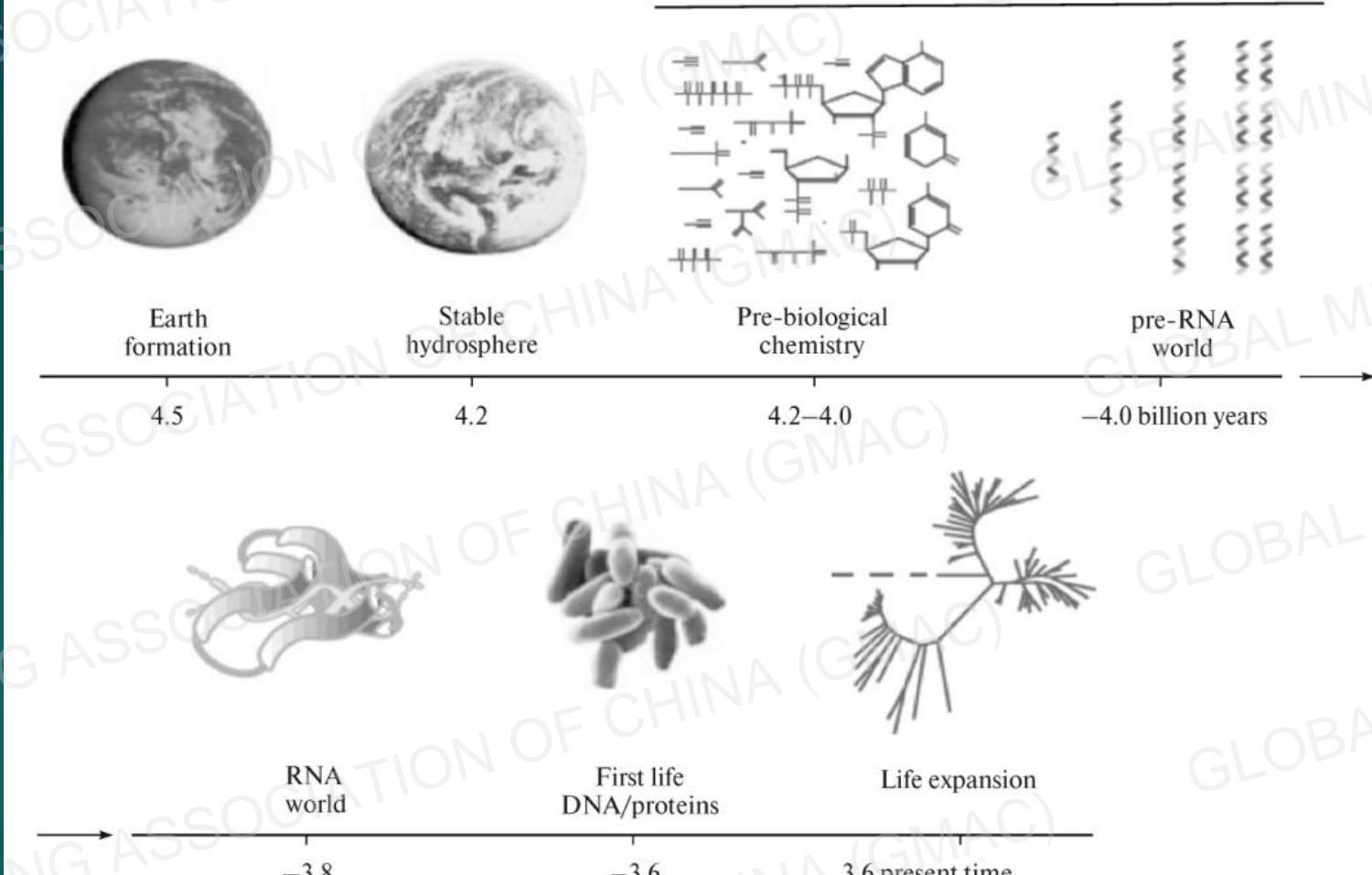
Proteins: Enzymes  
inc. DNA polymerase

Lipid bilayer membrane

- ▶ By Chiswick Chap - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=117499108>



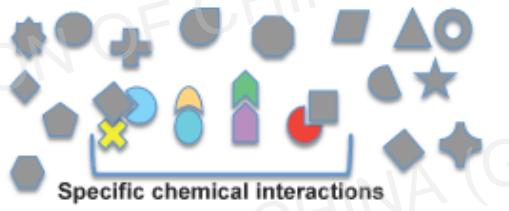
By Chiswick Chap - Own work|Images used:, CC BY-SA 4.0,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=117557658>



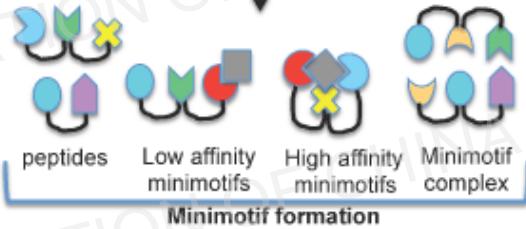
**Fig. 3.** Putative diagram of the key stages in the origin and evolution of life on Earth according to the “RNA World” hypothesis (modified from [28]).

“RNA World”, a highly improbable scenario of the origin and early evolution of life on earth. January 2015 Journal of Evolutionary Biochemistry and Physiology 51(1):72-84 Authors: Piotr Bregestovski Aix-Marseille Université

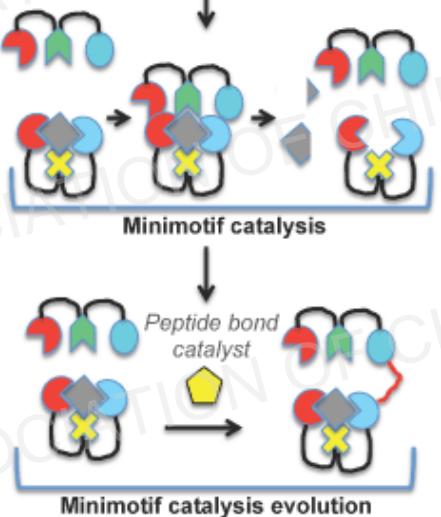
**Part I**  
Prebiotic evolution  
of molecular specificity



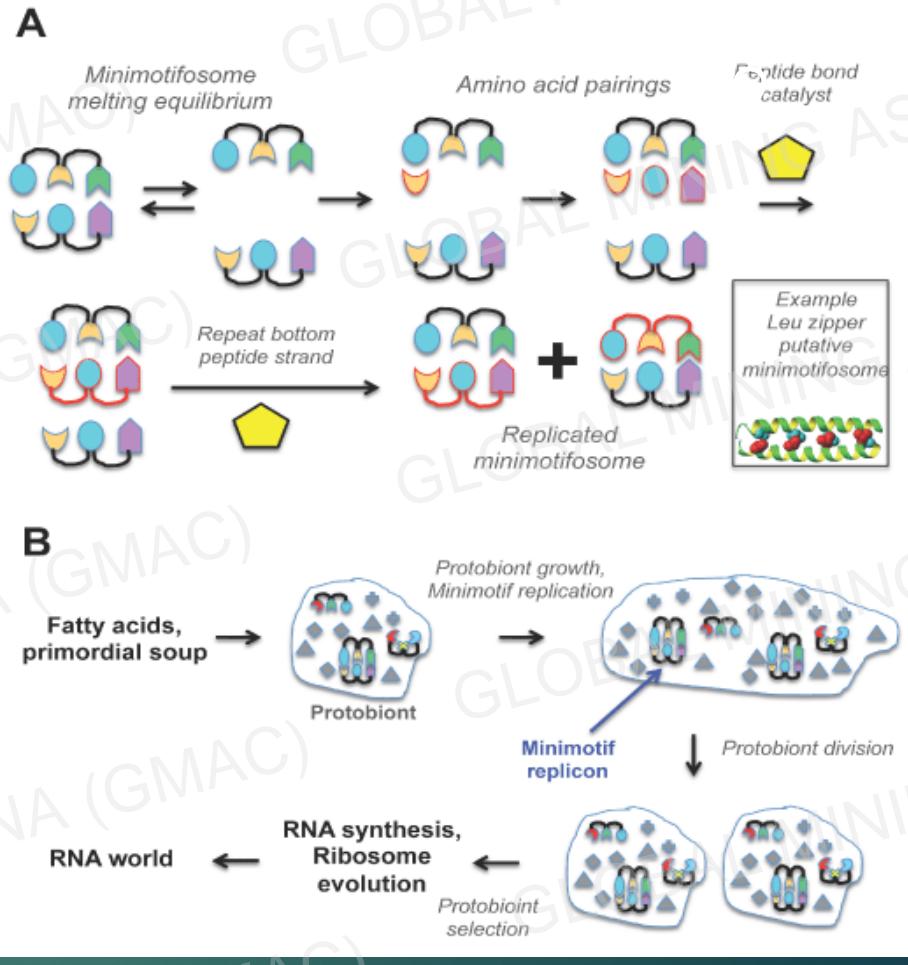
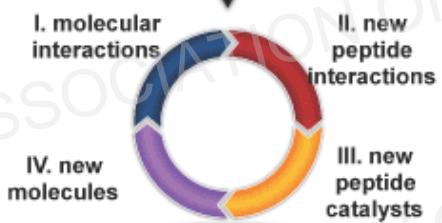
**Part II**  
Prebiotic evolution  
of peptide specificity



**Part III**  
Peptide catalyst



Peptide catalysis evolution



<https://www.oatext.com/The-minimotif-synthesis-hypothesis-for-the-origin-of-life.php>

# CHEMISTRY

Earth's prebiotic evolution by cycling diurnal gradients

Interacting chemistries of atmosphere, hydrosphere & lithosphere

The universal ancestor: the progenotes

# BIOLOGY

Progenotes crossing the Darwinian threshold

Earth's chemical & Darwinian evolution

≈ 4.5 bya



≈ 3.5 bya



Archaea

≈ 2.0 bya

Bacteria

Macro-evolution: membrane disruptions & fusions

Single-cell Eukarya

Evolution of microspaces and molecular crowding



molecular recognition & cellular organization

Proto-gene evolution by cycling temperatures



enclosed & crowded proto-PCR of nucleic acids and proteins

Co-evolution of metabolic & information processing



membranes, homeostasis and cell heredity

*Increasing chemical complexity*

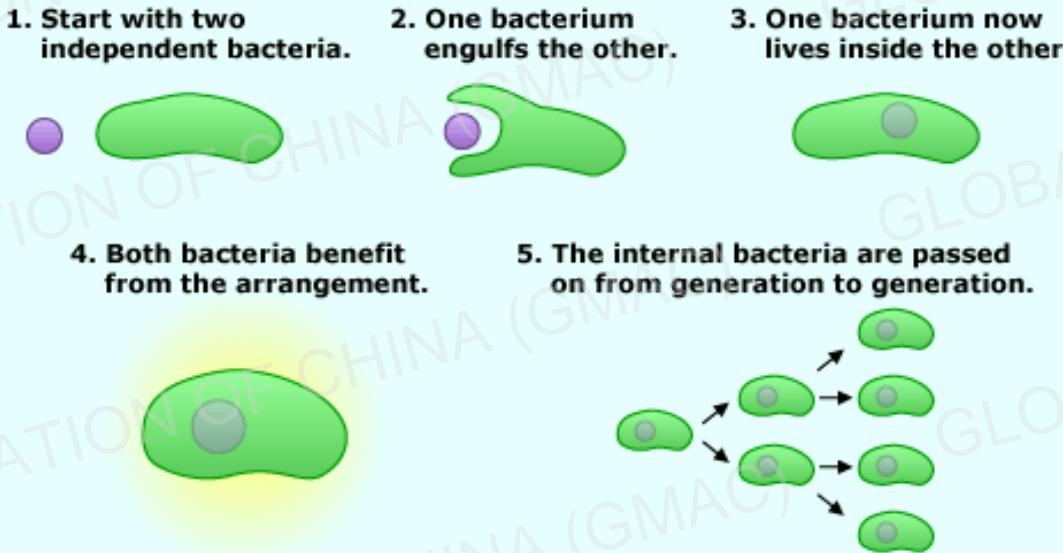


*Emergence of cellular life*

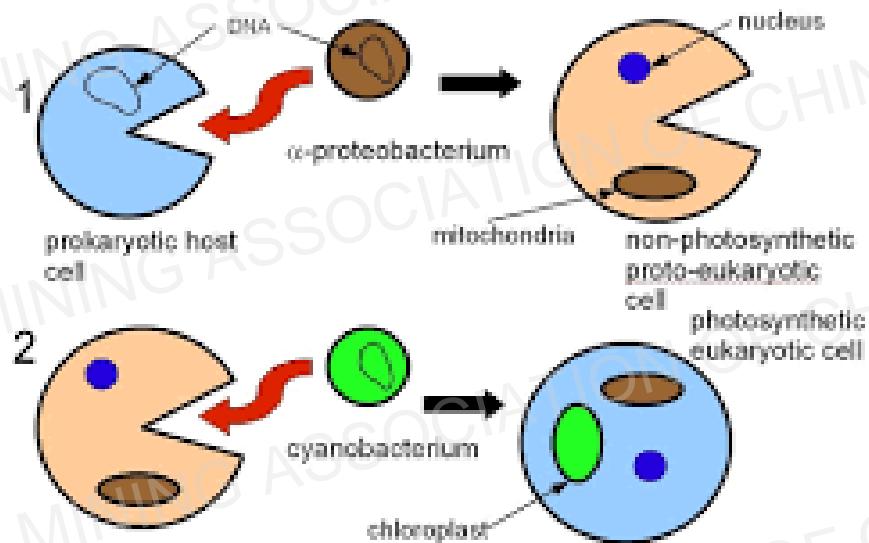


These cone-shaped structures discovered in 3.7-billion-year-old rocks in Greenland, about the size of a quarter, may be fossilized colonies of microbes and the earliest fossils of life on Earth, researchers say. (Image credit: Allen Nutman/Nature)

## Endosymbiosis in a nutshell:

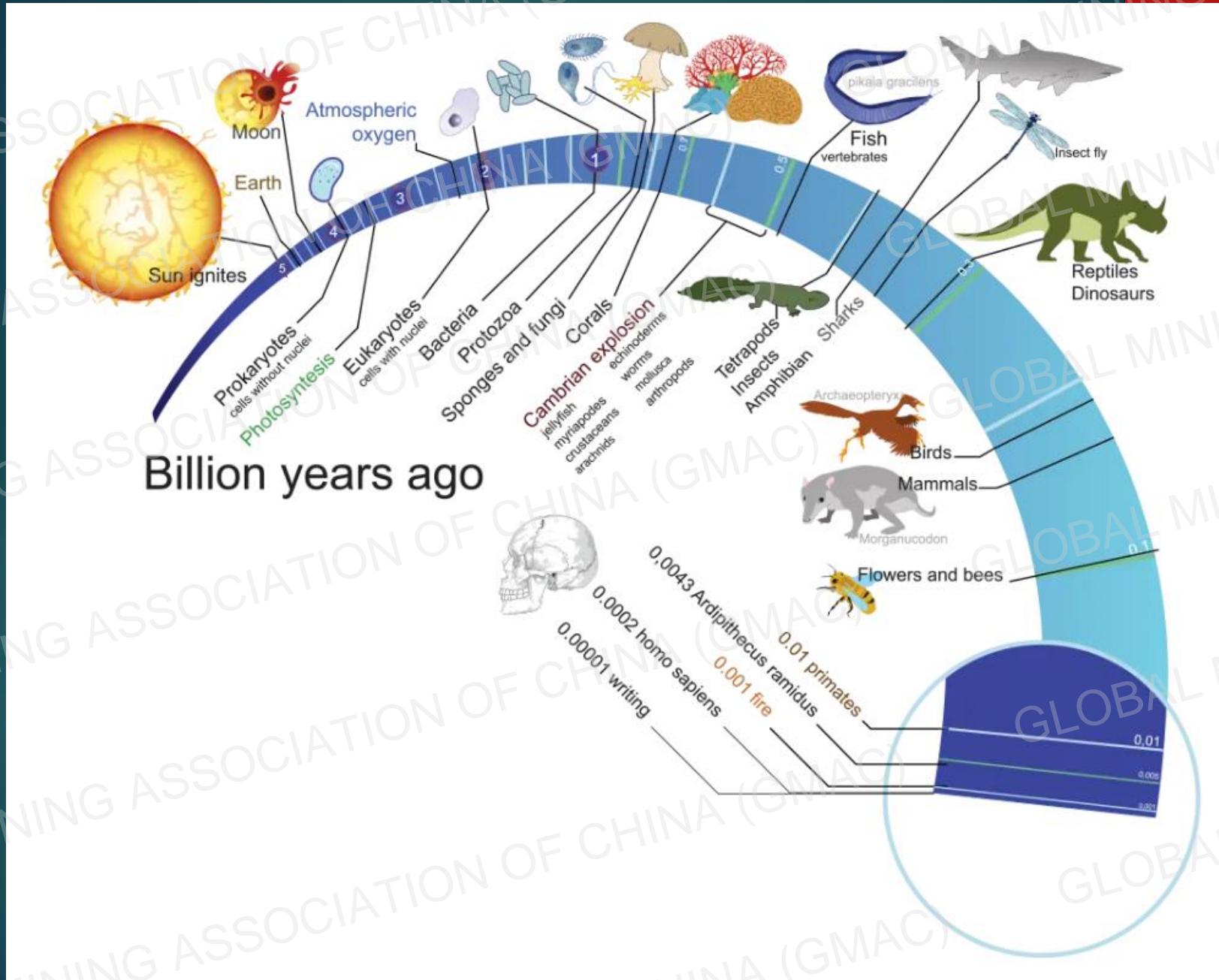


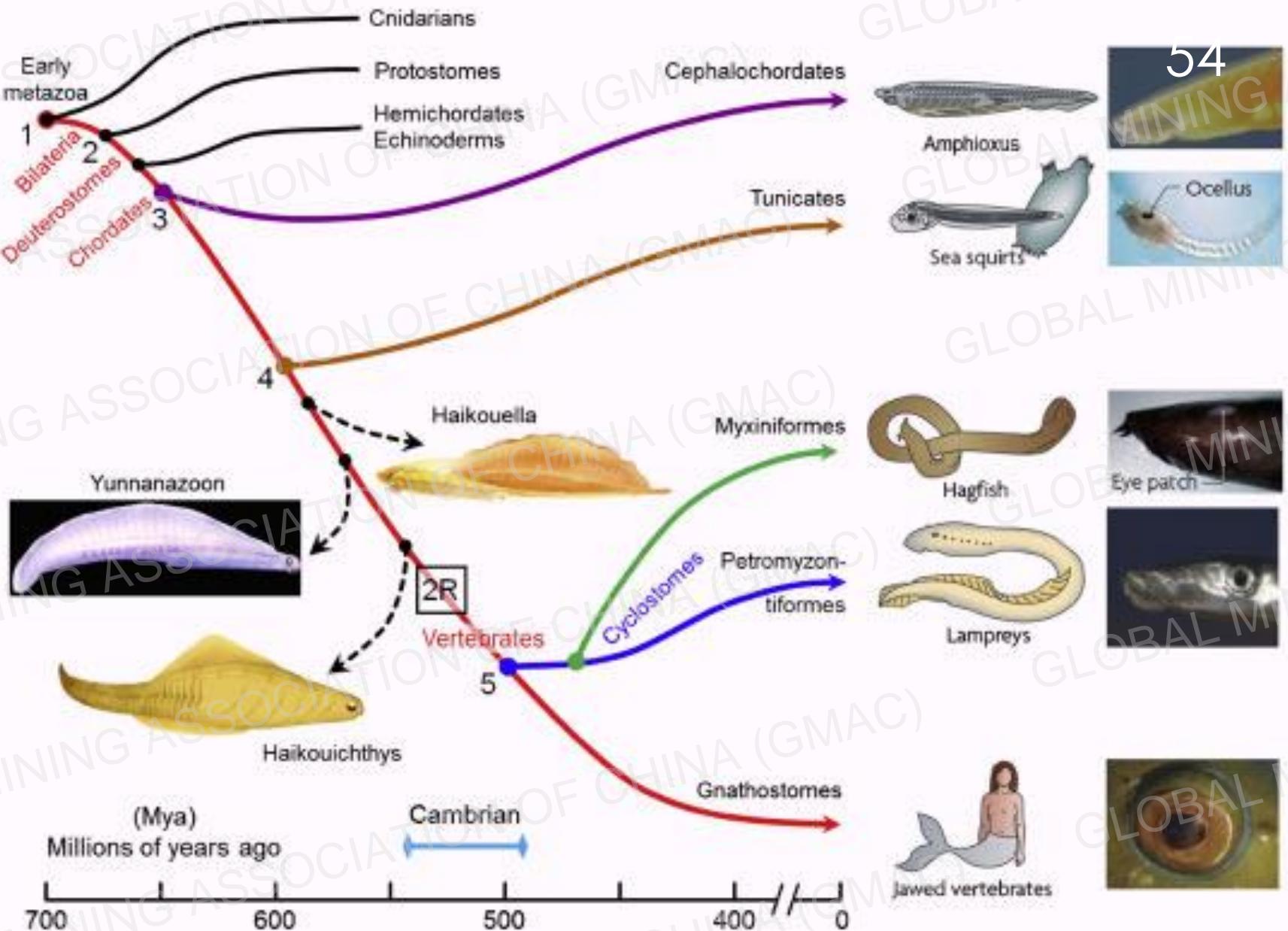
Two endosymbiotic events c.2.7 bya



## 真核生物的进化

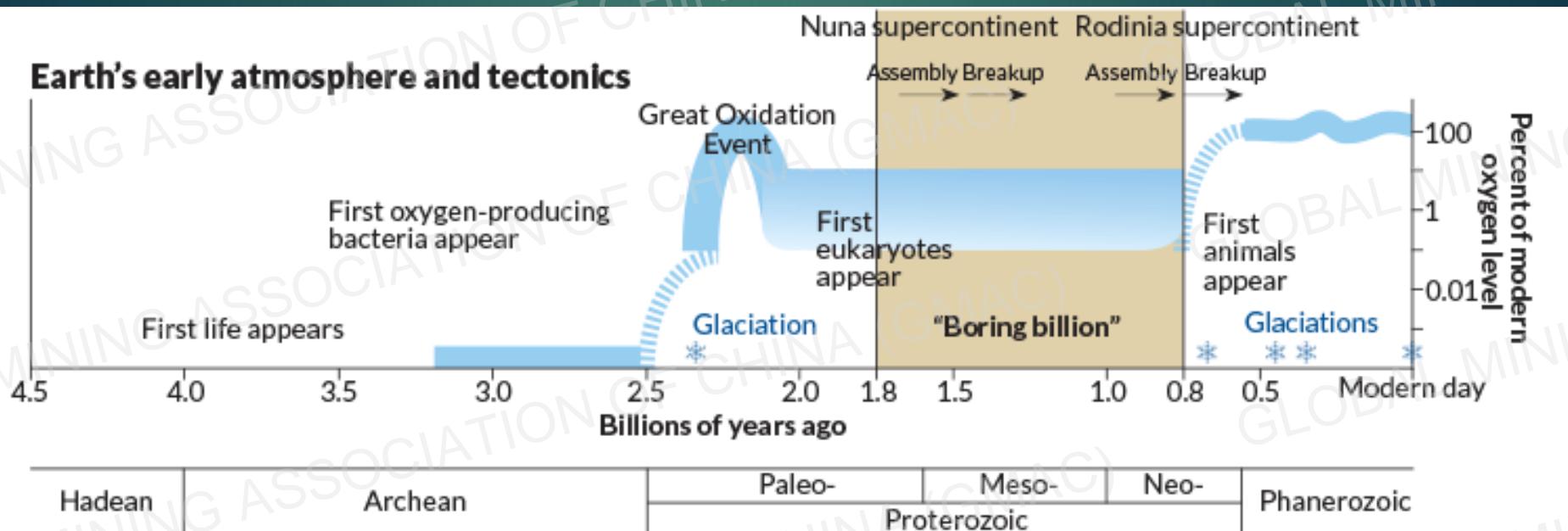
<https://www.quora.com/Why-are-mitochondria-believed-to-be-prokaryotic-cells-engulfed-by-eukaryotic-cells>



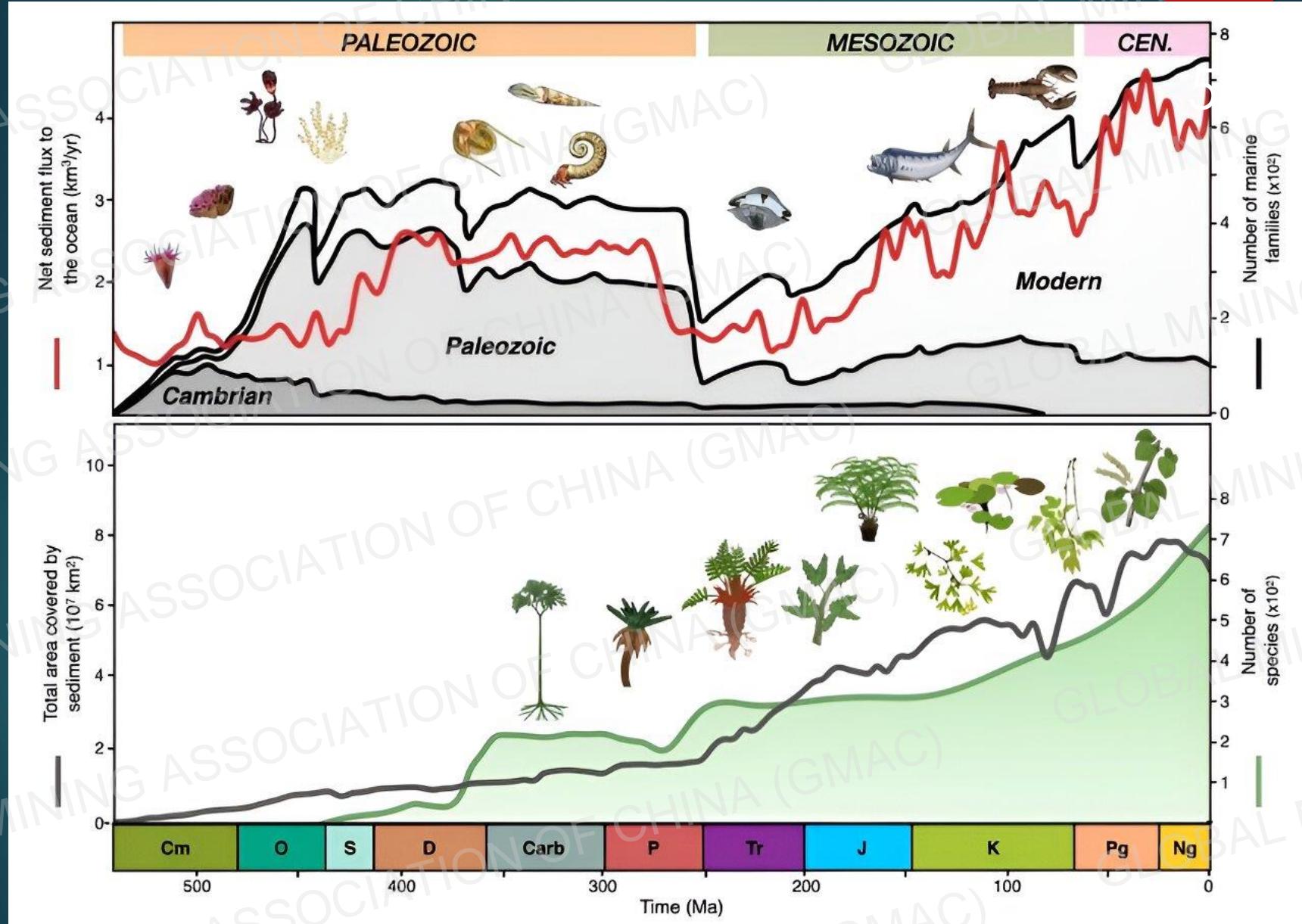


# 大氧化事件

## The Great Oxidation Event (GOE)

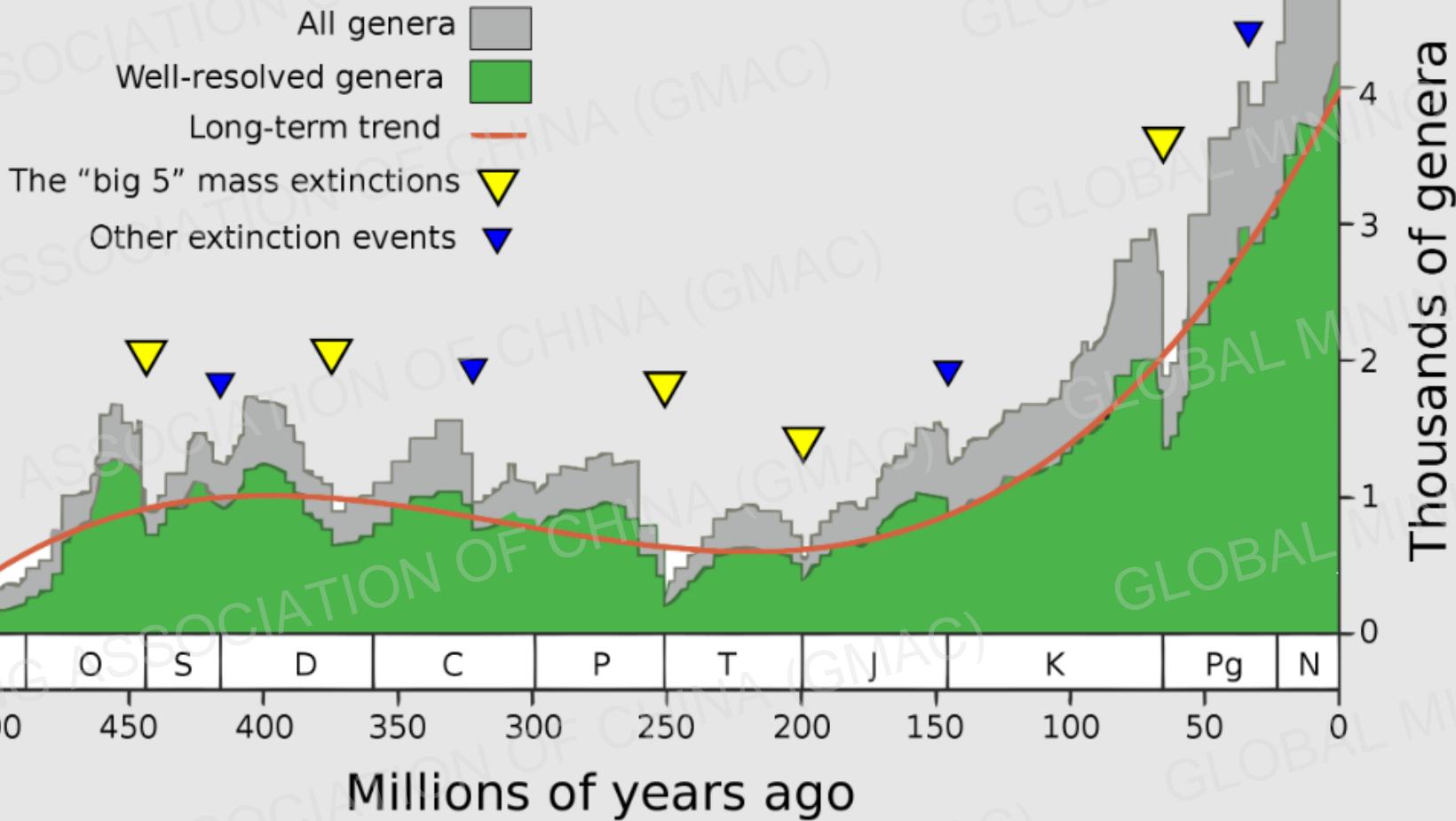


<https://commondescentpodcast.com/2019/11/30/episode-75-the-great-oxidation-event/>



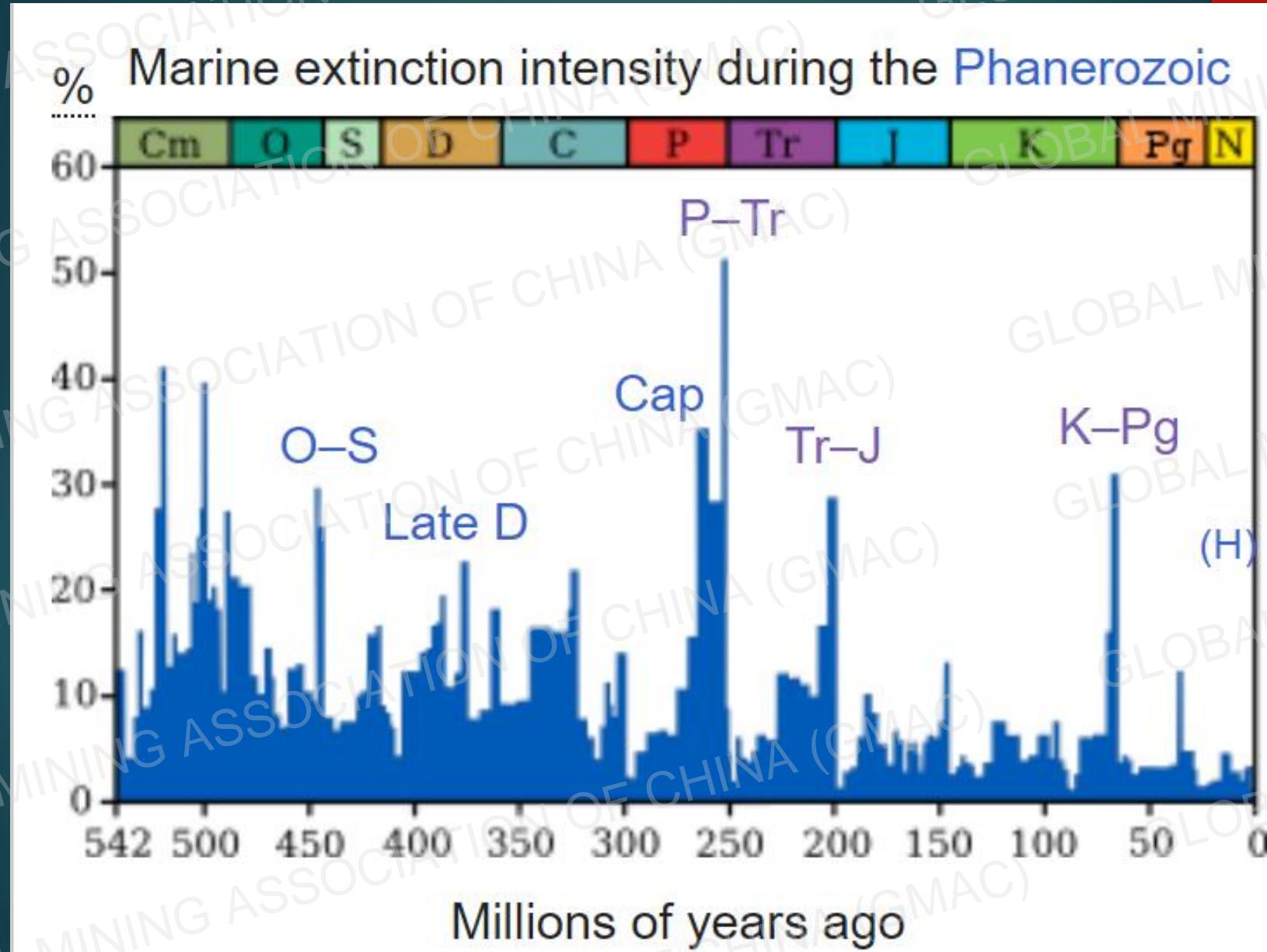
<https://riuters.com/landscape-dynamics-evolution-biodiversity-earth/>

# Biodiversity during the Phanerozoic

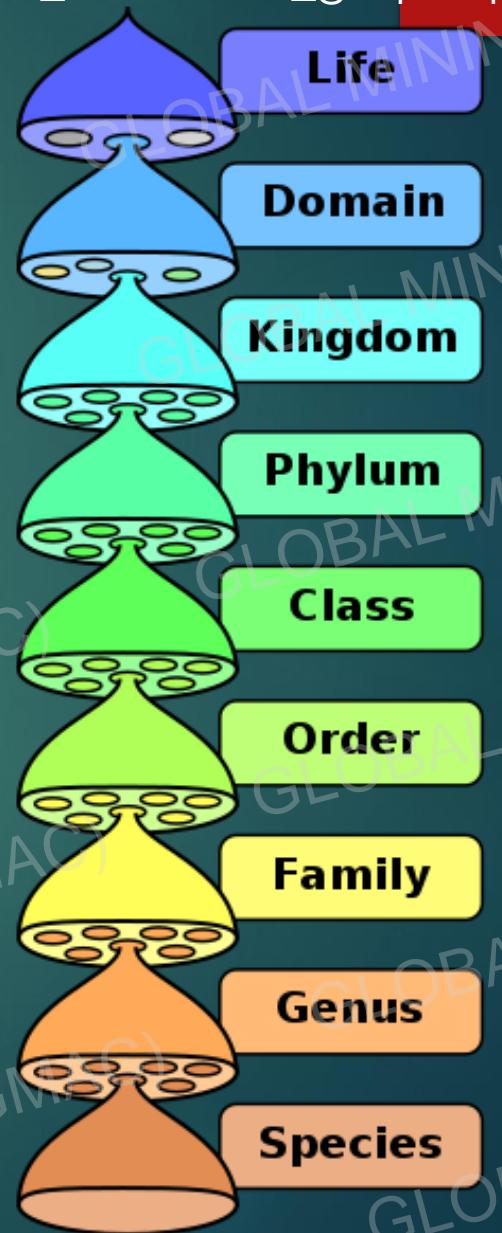
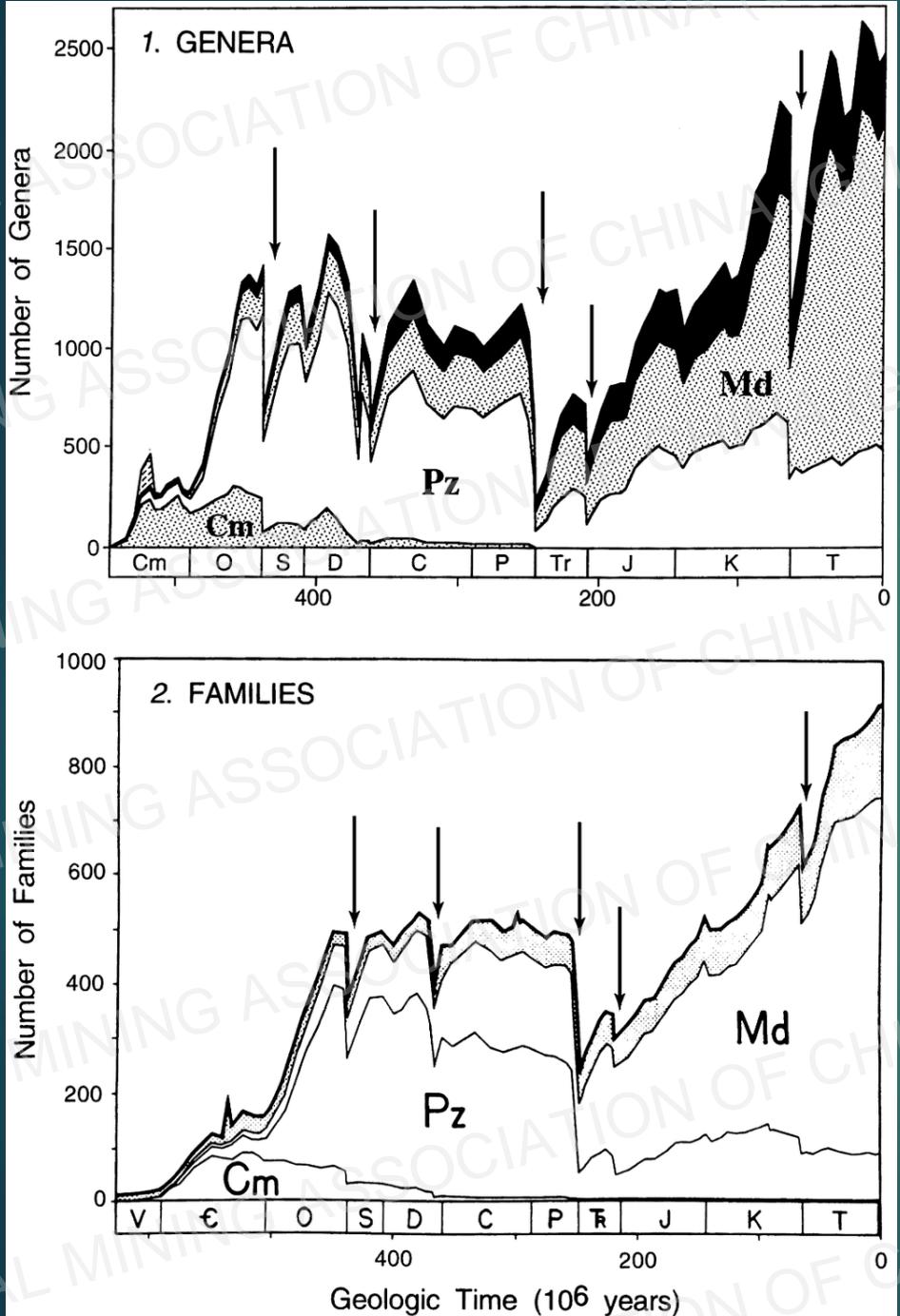


# Extinctions 生物集群灭绝

58



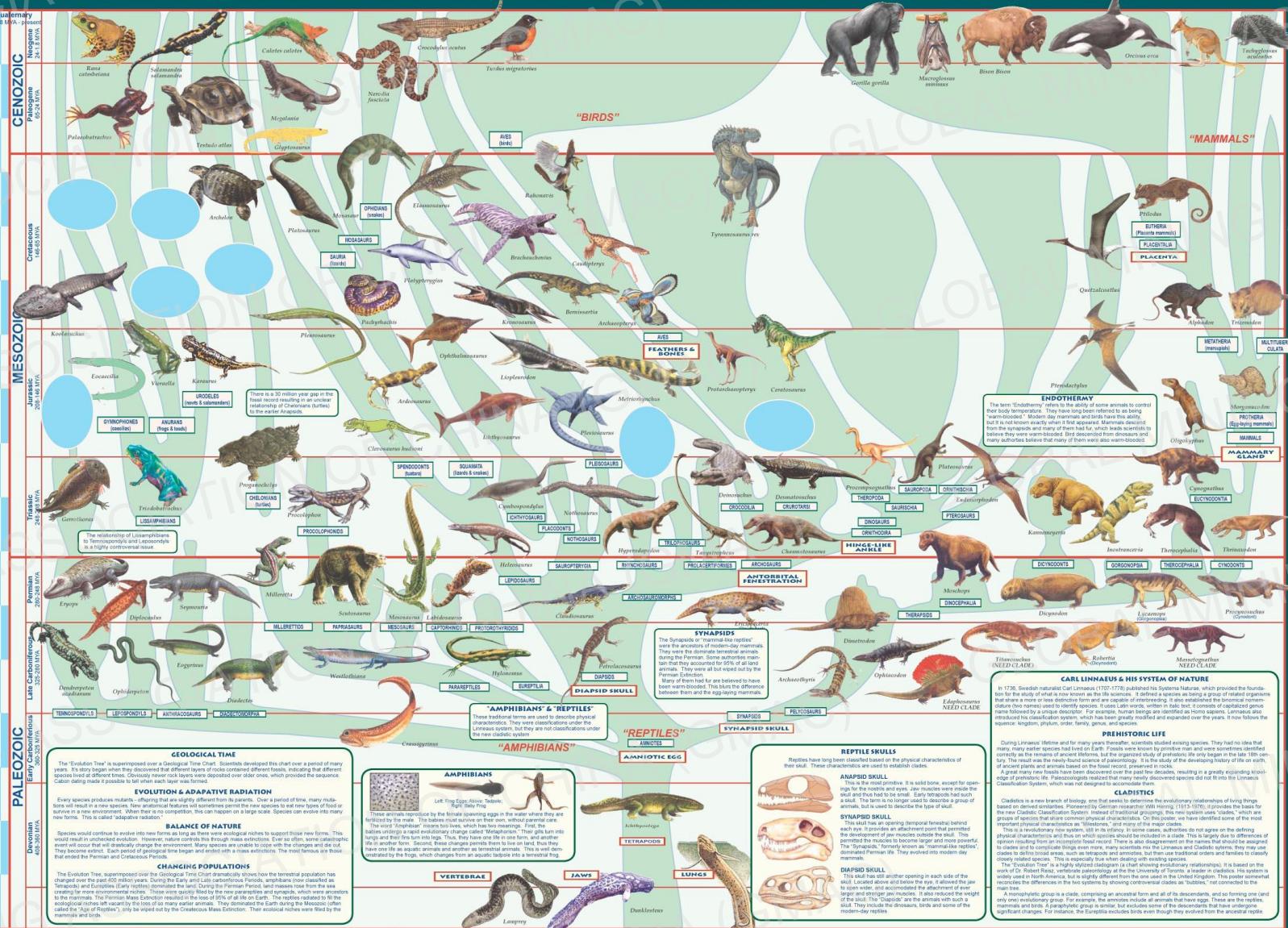
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sepkoski\\_1997\\_extinction\\_graphs.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sepkoski_1997_extinction_graphs.png)



# MILESTONES OF VERTEBRATE EVOLUTION

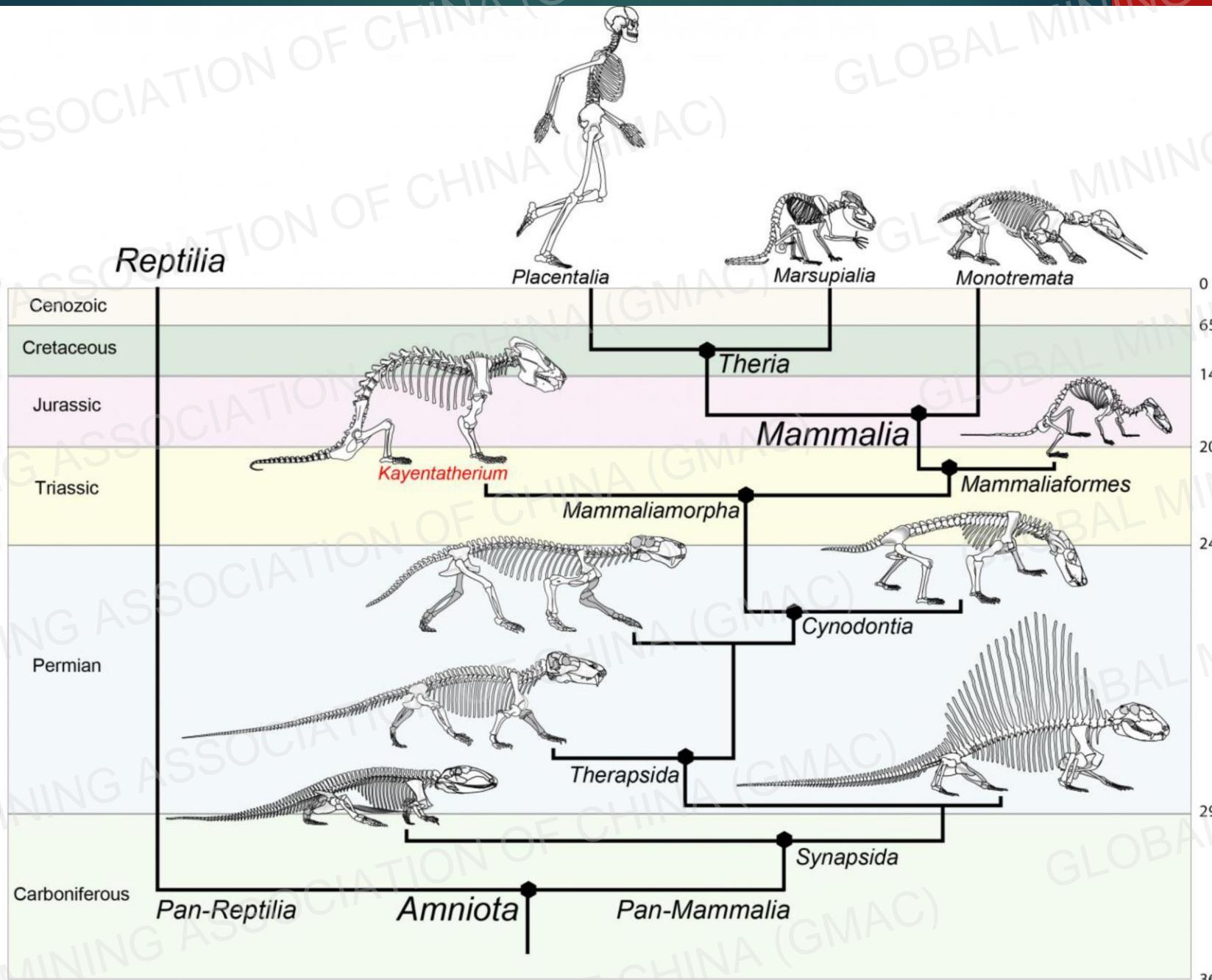
60

**Scientists** have been trying to solve the mysteries of animal evolution for over 200 years. Although some details are still obscure, they have been able to determine a great many facts about physical changes resulting from the evolutionary process. Some of the most important ones are shown and explained at left. They are referred to as milestones because they mark the major events in the history of life. Milestones along with the milestones that define them, is superimposed over a geological time chart that puts everything in the context of when the changes occurred. The thickness of the lines indicates the relative importance of the milestones. Many representative species are shown. The result is a fairly comprehensive overview of how life evolved on Earth.

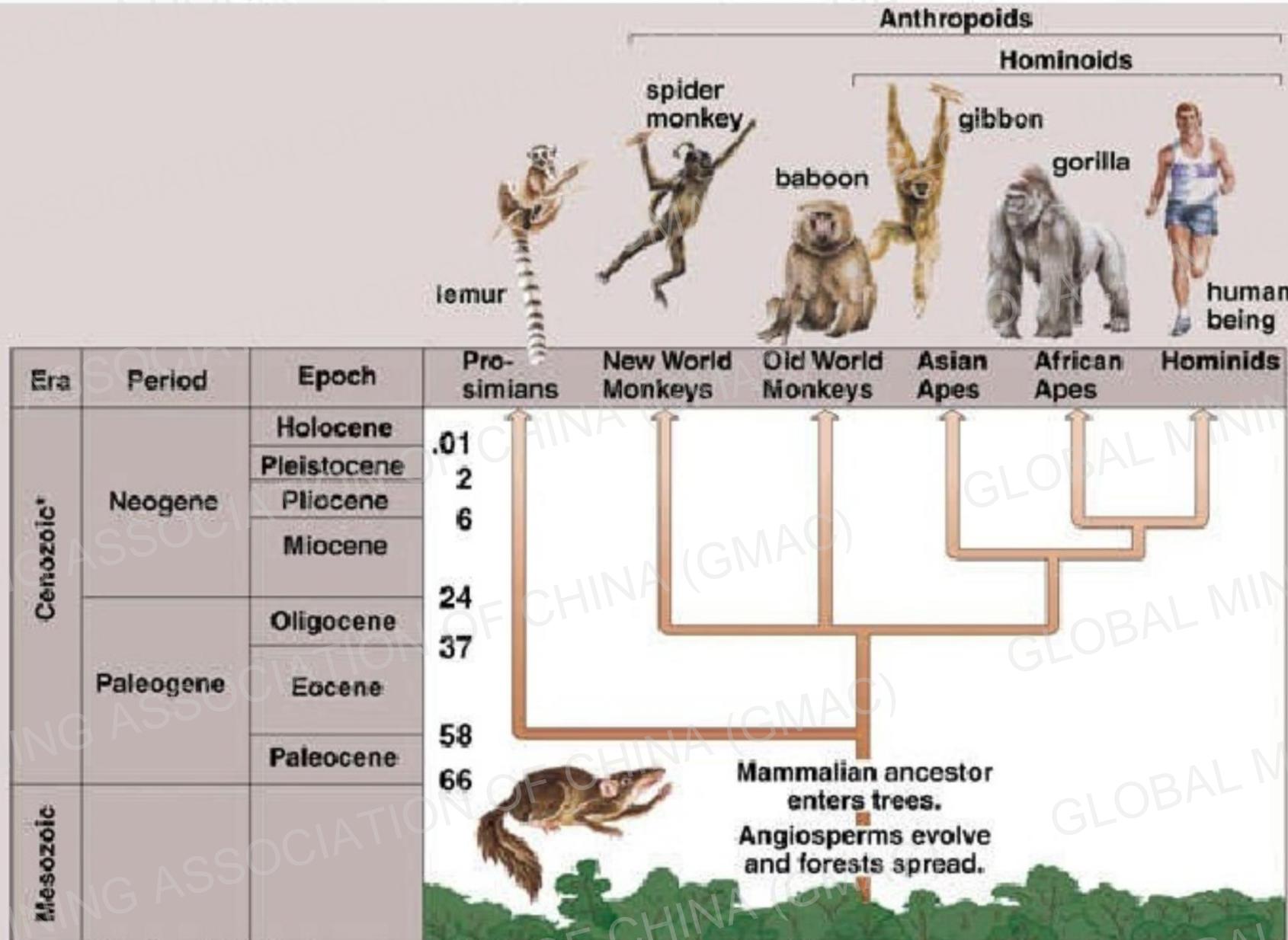


filename: Milestones of Vertebrate Evolution | Draft 426 | Sept 1, 2005

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/218565388141591284/>



Copyright © The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. Permission required for reproduction or display.

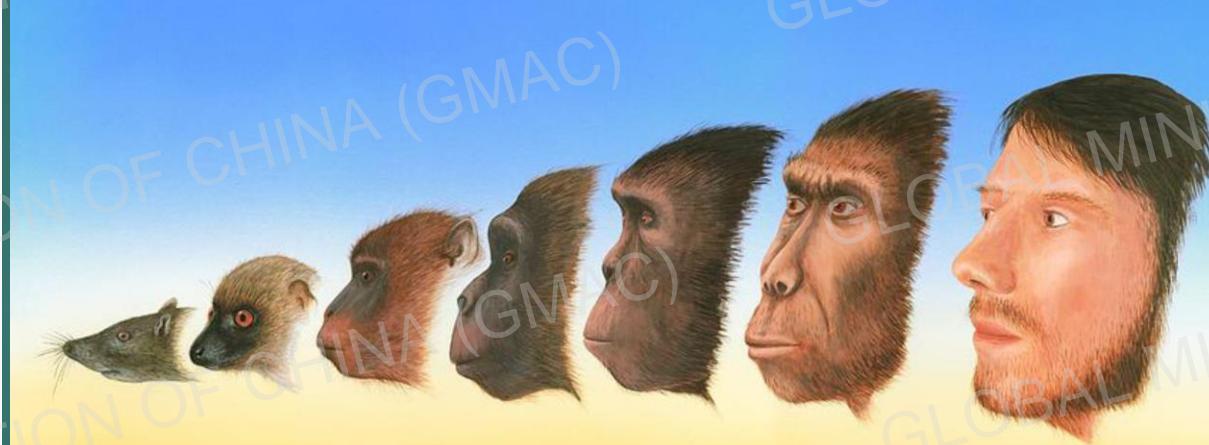


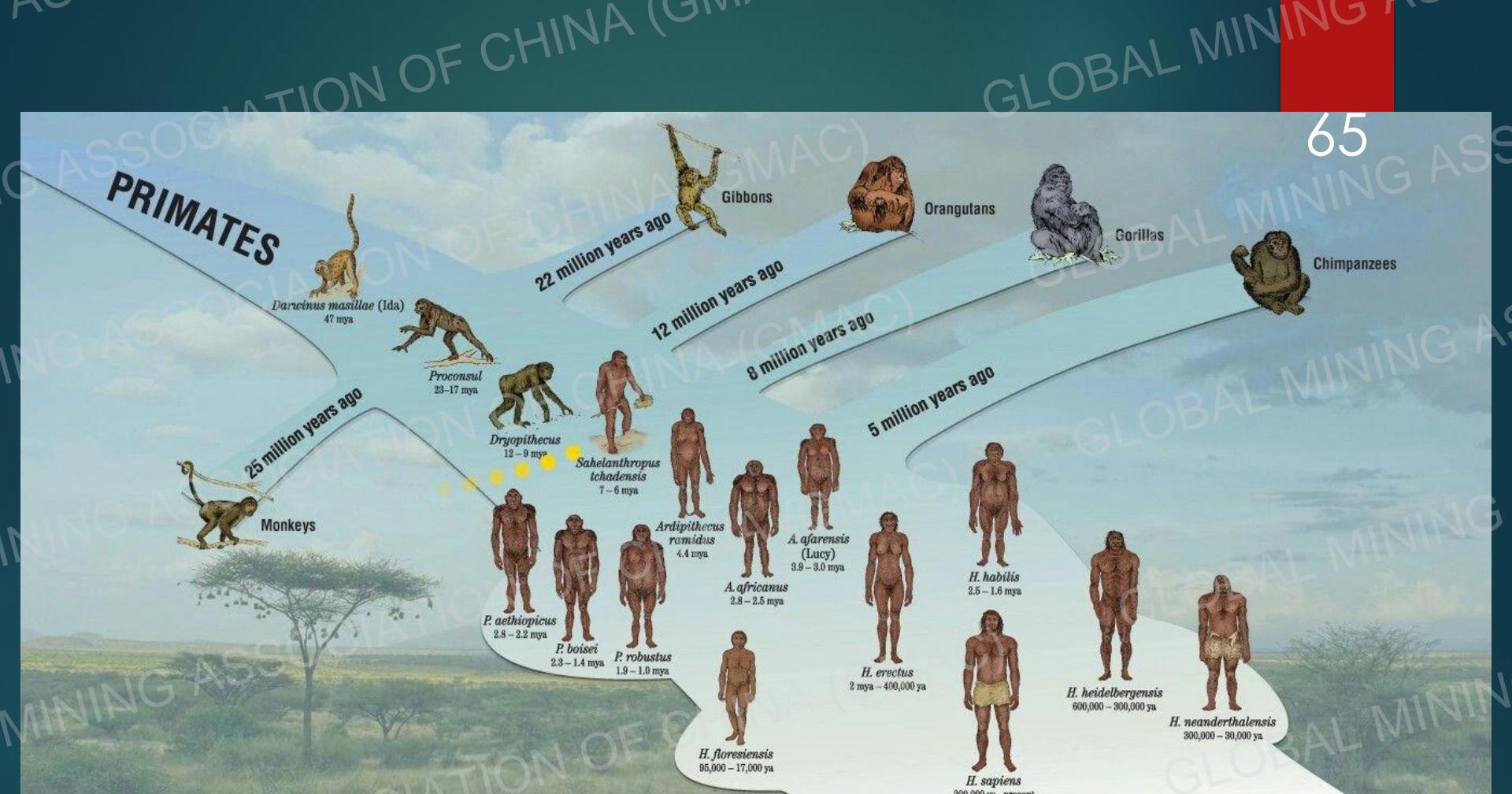
\*Many authorities divide the Cenozoic era into the Tertiary period (contains Paleocene, Eocene, Oligocene, Miocene, and Pliocene) and the Quaternary period (contains Pleistocene and Holocene).

## First Arboreal Mammals



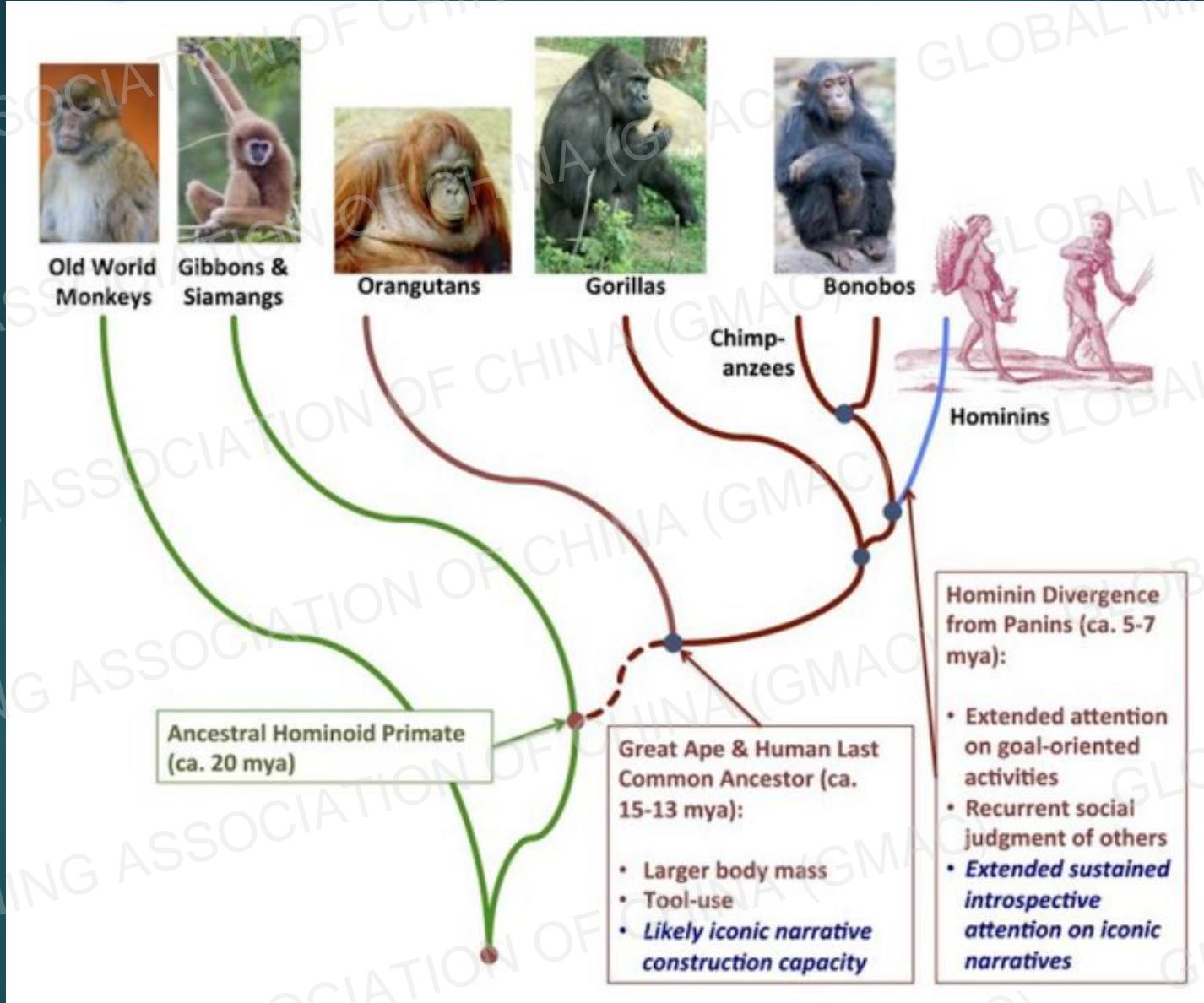
Scientific classification	
Domain:	Eukaryota
Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Class:	Mammalia
Order:	Primates
Suborder:	Haplorhini
Infraorder:	Simiiformes
Family:	Hominidae
Subfamily:	Homininae
Tribe:	Hominini
Genus:	<i>Homo</i>
Species:	<i>H. sapiens</i>



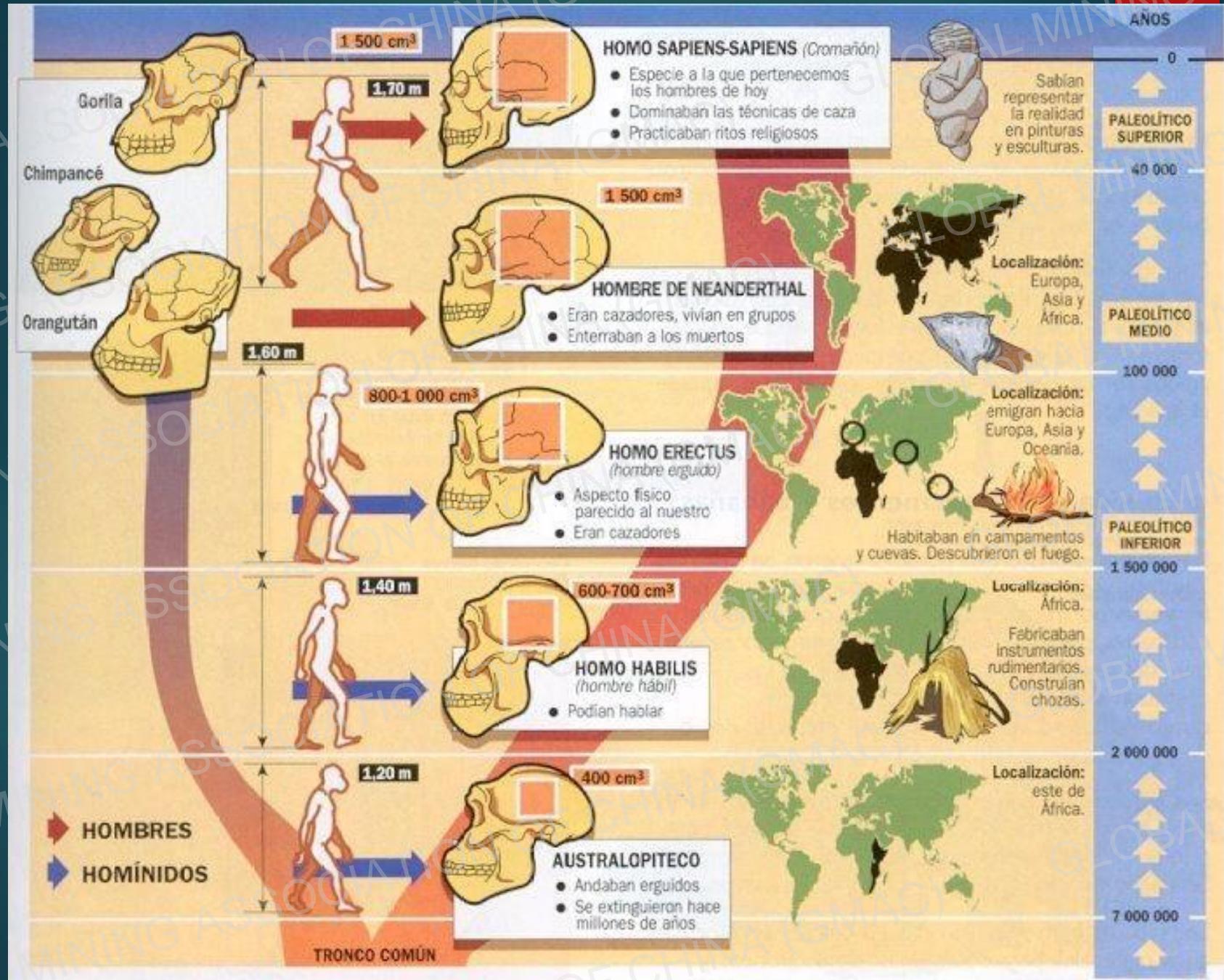


## HUMAN EVOLUTION

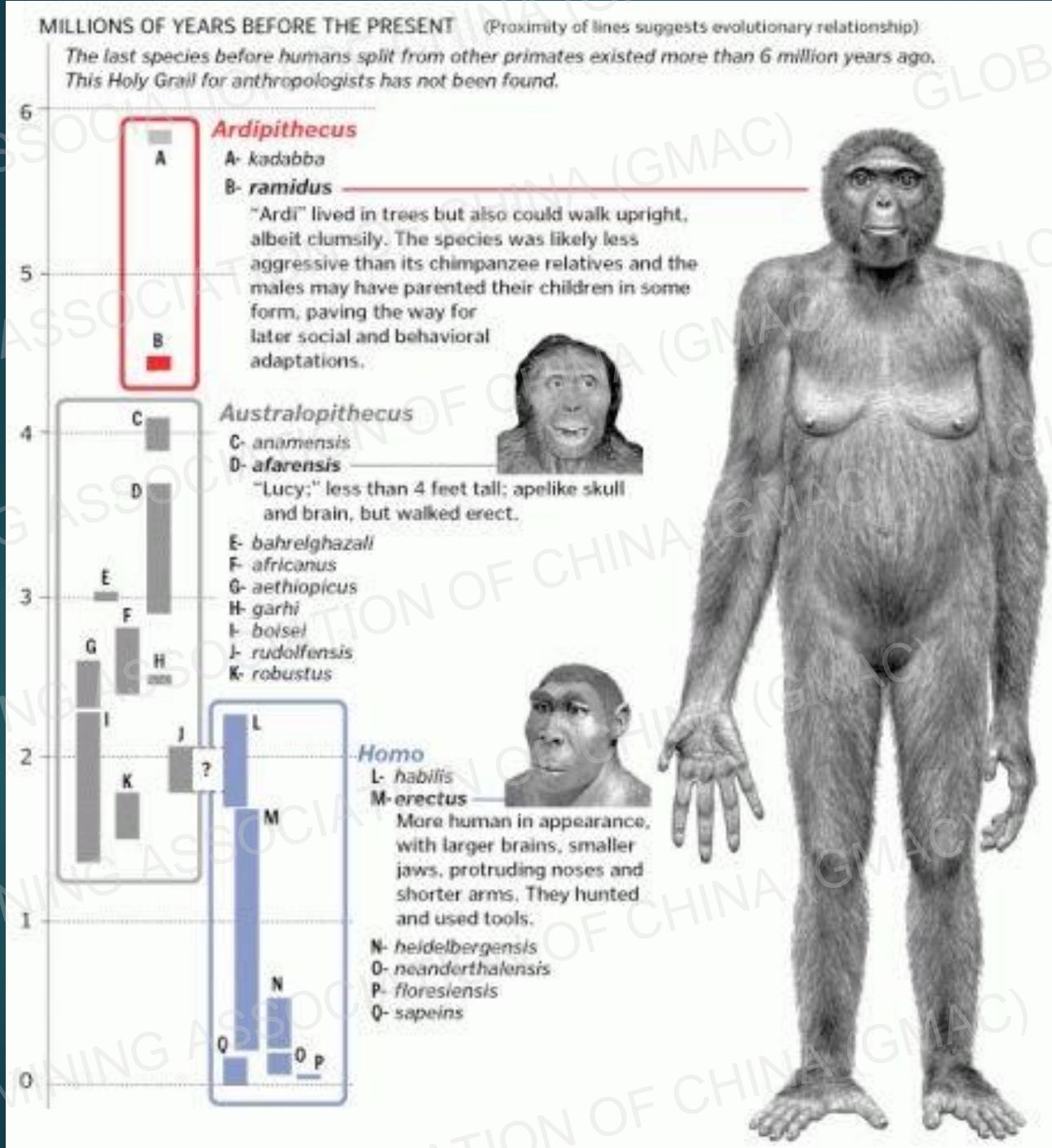
<https://themelower.com/>



[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/264417273\\_Embodied\\_Niche\\_Construction\\_in\\_the\\_Hominin\\_Lineage\\_Semiotic\\_Structure\\_and\\_Sustained\\_Attention\\_in\\_Human\\_Embodied\\_Cognition?tp=eyJjb250ZXh0Ijp7ImZpcnN0UGFnZSI6Ii9kaXJY3QiLCJwYWdlIjoiX2RpcmVjdCJ9fQ](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/264417273_Embodied_Niche_Construction_in_the_Hominin_Lineage_Semiotic_Structure_and_Sustained_Attention_in_Human_Embodied_Cognition?tp=eyJjb250ZXh0Ijp7ImZpcnN0UGFnZSI6Ii9kaXJY3QiLCJwYWdlIjoiX2RpcmVjdCJ9fQ)



<https://www.pinterest.com/evanjburrrows/pithecius/>

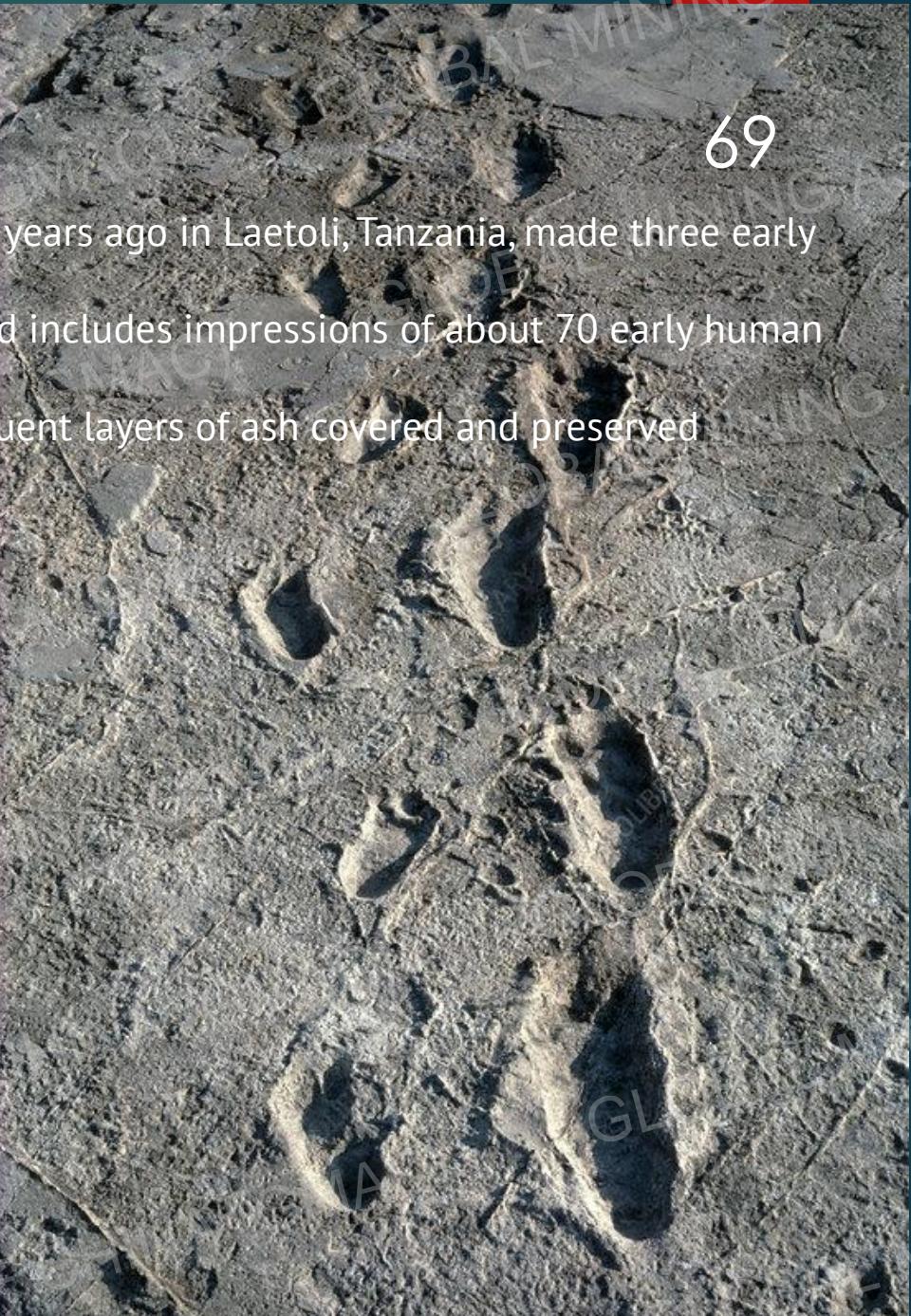


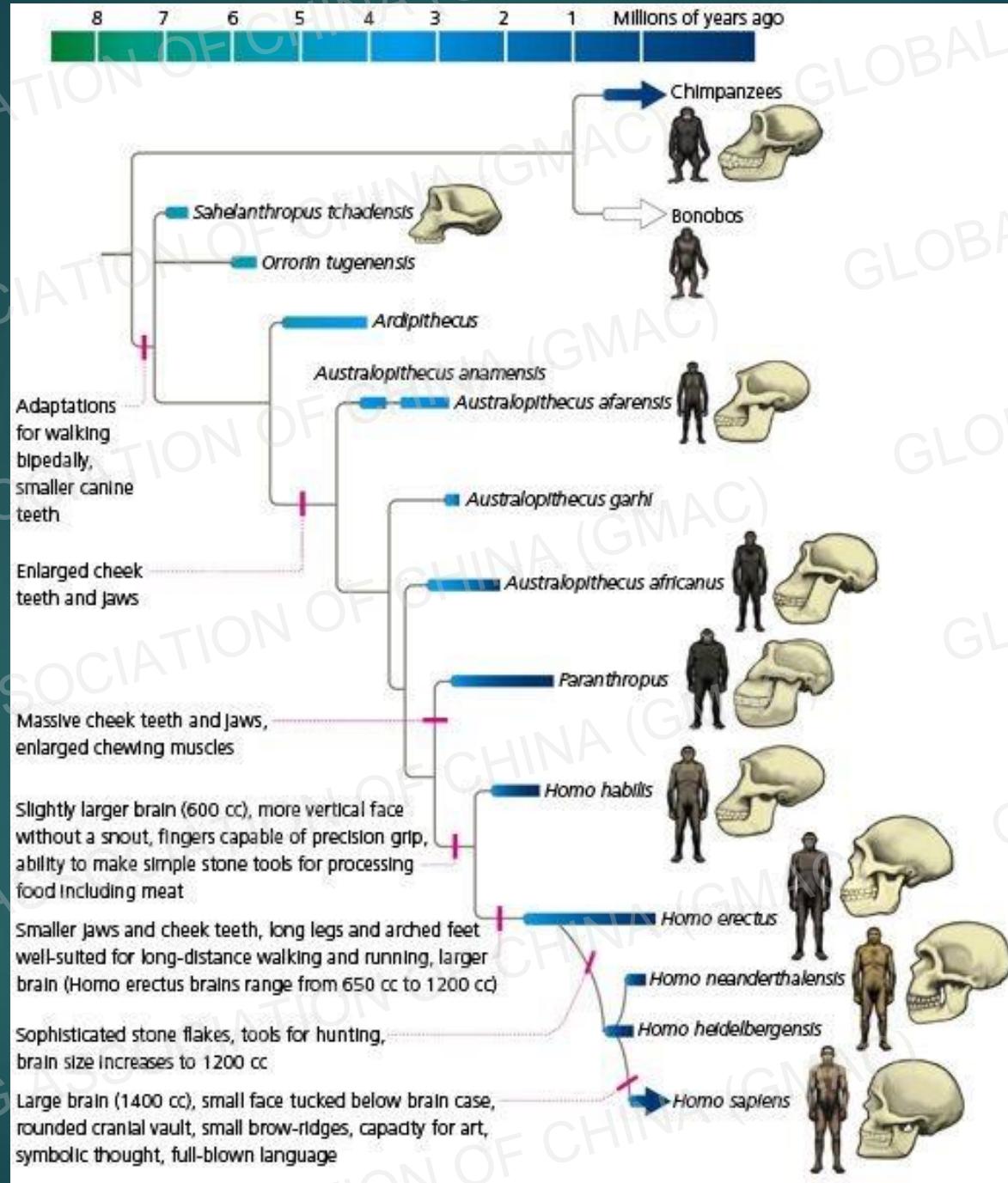
# Laetoli Foot Prints

Most likely made by *Australopithecus* 3.6 million years ago in Laetoli, Tanzania, made three early humans walked through wet volcanic ash.

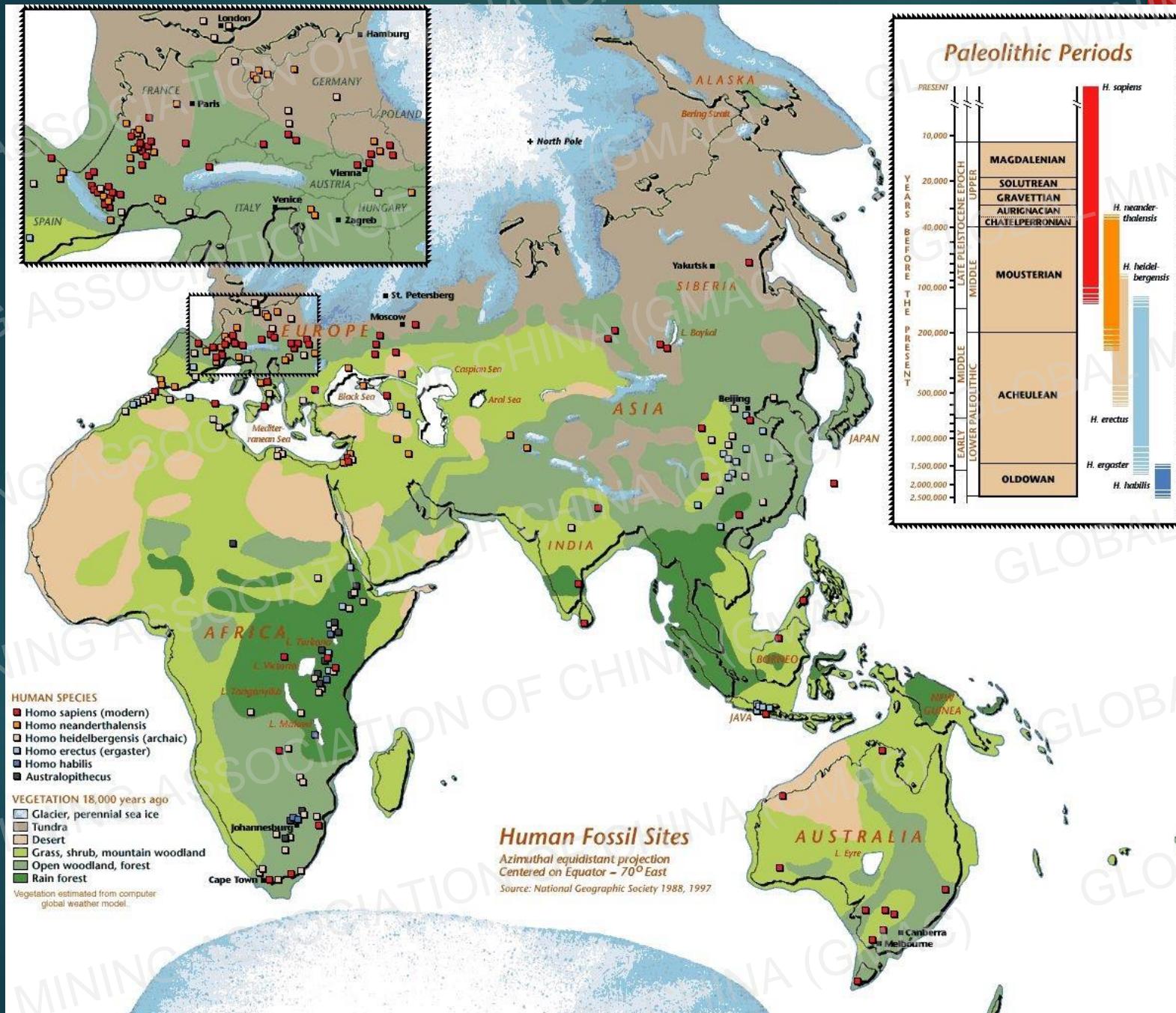
The entire footprint trail is almost 27 m long and includes impressions of about 70 early human footprints.

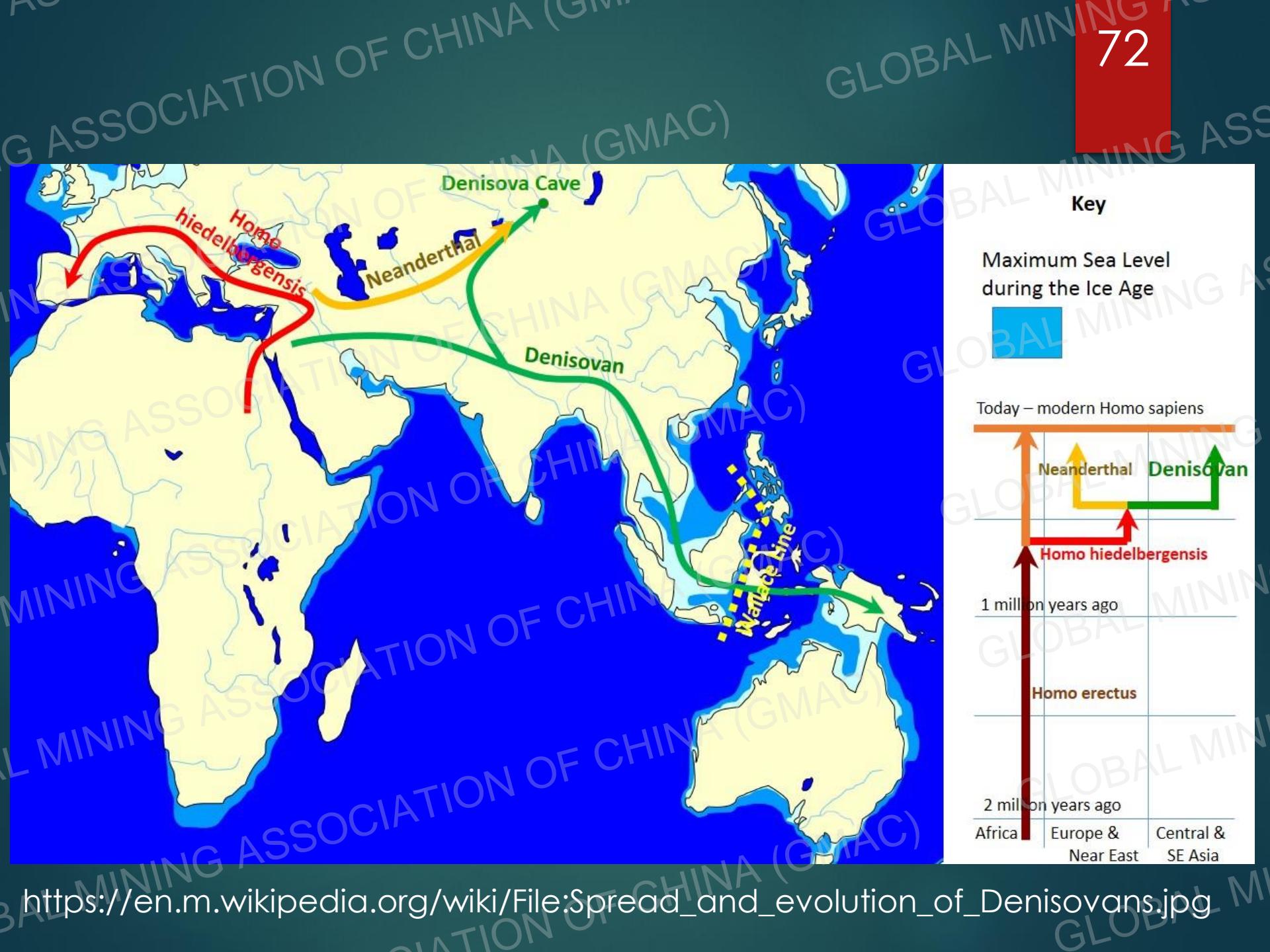
When the nearby volcano erupted again, subsequent layers of ash covered and preserved the oldest known footprints of early humans.





<https://www.quora.com/What-animal-did-we-evolve-from>

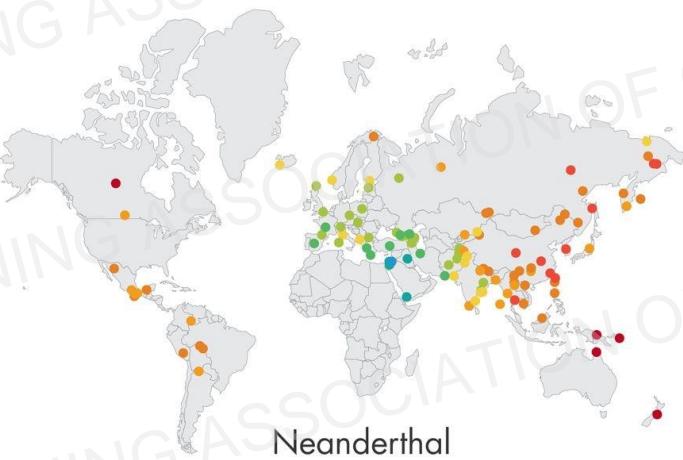




# WHERE THE HOMININS ROAMED

As modern humans spread out of Africa, they interbred with Neanderthals and Denisovans. Traces of DNA from those archaic humans remains in our genomes, though some populations tend to have higher concentrations of our extinct ancestors' DNA than others.

Percentage of archaic DNA



## Early Humans Since Lucy

New fossil discovery may provide the missing link.

### 3.2 Million Years Ago



### 2.8 Million Years Ago



### 2.5 Million Years Ago



### 1.8 Million Years Ago



### 200 Thousand Years Ago



via cativ

## Mapping Recent Human Evolution

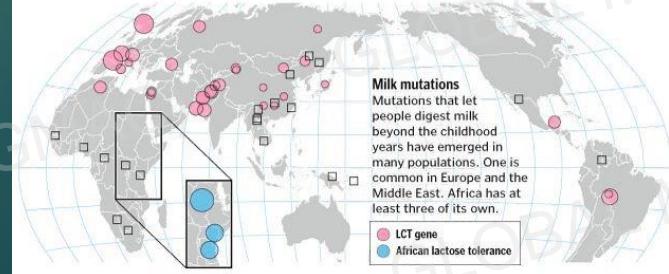
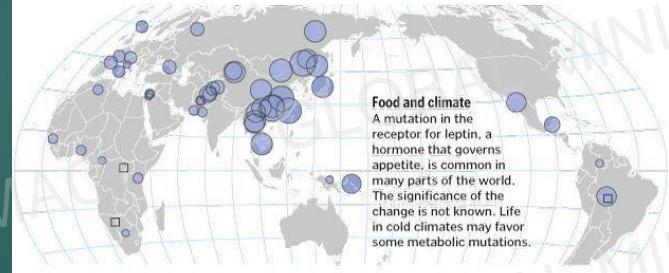
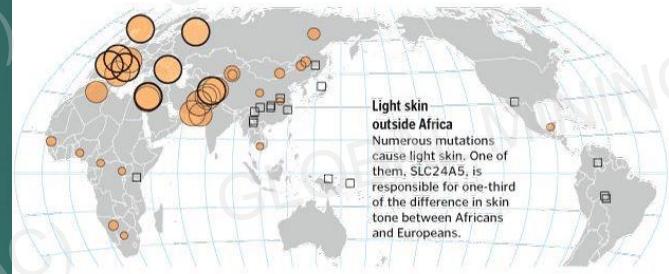
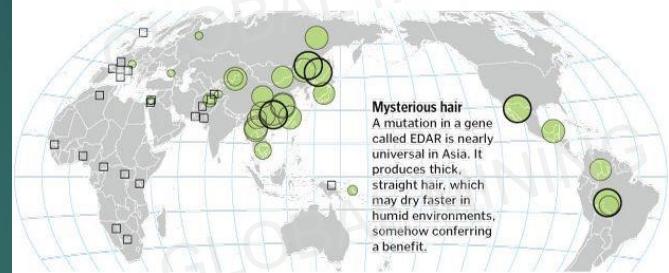
About 10 percent of human genes have continued to evolve since modern human beings emerged in Africa 200,000 years ago. Traits for disease resistance and environmental adaptation are undergoing natural selection.

### LEGEND

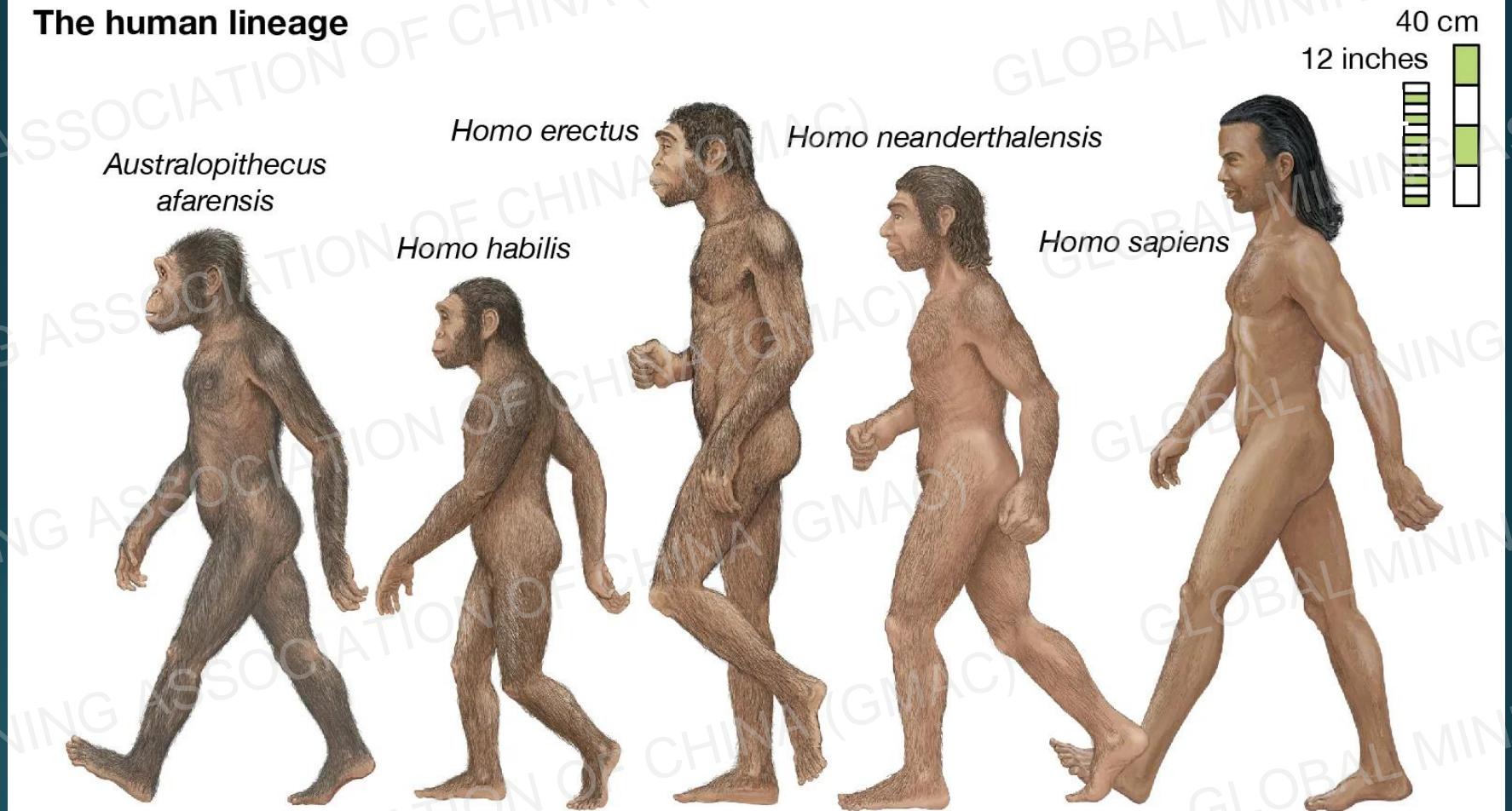
Prevalence of genes in populations tested



10% 50 70 75 80 85 90 95 100%

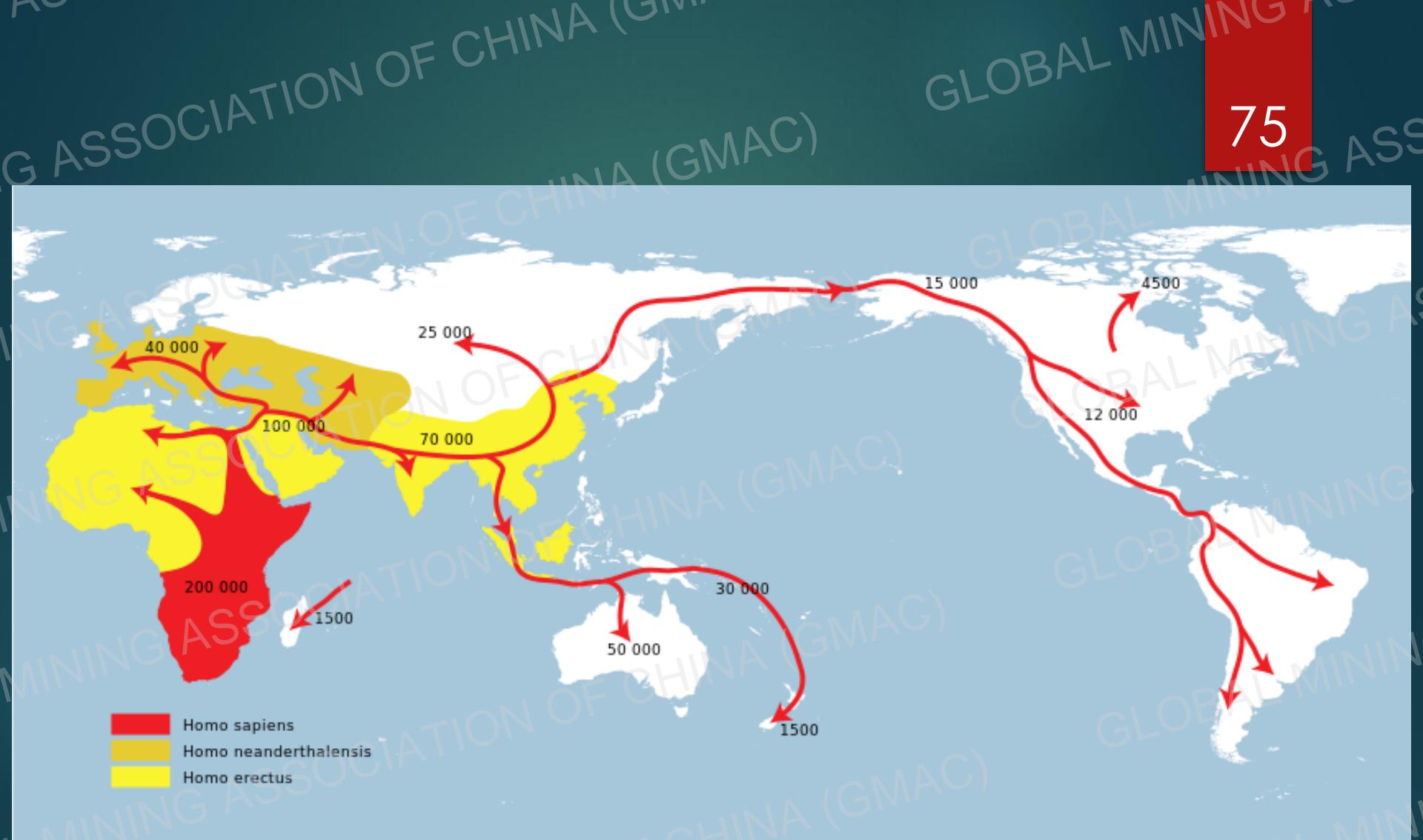


## The human lineage



The earliest species of *Homo* are known from only a few bone fragments. Some doubt that they belong in our genus, preferring to label them as *australopiths*.

The first well-established *Homo*, and the first that we would recognise as looking a bit like us, appeared about 1.9 million years ago. It is named *Homo erectus*.

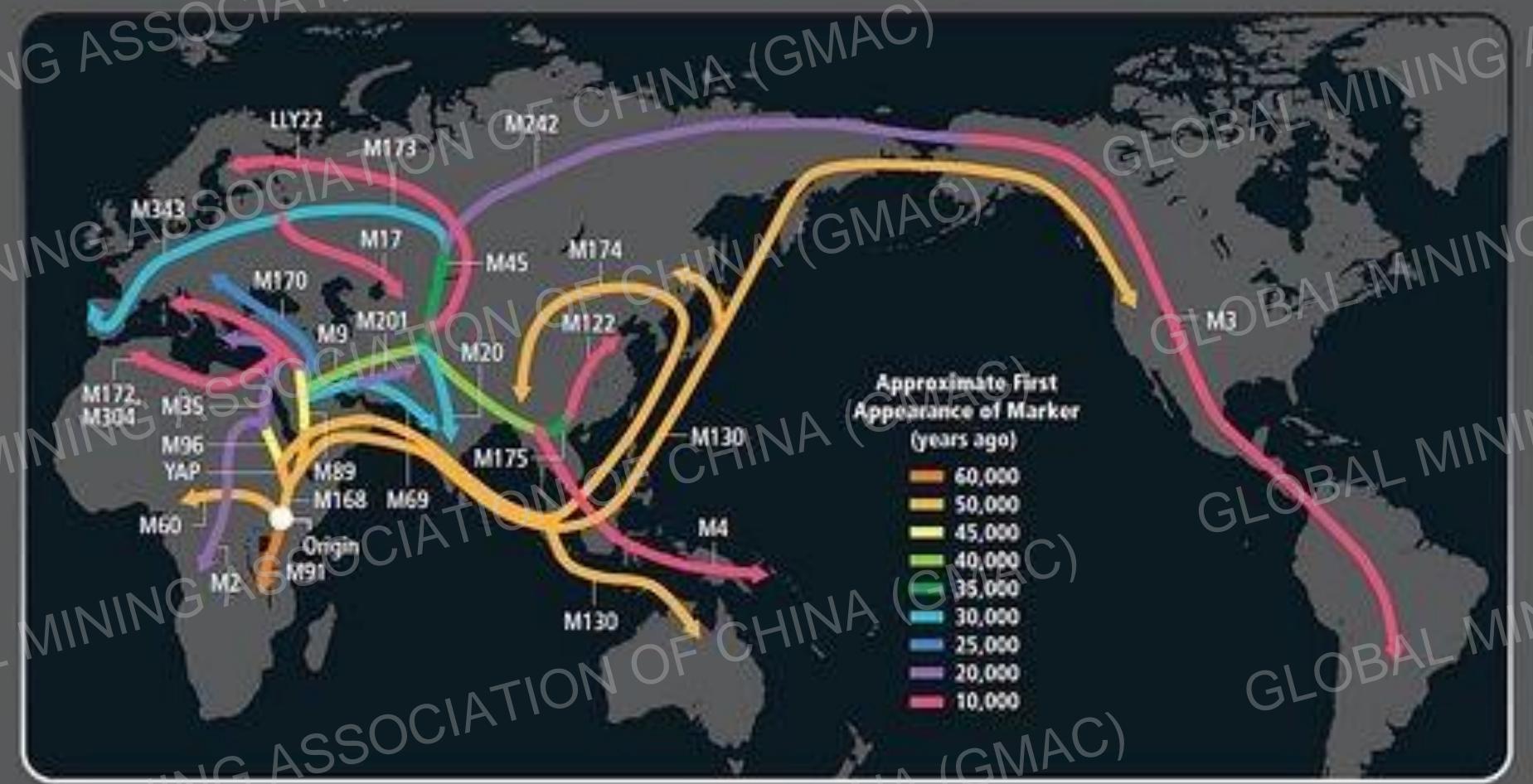


<https://www.quora.com/How-and-why-did-we-as-apes-and-hominids-including-other-species-survive-the-more-extreme-heats-and-colds-in-the-past-thousands-and-millions-years-ago-before-our-current-10-000-year-stable-climate-that-we-wouldnt-now>

[ROUTE MAPS]

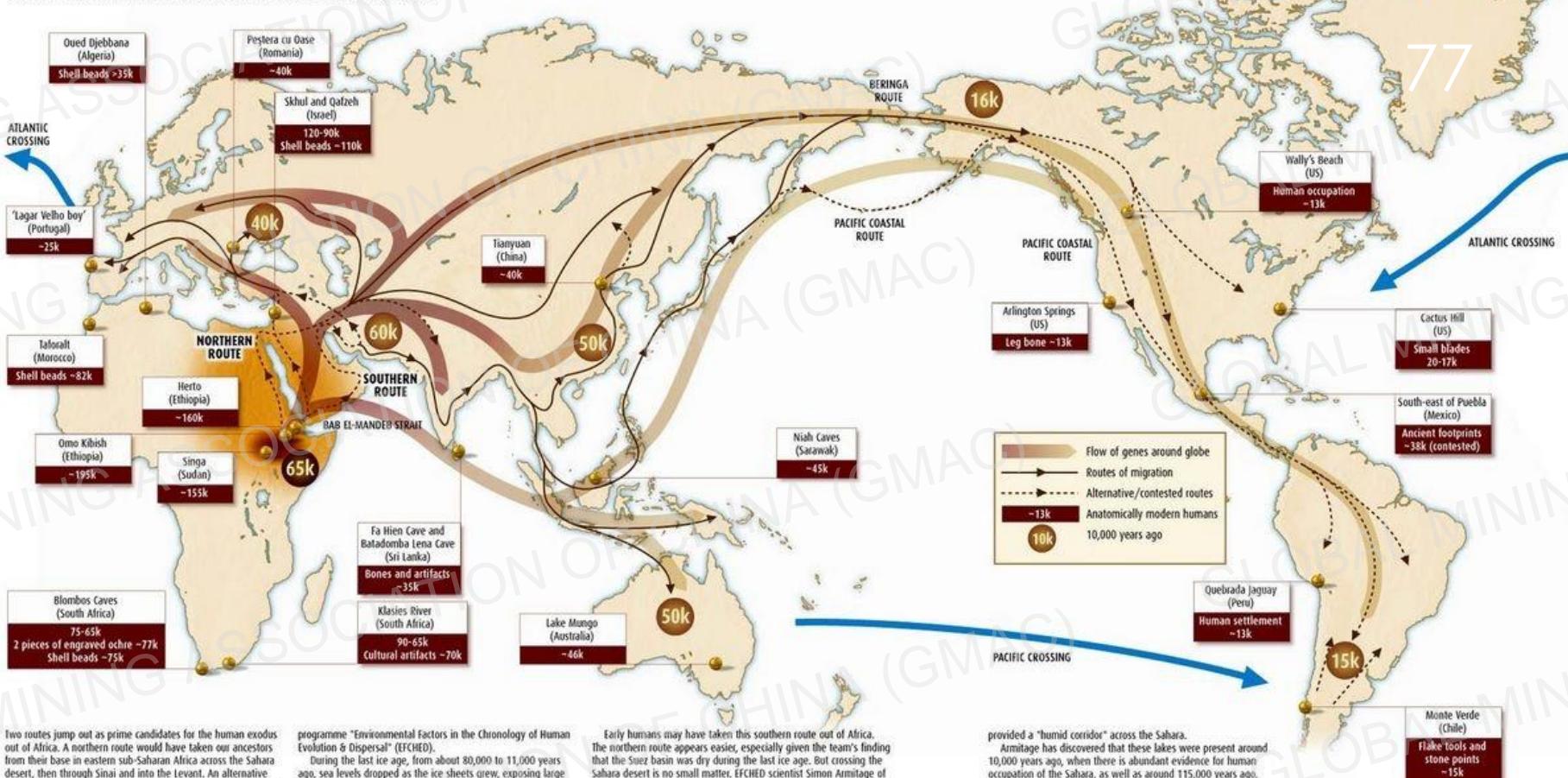
# TRACKING Y CHROMOSOMES THROUGH TIME

Geneticists can track the path of ancient migrations by examining genetic markers in Y chromosomes from men who hail from different parts of the world. Each marker, such as M168 or M89, identifies a lineage of men and where the lineage originated. By building an evolutionary tree based on observing many living people with the markers, investigators can determine the approximate ages of the lineages.



# THE MIGRATION OF ANATOMICALLY MODERN HUMANS

Evidence from fossils, ancient artefacts and genetic analyses combine to tell a compelling story



Two routes jump out as prime candidates for the human exodus out of Africa. A northern route would have taken our ancestors from their base in eastern sub-Saharan Africa across the Sahara desert, then through Sinai and into the Levant. An alternative southern route may have charted a path from Djibouti or Eritrea in the Horn of Africa across the Bab el-Mandeb strait and into Yemen and around the Arabian peninsula. The plausibility of these two routes as gateways out of Africa has been studied as part of the UK's Natural Environment Research Council's

programme "Environmental Factors in the Chronology of Human Evolution & Dispersal" (EFCHED).

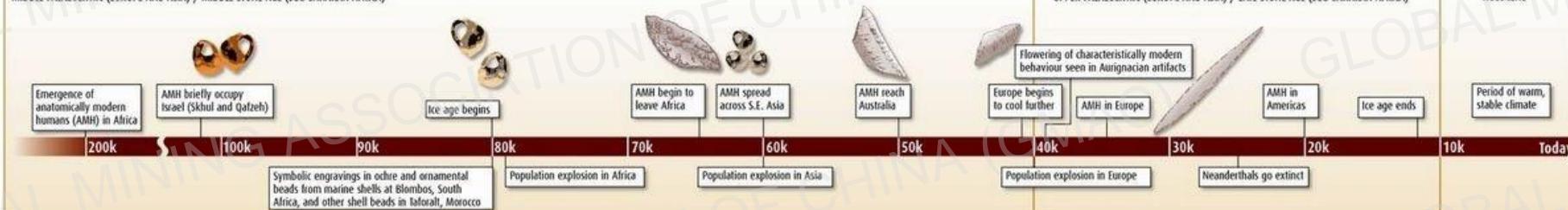
During the last ice age, from about 80,000 to 11,000 years ago, sea levels dropped as the ice sheets grew, exposing large swathes of land now submerged under water and connecting regions now separated by the sea. By reconstructing ancient shorelines, the EFCHED team found that the Bab el-Mandeb strait, now around 30 kilometres wide and one of the world's busiest shipping lanes, was then a narrow, shallow channel.

Early humans may have taken this southern route out of Africa. The northern route appears easier, especially given the team's finding that the Suez basin was dry during the last ice age. But crossing the Sahara desert is no small matter. EFCHED scientist Simon Armitage of the Royal Holloway University of London has found some clues as to how this might have been possible. During the past 150,000 years, North Africa has experienced abrupt switches between dry, arid conditions and a humid climate. During the longer wetter periods huge lakes existed in both Chad and Libya, which would have

provided a "humid corridor" across the Sahara.

Armitage has discovered that these lakes were present around 10,000 years ago, when there is abundant evidence for human occupation of the Sahara, as well as around 115,000 years ago, when our ancestors first made forays into Israel. It is unknown whether another humid corridor appeared between about 65,000 and 50,000 years ago, the most likely time frame for the human exodus. Moreover, accumulating evidence is pointing to the southern route as the most likely jumping-off point.

## MIDDLE PALEOLITHIC (EUROPE AND ASIA) / MIDDLE STONE AGE (SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA)



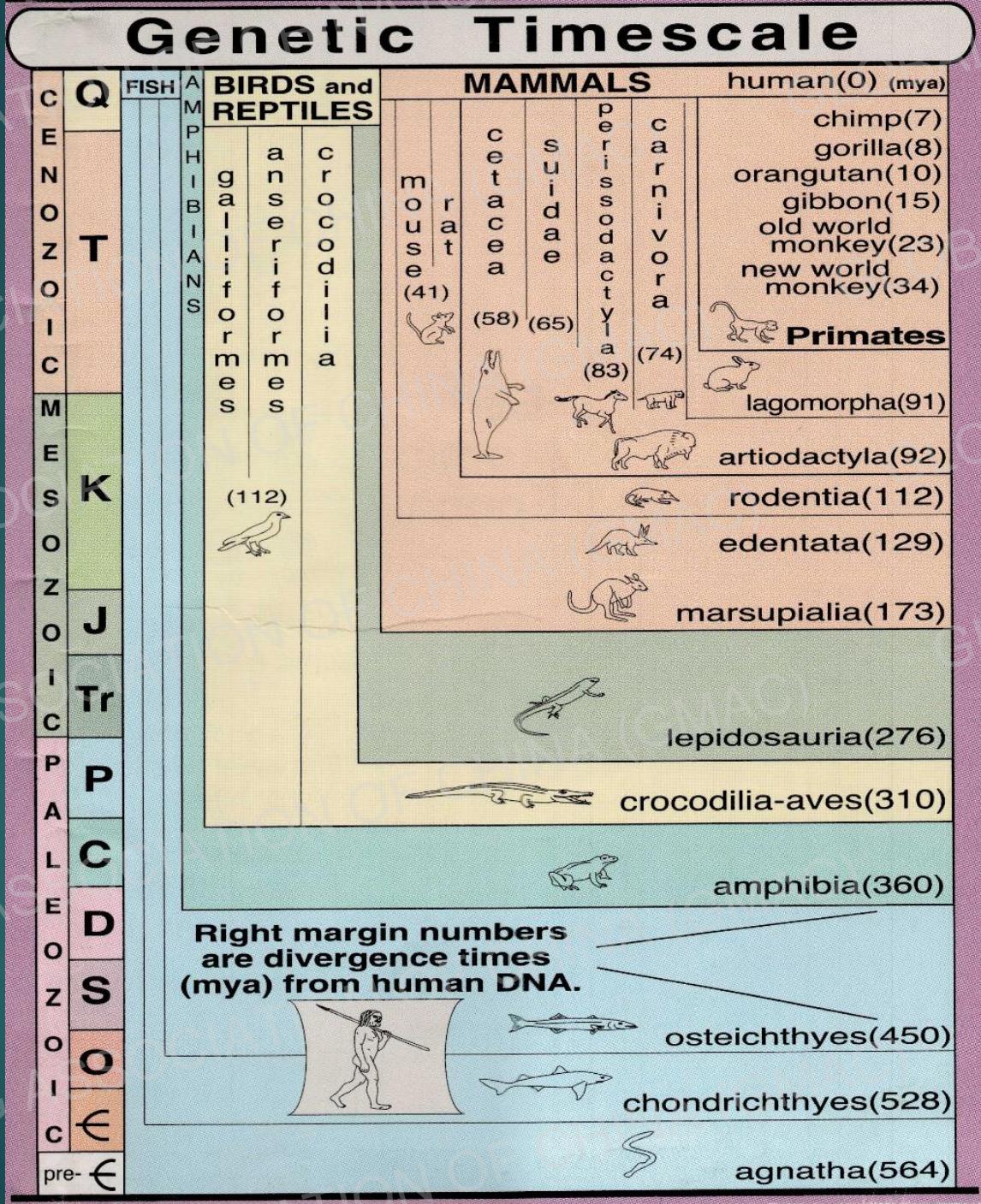


© 2023 inquirED  
permission provided gratis

WORLD HISTORY  
ENCYCLOPEDIA

<https://www.worldhistory.org/image/17854/second-wave-civilization-natural-resources-and-tra/>

Paul R.  
Janke,  
2009, A  
Correlate  
d History  
of Earth

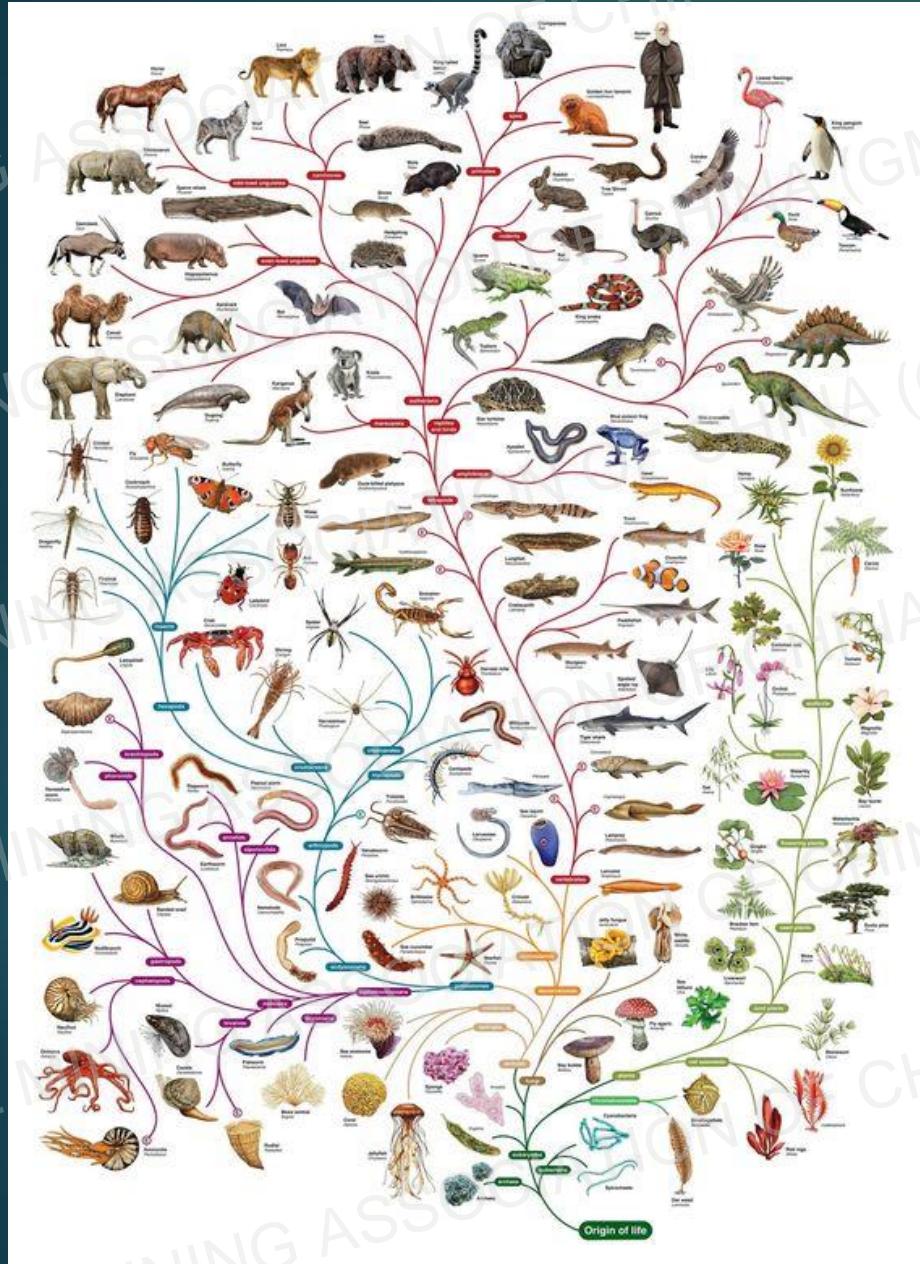




Civilization exists by geological consent, subject to  
change without notice

Will Durant

显生宙六次生物集群灭绝事件



# 地球生物一家人

We are all connected



从最小的蚂蚁到参天大树，  
从鸟儿遨游天空到鱼儿潜泳水中，  
每一种生物都是地球生物圈大家庭的一部分。  
**让我们积极行动起来，保护我们的地球家园。**

保护地球生灵，也就是保护我们自己，  
让我们从现在就积极行动起来吧！

# A Four Minute Video If We Have Time

Thank You