

Precambrian Eon: Introduction Name _____

Instructions: Read through the Precambrian Eon introduction. Then complete the "Fill Ins" below.

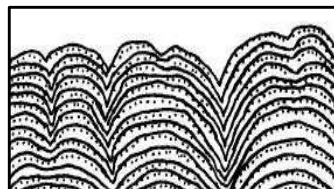
Geologists have separated the Earth's geologic history into several spans of time called "Eons" and "Eras". Eons are the largest time segments and Eras span shorter blocks of time. The oldest segment is known as the "Precambrian". The Precambrian Eon began over 4 Billion years ago and represents 88% of the Earth's geologic time. The more recent "Eras" are known as; Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and our present era the Cenozoic.

Because the Precambrian Eon was such a long time ago, little is known about it. Much of what we know has been discovered by scientists in the last 50 years. Some of the oldest fossils from the Precambrian are tiny bacteria found in Australia. These fossils date back over 3.4 billion years old.

Some of these ancient fossils are known as "Stromatolites" and were a form of Cyanobacteria or "Algae". They were common in the shallow seas of the primitive Earth.

Stromatolites lived in large communities that would build up layers of rock-like microbial mats year after year.

Stromatolite fossils have been found all over the world and represent one the most important organisms of the Precambrian Eon.



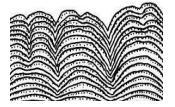
Stramatolite Layers

Complete the "Fill Ins" using the information above.

- 1- Largest span of geologic time is referred to as an _____.
- 2- The _____ Eon represents 88% of Earth's history.
- 3- Some of the oldest fossils are _____ billion years old.
- 4- Common algae is also known as _____.
- 5- _____ lived in large shallow sea communities.
- 6- The _____ era is our present geologic era.
- 7- Stromatolites form _____ of rock-like mats.
- 8- Some of the oldest known fossils are found in _____.

4.6 Billion
Years ago

Precambrian Eon



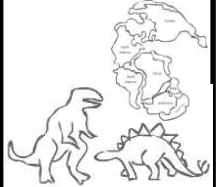
540 Million
Years ago

Paleozoic Era



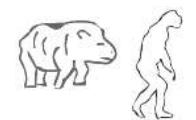
251 Million
Years ago

Mesozoic Era



65 Million
Years ago

Cenozoic Era



Present Day