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|  | Paleozoic Era | Mesozoic Era | Cenozoic Era |
| Landforms | - First supercontinent “Rodinia” had just broken apart - Plate tectonics, mountain building | - Breakup of “Pangaea” - Tectonic activity, mountain building - Sea levels rose | - Major tectonic activity, continents moved to their current positions |
| Flora (plants) | - Rainforests covered the earth - Vascular plants appeared (allowed for taller, stronger plants) - Ferns | - Flowering plants first evolved | - Grasslands spread - Many more flowering plants |
| Fauna (animals) | - Reptiles appear - Amphibians - Fishes w/backbones (vert) - Trilobites (org w/hard parts) - Marine life!! - (Stromatolites in Precambrian) | - Birds evolve - Dinosaurs, Crocodiles, early mammals evolve, ocean/air reptiles evolve | - Hominids, humans, cats, whales, bats, grazing animals |
| Extinctions | - End of Paleozoic Era was the Permian Extinction (more than 90% of species died) - 1st mass extinction ended the Ordovican period (marine life) | - Cretaceous extinction ended Mesozoic era and rid dinosaurs | - Due to changes in CO2, we could be entering the world’s next extinction? - Just like the extinction that killed the dinosaurs? |
| Climate | - Global cooling continued - Ranged from temperate to cold to steamy swamp | - Sandy, desert interior - Poles moist, temperate - Mild | - Most recent ice age  - Climate changed back and forth, warmer and cooler  - Melting and reforming of glaciers (30 times in 3 million years) |
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