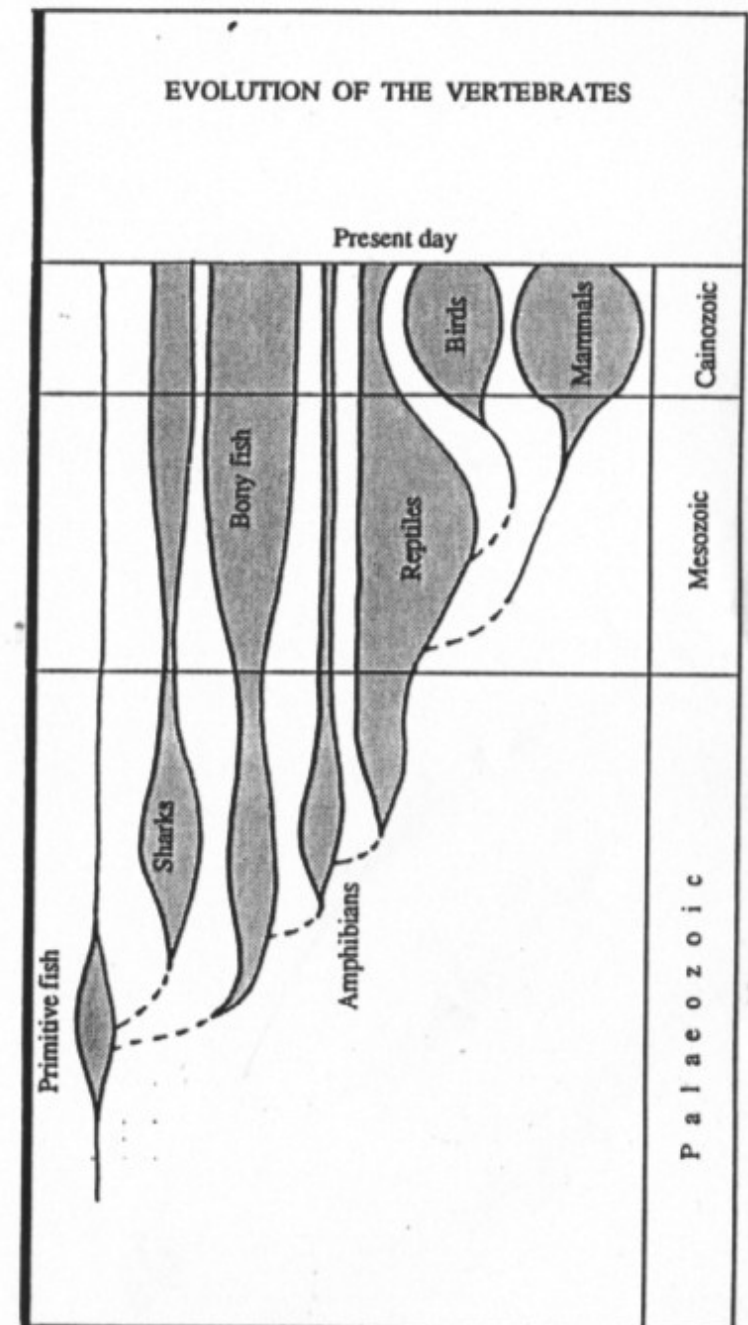


GEOLOGICAL TIME SCALE

ERA	System/Period	Years before present* (in millions)	Main episodes of tectonic activity affecting the British Isles	Outline of climate affecting the British Isles
CAENOZOIC	Holocene	0.01	Alpine	Cool temperate
	Pleistocene	1.8		Alternating Arctic and Temperate
	Tertiary	65		Sub-Tropical
MESOZOIC	Cretaceous	146	Variscan Hercynian	Tropical / Mediterranean
	Jurassic	200		
	Triassic	251		
UPPER PALAEOZOIC	Permian	299	Caledonian	Desert
	Carboniferous	359		Tropical
	Devonian	416		Semi-Desert
LOWER PALAEOZOIC	Silurian	444		Sub-Tropical
	Ordovician	488		Cool Temperate
	Cambrian	542		
PRECAMBRIAN		4600		

The origin of the Earth

*Years before present (in millions) are taken from the International Stratigraphic Chart agreed by the International Commission on Stratigraphy in March 2004



[Adapted from *British Fossils*, HMSO]