

WEEK 3 LESSONS FROM THE PAST

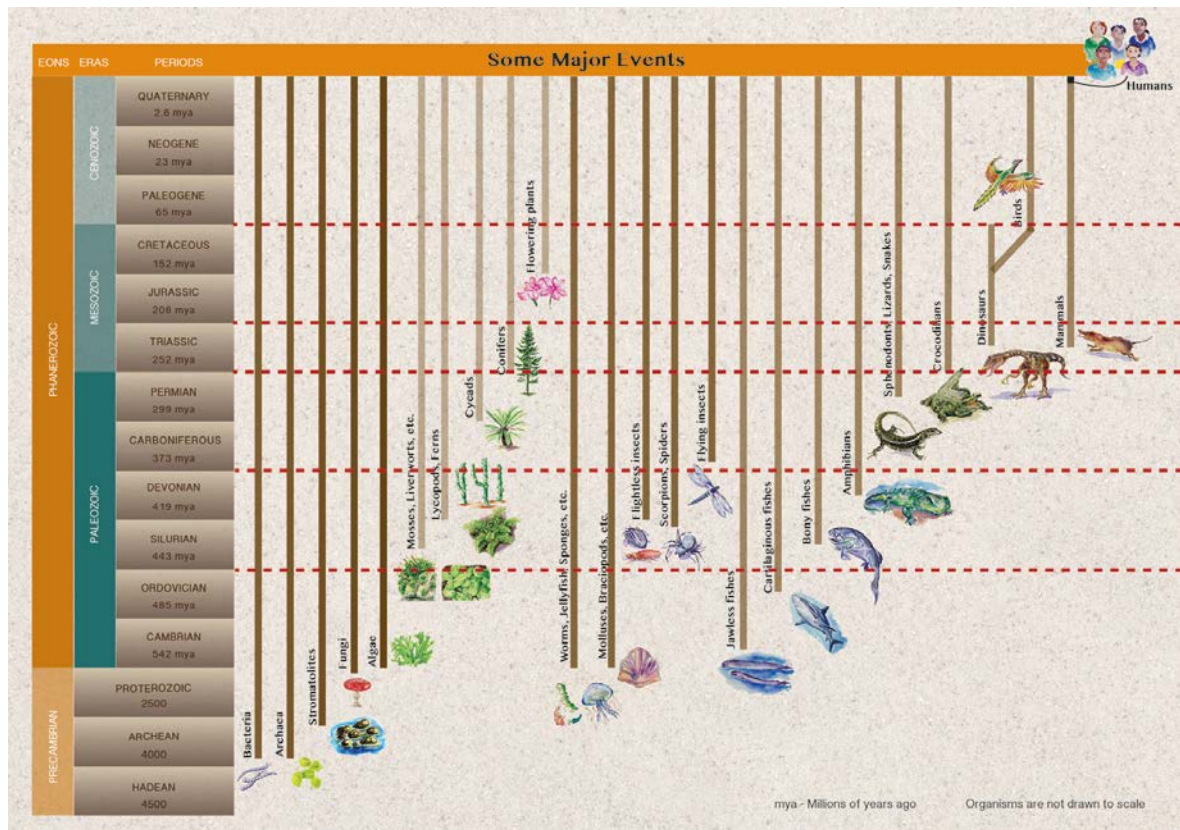
This week we spoke about the End Permian extinction event, we chatted to Mike Day about his research into the Guadalupian extinction event that preceded the end of the Permian extinction event.

We also had the opportunity to talk to Dr Roger Smith about his research into the Permian and Triassic of South Africa.

John Anderson gave us a fascinating insight into the Triassic plants and insects of the time. This extinction event is significant since this one is considered to be the biggest mass extinction of all time.

The lesson we learn from this extinction event is that even though life on Earth was almost wiped out, some species survive and help establish the new ecosystems. We see also that aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems recover at different rates, with aquatic environments recovering faster than terrestrial ones. One thing is clear though, the dominant animals of the time recede to the background and new, better adapted taxa, to the changing world, become the dominant forms.

In the next week we're going to talk about the end of the Triassic extinction event and we will talk to a number of different scientists. We will chat to a dinosaur palaeontologist, we will talk to an archaeologist and we will have the opportunity to visit the wonderful fossil locality called Langebaanweg.



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