

Paleozoic & Mesozoic Geologic Time Chart

The Geology of Virginia

Phanerozoic eon

TIME (millions of years)	ERA	PERIOD	EVENTS
65	<i>M e s o z o i c</i>	<i>Cretaceous</i>	Shallow sea covers eastern Virginia
146		<i>Jurassic</i>	Atlantic Ocean opens, East flowing rivers (James, Roanoke, etc.) develop
208		<i>Triassic</i>	Atlantic rifting begins- Deposition of sediments in rift-basins
245	<i>P a l e o z o i c</i>	<i>Permian</i>	ALLEGHANIAN OROGENY - Alleghanian mountain building due to continental collision (Piedmont, Blue Ridge, & Valley & Ridge)
286		<i>Pennsylvanian</i>	Coals deposited in coastal swamps (Appalachian Plateau); Alleghanian orogeny begins (Petersburg granite emplaced- Piedmont)
325		<i>Mississippian</i>	Passive margin sedimentation in Valley & Ridge
360		<i>Devonian</i>	ACADIAN OROGENY - Sediment shed from Acadian mountains deposited in Valley & Ridge
410		<i>Silurian</i>	Taconic highlands eroded; Development of west-facing passive margin
440		<i>Ordovician</i>	TACONIC OROGENY - affects rocks of the Piedmont, Blue Ridge, & Valley & Ridge
505		<i>Cambrian</i>	Carbonate deposition on passive margin (Valley & Ridge)
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