**Instructional Unit Title: Geologic Events through Time**

The teacher may provide examples of various time lines (i.e., chronologically, event, interval) so that students can begin to understand that time can be broken down in different ways.

The teacher may introduce important events in time (i.e., ice age, mass extinction, impact event, evolution of life) so that students can comprehend how the geologic time scale was created and divided into eons, eras, periods, and epochs.

The teacher may lead a discussion on eons so that students can describe what the Earth was like during each eon and explain what led to the Cambrian explosion.

The teacher may lead a discussion around the events that mark the beginning and end of different eras so that students can evaluate the eras in the Phanerozoic eon based on why and how the eras are separated.

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**PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT:** A company was contracted by the National Science Foundation to extract a geologic column. They have asked you, a paleontologist, to investigate this geologic column. The goal of this investigation is for you to explain the history of what has happened in the area where the column was pulled.

You must create a geologic time scale that outlines major events that shaped this area modeled on Earth’s geologic time scale. You must create your own name for various eons and eras, indicating when major events occurred. You must include evidence of life, the age of various rock layers, and other evidence that leads you to your explanations of the column.