

Note-taking Worksheet (continued)

3. Continental collisions formed the giant landmass Pangaea near the end of the Paleozoic Era. These collisions may have dropped Sea levels & climate causing the extinction of trilobites.

Section 2 Early Earth History

A. Precambrian time—from 4 billion to about 544 million years ago

1. Very few Fossils remain from this time.
 - a. Many Precambrian rocks were deeply buried, causing the fossils in them to be changed by Heat and pressure.
 - b. Most Precambrian organisms lacked hard parts.
2. Cyanobacteria are blue-green algae.
 - a. One of the earliest life forms to appear
 - b. Added Oxygen to the atmosphere through photosynthesis
3. Invertebrates and Ediacaran animals appeared late in Precambrian time.

B. The Paleozoic Era—about 544 million years ago to about 245 million years ago

1. Many organisms with Shells and vertebrates evolved in the warm, shallow seas.
2. Amphibians evolved to survive in water and on land.
 - a. Might have evolved from Fish
 - b. Could obtain oxygen from gills or from lungs.
3. Reptiles evolved from amphibians to survive farther from water
4. Several mountain-building episodes occurred during the Paleozoic Era because of Plate collisions.
5. Most marine and land species became extinct at the end of the Paleozoic Era.

Section 3 Middle and Recent Earth History

A. Mesozoic Era—lasted from 245 to 65 million years ago

1. Pangaea separated into Continents and the climate became drier.
2. Dinosaurs evolved; they might have been warm-blooded, traveled in herds, and nurtured their young.