

The Anthropocene

Exploring the Anthropocene

Welcome to a very important chapter in Earth's story known as the Anthropocene. This period marks a significant shift in the planet's history, where human activity has become the main factor in shaping our environment.

What is the Anthropocene?

The Anthropocene is the term used for the current time when human activities, such as industrial production, deforestation, and pollution, have caused enough impact on the environment to create a noticeable geological shift.

Our Role in the Anthropocene

In the Anthropocene, we have the ability to shape Earth's future. The choices we make affect what happens next, and what we do determines the outcome. We can take care of the Earth and ensure everyone benefits from our actions. It's important that we take this responsibility seriously and make sure the planet and everyone living on it are safe and healthy.

The Way Forward: Earth Stewardship

The Anthropocene calls on us to be stewards of the Earth, building a future that not only honors our connection with the planet but also prioritizes its health. Let's navigate the Anthropocene with dedication, striving to create a world where Earth and humanity coexist in balance and harmony. Together, we can make a positive difference for our planet's future.



Timeline

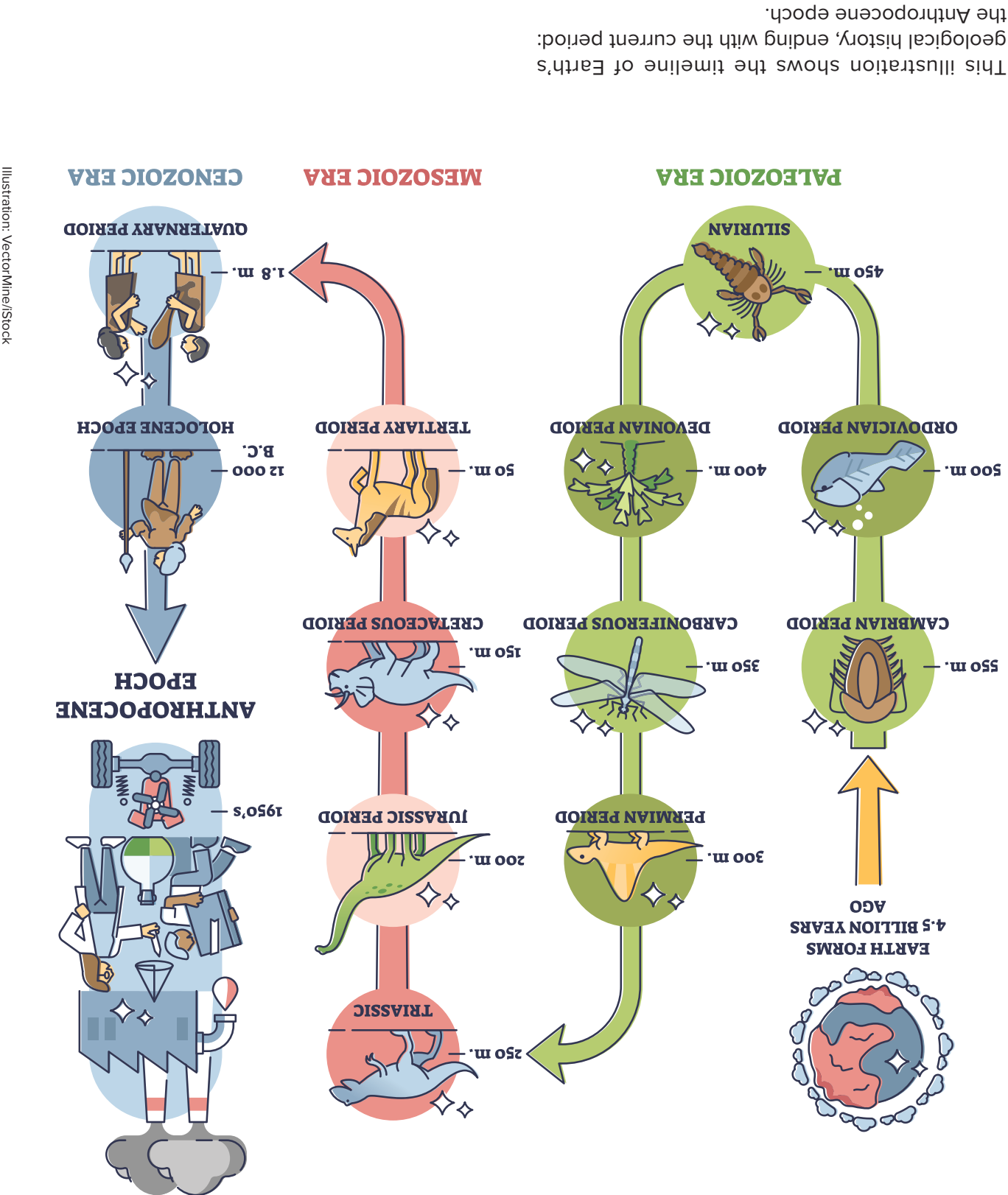
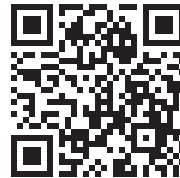


Illustration: VectorMine/Stock

Exploring the Anthropocene

"Exploring the Anthropocene" is an interactive activity designed for students to delve into the concept of the Anthropocene epoch and its impact on the environment. Through research, presentation, and creative expression, students investigate human activities shaping Earth's systems, discuss their implications, and envision sustainable solutions for the future, fostering a deeper understanding of their role in environmental stewardship.



Download
"Exploring the Anthropocene"

Anthropocene Detectives

The "Anthropocene Detectives" activity engages students in hands-on exploration, guiding them to investigate human activities contributing to the Anthropocene epoch. Through field trips, data collection, and presentations, students become detectives, uncovering evidence of human impacts on the environment in their local community and reflecting on their role in shaping the planet's future.



Download
"Anthropocene Detectives"



Key Terms

Adaptation: The adjustment or changes that living organisms and ecosystems make to cope with environmental changes, such as those caused by the Anthropocene or human activities.

Anthropocene: The current geological epoch marked by significant human impact on the Earth's geology and ecosystems.

Biodiversity: The variety of living organisms in a particular habitat, including the variety of species, genetic diversity, and ecosystems.

Carbon Footprint: The total amount of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide, that is emitted directly or indirectly by an individual, organization, event, or product.

Climate Change: Long-term changes in temperature, precipitation, and other atmospheric conditions on Earth, largely attributed to human activities.

Deforestation: The clearing or removal of a forest or stand of trees, often for agricultural purposes, which contributes to changes in ecosystems.

Ecological Footprint: The measure of human demand on Earth's ecosystems, including the resources used and waste generated.

Key Terms

Environmental Stewardship: Taking care of the Earth by responsibly managing and protecting its natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

Geological Epoch: A division of time in Earth's geological history, characterized by distinct and defining features.

Human Impact: The effect that human activities have on ecosystems, climate, and natural resources.

Resource Depletion: The exhaustion or reduction of natural resources, including minerals, water, and energy sources, due to human activities.

Sustainability: Practices that aim to meet current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.



About

The Planetary Health Alliance is a growing consortium of over 400 universities, non-governmental organizations, research institutes, and government entities from 60+ countries worldwide committed to understanding and addressing the impacts of global environmental change on human health and well-being.

Education plays an integral role in advancing planetary health awareness and action. Across the globe, planetary health education is expanding, marked by the emergence of new courses, lecture series, degree programs, faculty positions, and cross-university initiatives.

The PHA is dedicated to supporting these educational endeavors, bringing together students and educators from around the world to share resources and collaborate on initiatives that bridge knowledge with action. Through unwavering support and collaboration, the PHA aims to equip individuals and institutions with the necessary tools to confront the interconnected challenges facing planetary health. Join us as we work towards creating a healthier world for all life by exploring the PHA at: www.PlanetaryHealthAlliance.org.

Created by: Jennifer Rasmussen, PHA Education Fellow



PlanetaryHealthAlliance.org
© Planetary Health Alliance 2024

