



Calculating Geologic Time

Assume that you have a rope 100 m long. Your job is to figure out where on the rope to place a marker for each of the events listed below. Calculate the percentage of the earth's total age, then convert that to how many meters they are along the rope.

	Event	mya	%	m
17	humans dominate	0.1		
16	last ice age	0.2		
15	first horses appear	58		
14	extinction of dinosaurs	65		
13	flowering plants	144		
12	1st birds and mammals	208		
11	1st dinosaurs	245		
10	end of trilobites	240		
9	1st reptiles	286		
8	1st large trees	320		
7	1st amphibians	360		
6	land plants	408		
5	fish	438		
4	trilobites	505		
3	multicelled organisms	570		
2	single celled organisms	2500		
1	oldest known rocks	3800	82.6	17.4
0	formation of earth	4600	100	0

Determine your current age in months _____

Using the same percentages calculated above, determine your age in months when each of the numbered events occurred.

Event	%	Age in Months
17		
14		
11		
5		
1		