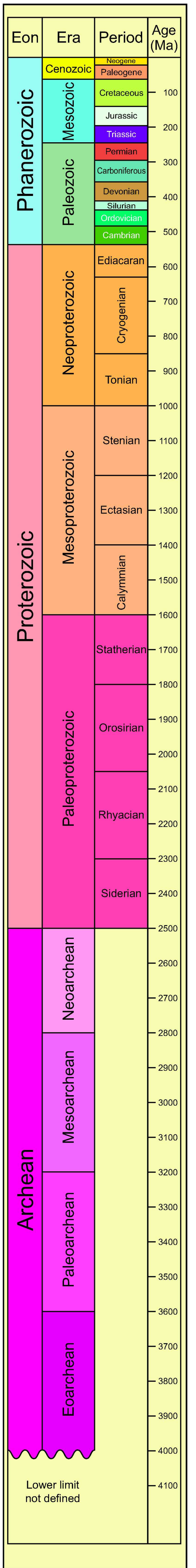
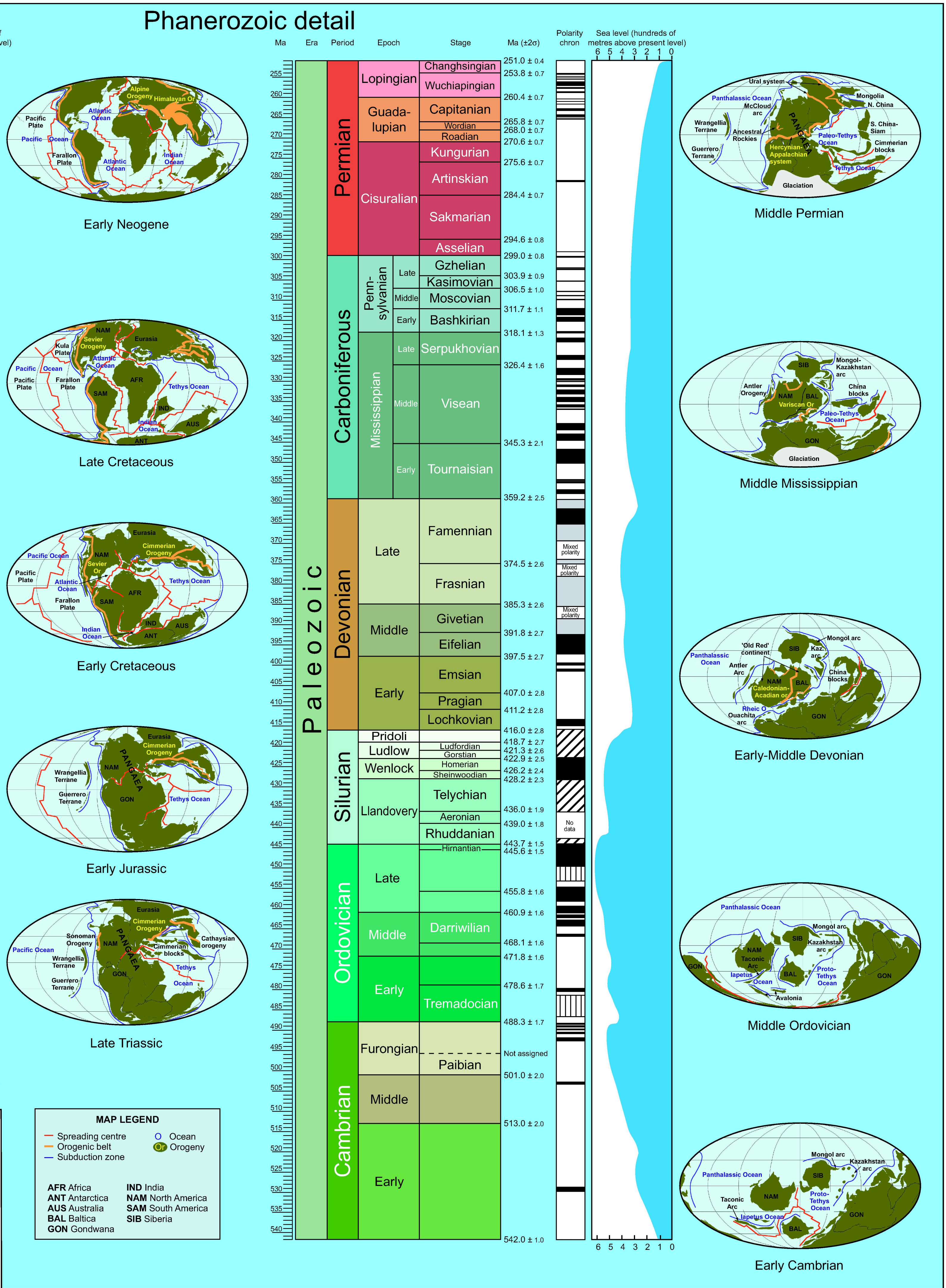
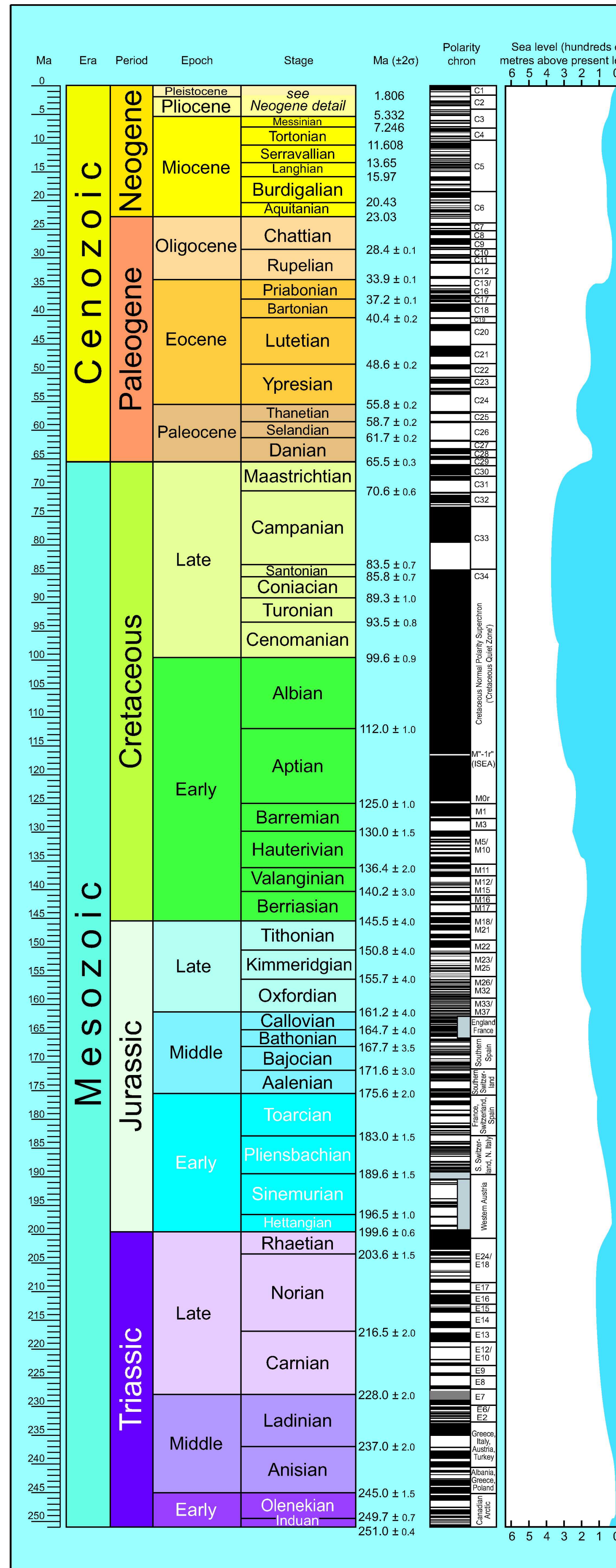
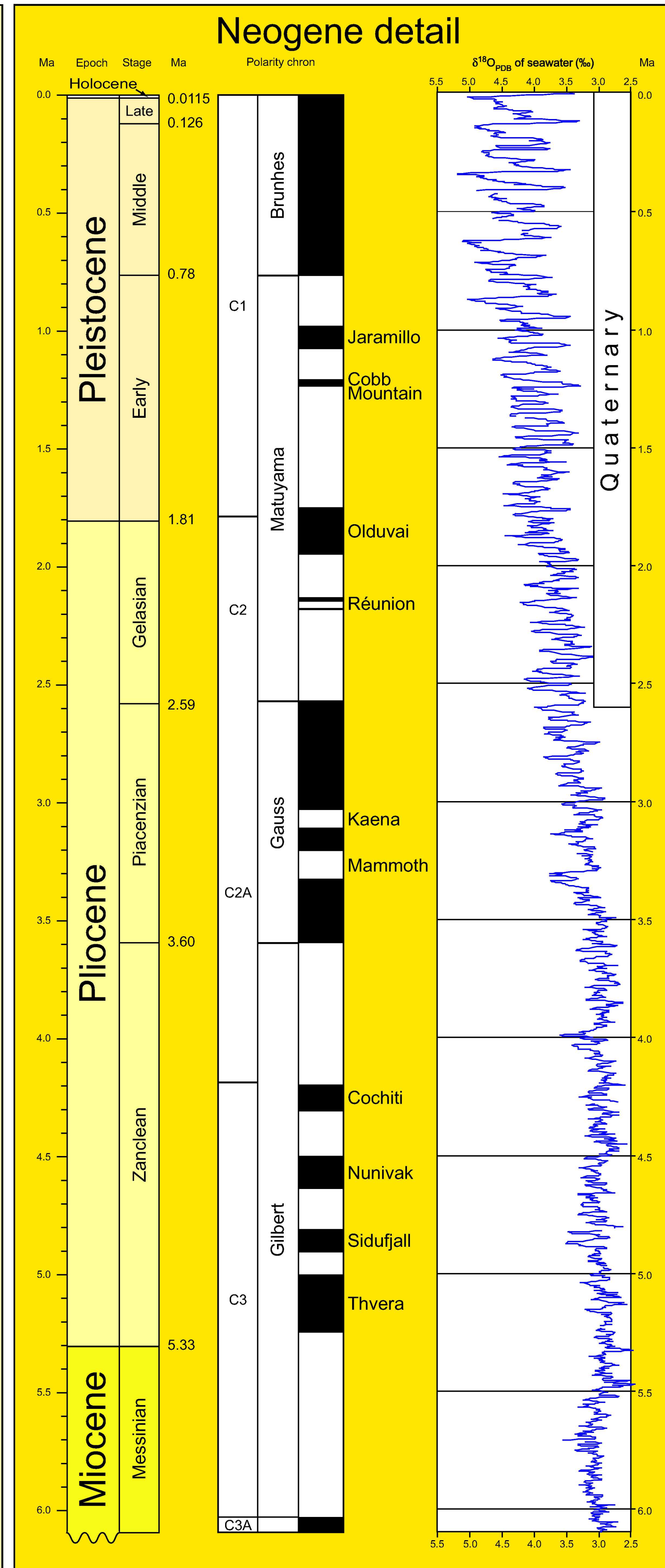


A GEOLOGIC TIME SCALE 2004

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Each formal unit of the Phanerozoic Eon (542 Ma to Present) is defined by a Global Boundary Stratotype Section and Point (GSSP) at its base. The Archean and Proterozoic eons of the Precambrian interval are subdivided by absolute age (Global Standard Stratigraphic Age, or GSSA), except for the GSSP defining the base of the Ediacaran Period of the latest Proterozoic. Names, ranks, and GSSPs of the global scale are approved by the International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS) and ratified by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). Some stages within the Ordovician and Cambrian periods will be named upon international agreement on their limits. Updates are posted on the ICS website (www.stratigraphy.org). The colours used for geologic time units follow the scheme of the Commission for the Geological Map of the World (CGMW, www.cgmw.org).

The numerical ages of the Phanerozoic boundaries are subject to revision. Ages and other calibrations shown here are from the companion book *A Geologic Time Scale 2004* (Gradstein et al., 2004). The generalized Phanerozoic sea-level curve is modified from Hallam (1992), and the composite marine oxygen-18 isotope curve is from the DeLip Project (Godwin Laboratory, University of Cambridge, U.K.). The paleogeographic maps were provided courtesy of R. Blakey (Northern Arizona University), with plate positions modified from C. Scotese (University of Texas at Arlington).

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MAP LEGEND

- Spreading centre
- Orogenic belt
- Subduction zone
- Ocean
- Orogeny

AFR Africa
 ANT Antarctica
 AUS Australia
 BAL Baltica
 GON Gondwana
 IND India
 NAM North America
 SAM South America
 SIB Siberia