

A CHRONOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE APPEARANCE OF CERTAIN MAJOR GROUPS IN THE FOSSIL RECORD

CAMBRIAN PERIOD

ALGAE (many types)  
ARTHROPODS (Trilobites, first Crustaceans)  
BRACHIOPODS  
CHORDATES (Hemichordates)  
PORIFERA (Sponges)  
COELENTERATES (Hydrozoa)  
ANNELIDA (Worms)  
MOLLUSKS (Pelecypods, Gastropods, Cephalopods)  
ECHINODERMS (Cystoids)  
PROTOZOANS (Radiolaria)

ORDOVICIAN PERIOD

ARTHROPODS [Merostomata:-Eurypterids (Scorpion-like Crabs)]  
BRYOZOANS  
COELENTERATES [Anthozoa (corals)]  
ECHINODERMS [Blastoids, Crinoids (Sea Lilies), Asteroids (Starfish), Echinoids (Sea Urchins and Sand Dollars)]  
MOLLUSKS [Amphineura (Chitons)]  
CHORDATES [Agnatha (jawless fishes)]

SILURIAN PERIOD

ARTHROPODS [Arachnids (Scorpions)]  
PSILOPSIDS (simplest vascular plants; oldest known land plants)  
CHORDATES [Placoderms (Plate-skinned fishes)] (only vertebrate class to become extinct)

DEVONIAN PERIOD

FUNGI  
HORSETAILS and SCOURING RUSHES  
CLUB MOSSES  
SEED FERNS (First known seed-bearing plants)  
ARTHROPODS (Arachnids (Spiders), Insects (wingless))  
MOLLUSKS (Scaphopods, Cephalopods:-Ammonites)  
CHORDATES [Chondrichthyes (Sharks), Osteichthyes (first bony fishes)]  
CHORDATES [Amphibians]

MISSISSIPPIAN PERIOD

BRYOPHYTES [Mosses and Liverworts]  
Echinoderms [Sea Cucumbers]

PENNSYLVANIAN PERIOD

CORDAITES, CONIFERS  
ARTHROPODS [Millipeds, Insects:-Cockroaches]  
CHORDATES [Reptiles:-Cotylosaurs, Pelycosaurs]