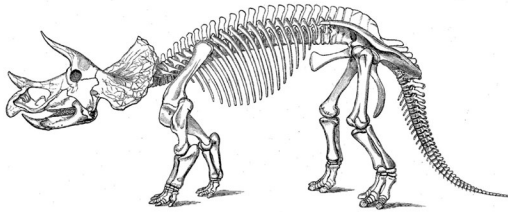



Vandalism of Archeological Sites

When an archeological site is vandalized or artifacts are removed, knowledge about the past cultures is lost forever. Unauthorized digging destroys the context and the information that could be obtained under controlled scientific excavation. The removal of artifacts from a site often removes all possibility of determining the site's age. If you see anyone digging in an archeological site or taking artifacts from public land, report them to law enforcement authorities.

For information about who to contact if a site is identified, see Additional Resources on page 122.

Earth Formation	5 billion	
Life on earth	4 billion	
	3 billion	
	2 billion	
	1 billion	
	600 million	
Dinosaurs evolve	220 million	
Dinosaurs extinct	65 million	
	20 million	
<i>homo sapiens</i>	200 thousand	
Plant domestication	12 thousand	
Writing	5 thousand	
The present		

A Brief Timeline of Life on Earth.

