EARTH'S LONG LIFE HISTORY

The maps to the right show one scientific interpretation of Earth's many changes—in locations of continents, sea level, and global climate—through geologic time. These maps, together with the geologic timeline below, emphasize that the dynamic processes illustrated on the main map and elaborated above have been operating for hundreds of millions of years and will continue far into the future. Maps modified from Scotese (2001); timeline data from multiple sources (see http://www.minerals.si.edu/tdpmap).

EXPLANATION

Ocean: Ice covered
Land: Arid

Convergent plate boundary
Magnetic polarity—Normal (red); reversed (blue). See inset I, fig. 7, for discussion

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