

# Important events in evolution

## Significant events which impacted the history of Earth

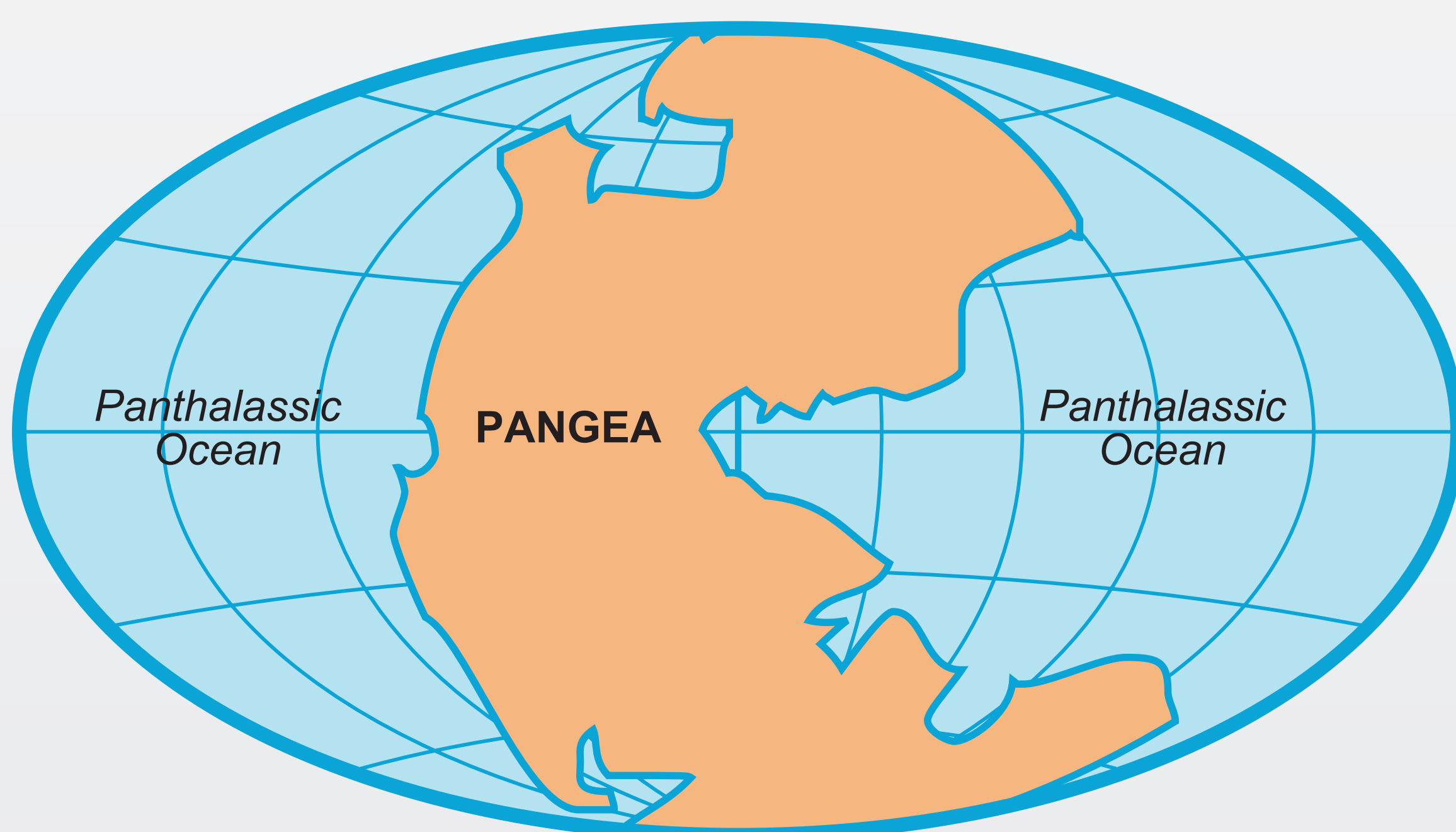
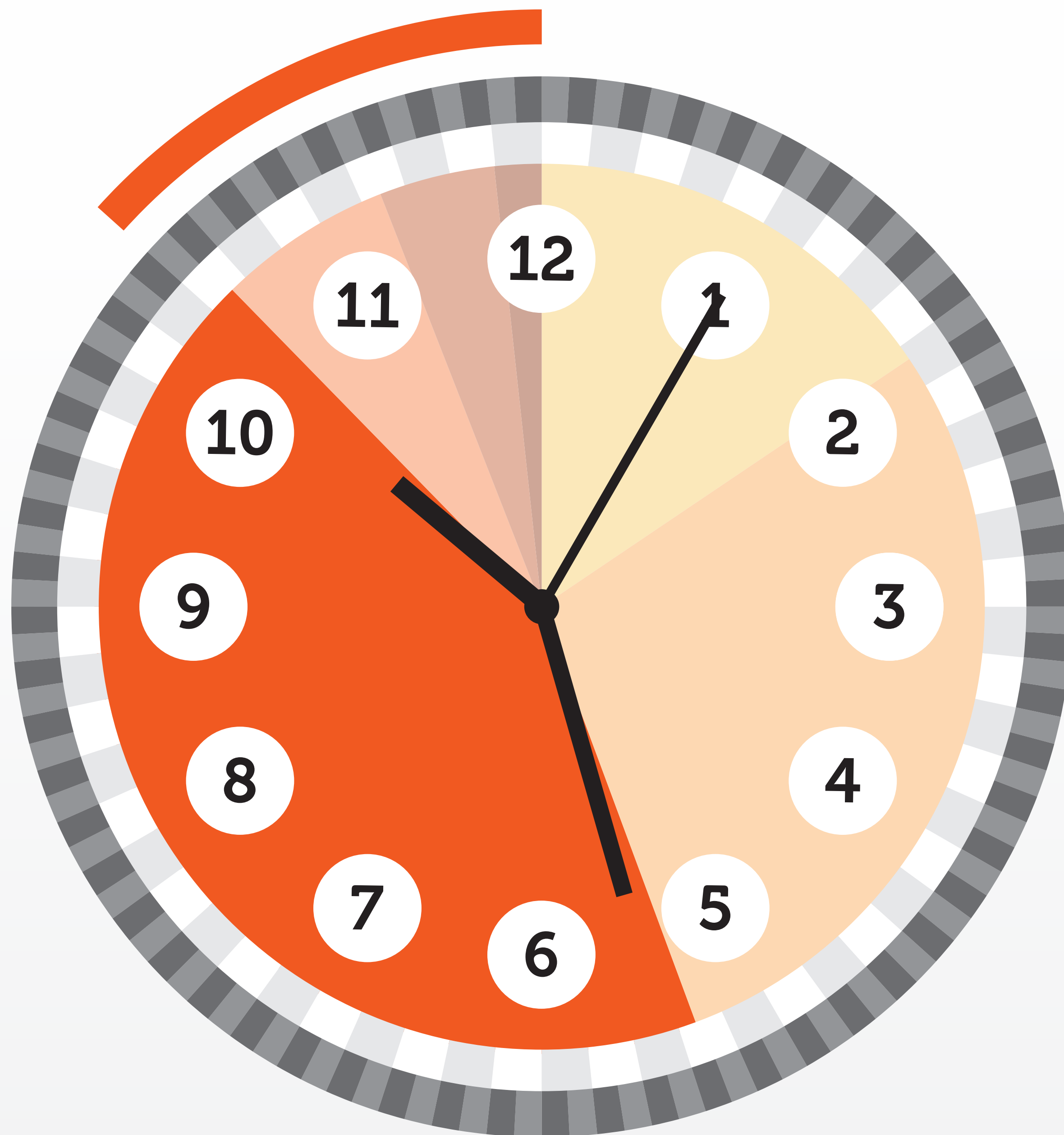
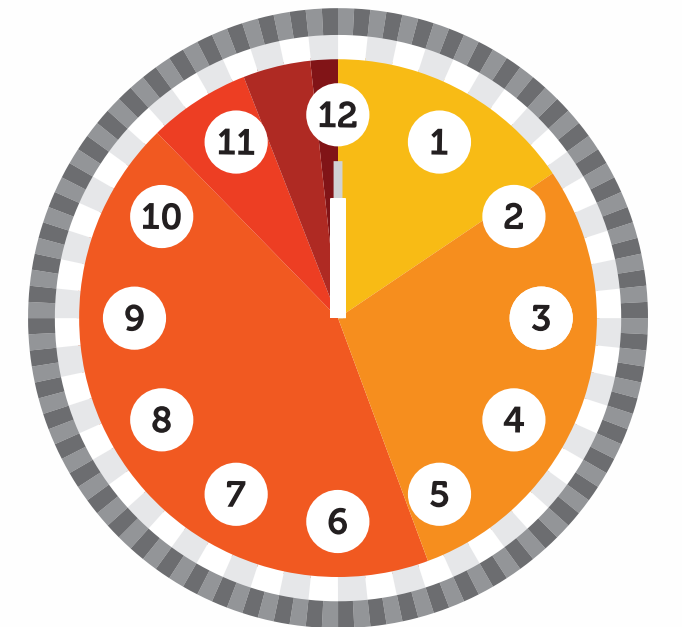
**600 million years ago**

First animals appear in the fossil record

10:26:05 HRS



Animals



**The fossils found in some silver and lead mines in the Ediacaran Hills in southern Australia in 1946 offer strong evidence that multicellular animals already existed between 590 and 545 million years ago.**

They were all unknown species at the time of their discovery, very different from what we know evolved during the Cambrian period, 500 million years ago.

Many more specimens have been found in the last 50 years, in places such as Namibia, China, Russia, Northern Europe and Newfoundland.

590 million years ago, all these regions were geographically close to each other and part of the supercontinent Pangea, which was surrounded by the Panthalassic Ocean.

To date, more than a hundred species from this period have been identified. *Tribrachidium* and *Ediacaria* are fossils which resemble discs covered with numerous furrows. *Charniodiscus* was an animal that resembles sea-pens, probably lived anchored to the seabed, and was a stationary filter-feeder.

These fossils gave the name to the period now known as the Ediacaran Period, which begins about 635 million years ago, ends 542 million years ago, and is the last period preceding the Cambrian.