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Activities

Climate Rollercoaster

Name: _____ Date: _____

Earth's climate has been a rollercoaster ride. Sometimes, the planet's an "ice house." Other times, it's a "hot house." The cycle has repeated for hundreds of millions of years. In this Planet Diary activity, you'll explore these climate swings.

Directions

- Take a look at Earth's climate history. Read the information, then scroll to the *Ice House or Hot House?* timeline. Answer question 1.
- What was the climate like at different time periods of Earth's history? First, explore these links to find out how long ago these periods were and what happened geologically. Use the info to complete the *Millions of Years Ago* and *Geologic Highlights* columns of the Workspace table for question 2.
    - Eocene Geology
    - Cretaceous Geology
    - Jurassic Geology
    - Permian Geology
    - Devonian Geology
    - Cambrian Geology
- Now let's see how Earth's climate changed during these times. Explore the links to each period's climate history below. Look at the map legends to see what the symbols represent. Read the description below each map, then use the information to complete the table.
    - Eocene
    - Cretaceous
    - Jurassic
    - Permian
    - Devonian
    - Cambrian

Workspace

1. What clues do scientists look at to learn about Earth's ancient climate?

2.

Period	Millions Years Ago	Geologic Highlights	Climate Highlights
Eocene			
Cretaceous			
Jurassic			
Permian			
Devonian			
Cambrian			

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