

# EARLY PRIMATES

When do we see the earliest primates?

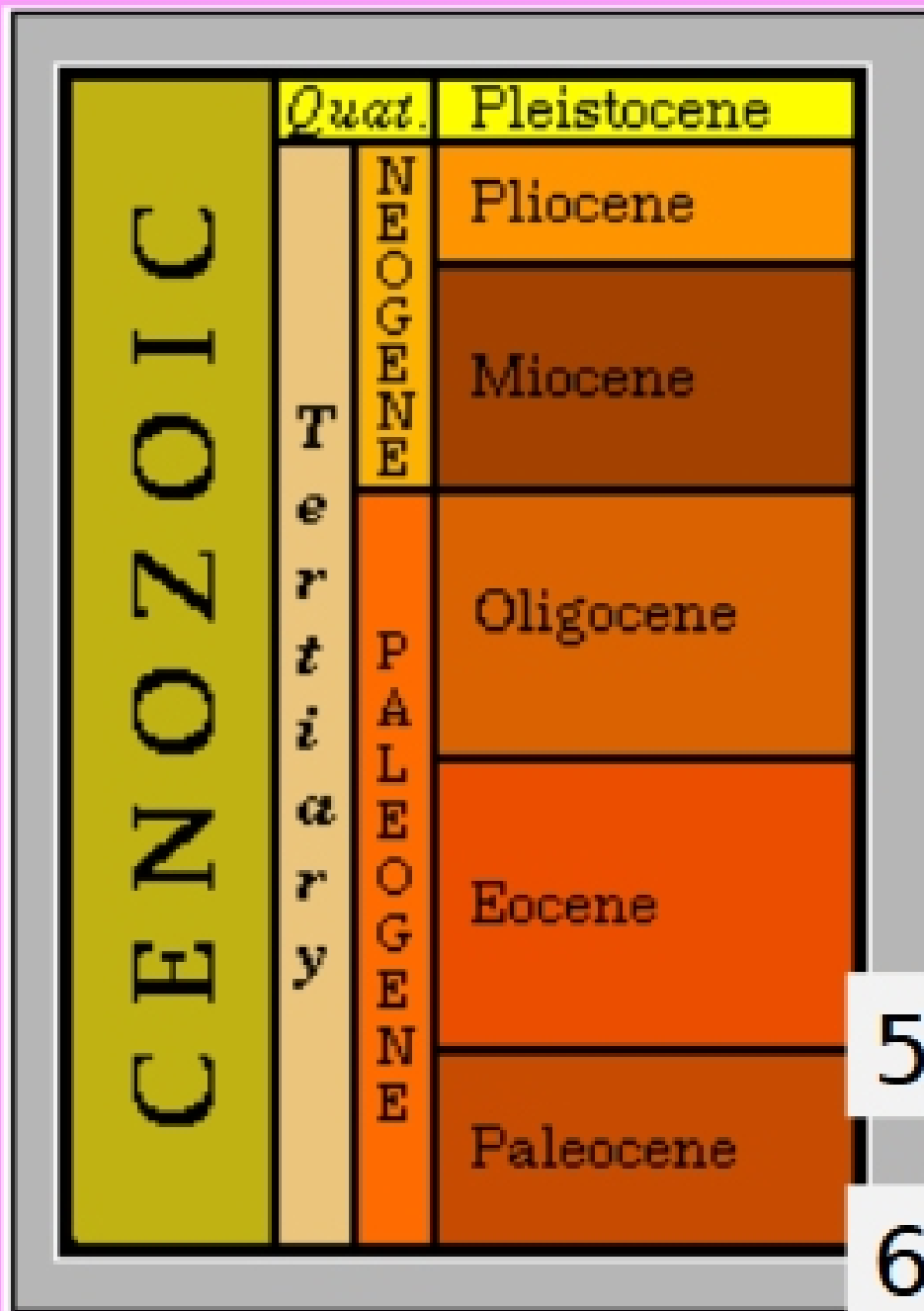
Eocene, 55 mya

earliest undisputed primates

However, we already see some variety at this time, indicating that primates began earlier despite our lack of clear fossil evidence

55 mya

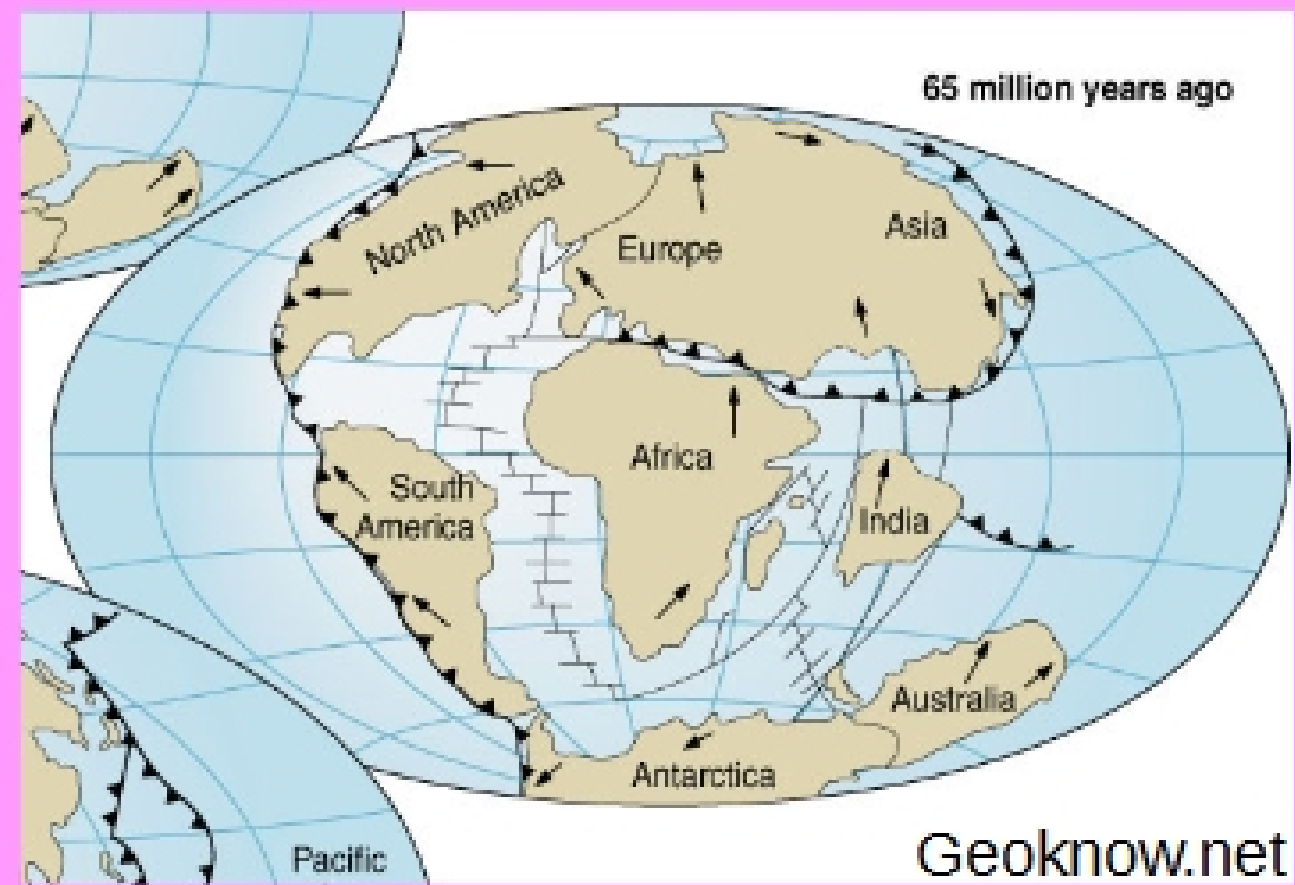
65 mya



Paleocene, 65-55 mya

Dinosaurs are extinct;  
temperatures rising

North America & Europe  
pulling apart, islands  
between



Major mammal radiation to fill niches left by dinosaurs

Some of the small mammals are  
primate-like, or primitive primates, or archaic primates

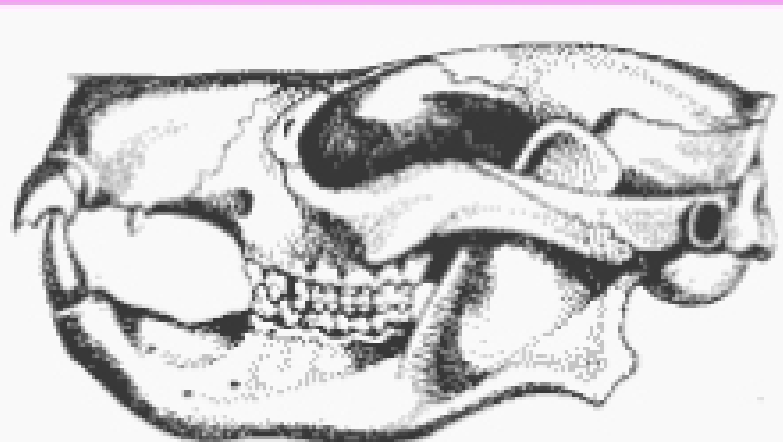
# EARLY PRIMATELIKE MAMMALS, or archaic primates:

occur in what became North America and Europe,  
which at that time were tropical

65 mya Montana, primate-like teeth

60 mya, Wyoming a few bones

example: ***Plesiadapis***



PLESIADAPIS  
58 to 63 MILLION YEARS AGO



Paleocene Mammals