Ten Events in the History of the Universe

Ten events spanning the history of the universe organized by powers of ten.

	Date Range	Date		Event
10 ¹⁰	tens of billions of years ago	13-14 billion years ago		Universe began
10 ⁹	billions of years ago	4.5 billion years ago		Earth formed
10 ⁸	hundreds of millions of years ago	500 million years ago		First fossilized animals
10 ⁷	tens of millions of years ago	65 million years ago	The state of the s	Extinction of the dinosaurs
10 ⁶	millions of years ago	2 million years ago		First stone tools made
10 ⁵	hundreds of thousands of years ago	800 thousand years ago		First fires kindled
10 ⁴	tens of thousands of years ago	30 thousand years ago	Strain Strain	First art
10 ³	thousands of years ago	5 thousand years ago	177 1117 17 Y	First writing
10 ²	hundreds of years ago	1492	444	Columbus: east meets west
10 ¹	tens of years ago	1969		First people on the moon

Memorize these ten dates as a framework for understanding deep time.