

Denali

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Denali National Park and Preserve
Alaska



Denali: The High One

Post-activity: Denali's Geological Timeline

Event	How many years ago?	mm	cm
Most recent snow storm on Denali	0	0	0
Mt. McKinley National Park established by congress	95	0.000095	0.0000095
Denali first summited by mountaineers	100	0.0001	0.00001
Last glacial advance during Earth's most recent ice age	10,000	0.01	0.001
Denali is half its present elevation at 10,000 feet	5,000,000	5	0.5
Denali granite appears at surface	6,000,000		
Denali granite forms far below earth's surface	56,000,000		
Dinosaurs left footprints behind in Denali. These footprints were first discovered by scientists in 2005	70,000,000		
Dinosaurs walk the land that will become Denali	225,000,000		
Rocks that make up early Alaska form	400,000,000		
Earth, the planet, forms	4,500,000,000	4500	450

Materials for each student or pair

- 1 4.5 meter-long strip of adding-machine tape
- 1 Meter stick or meter tape
- Pencils and/or colored pencils

Directions

1. Complete the math in the chart above—1 millimeter equals 1 million years, and there are 10 millimeters in a centimeter.
2. Label one end of the adding-machine tape, Today = 0. You will make all of your measurements from this zero end of the paper.
3. The first few dates will be on or very close to the zero point, so you will need to label them carefully. The marks will overlap.
4. Add other geologic events that happened where you live to the timeline.