

Rubric for assessing student understanding of deep time

Exceeds expectations (robust understanding)	A student who exceeds expectations in their understanding of deep time demonstrates an understanding that the geologic and human time scales are very different from one another. He or she responds with an answer similar to “It depends on how you look at it. Compared to a human life, 65 million years is a very long time, but compared to the age of the Earth, 65 million years is not much time at all.”
Meets expectations (basic understanding)	A student who meets expectations in their understanding of deep time grasps the idea that the Earth is very old. His or her response is similar to “65 million years is not very long compared to the age of the Earth, so the dinosaurs went extinct recently.”
Does not meet expectations (developing understanding)	A student who is developing their understanding of deep time does not yet grasp that geologic and human time scales are separate. He or she responds with an answer similar to “The dinosaurs went extinct a long time ago, because 65 million years is a long time.”