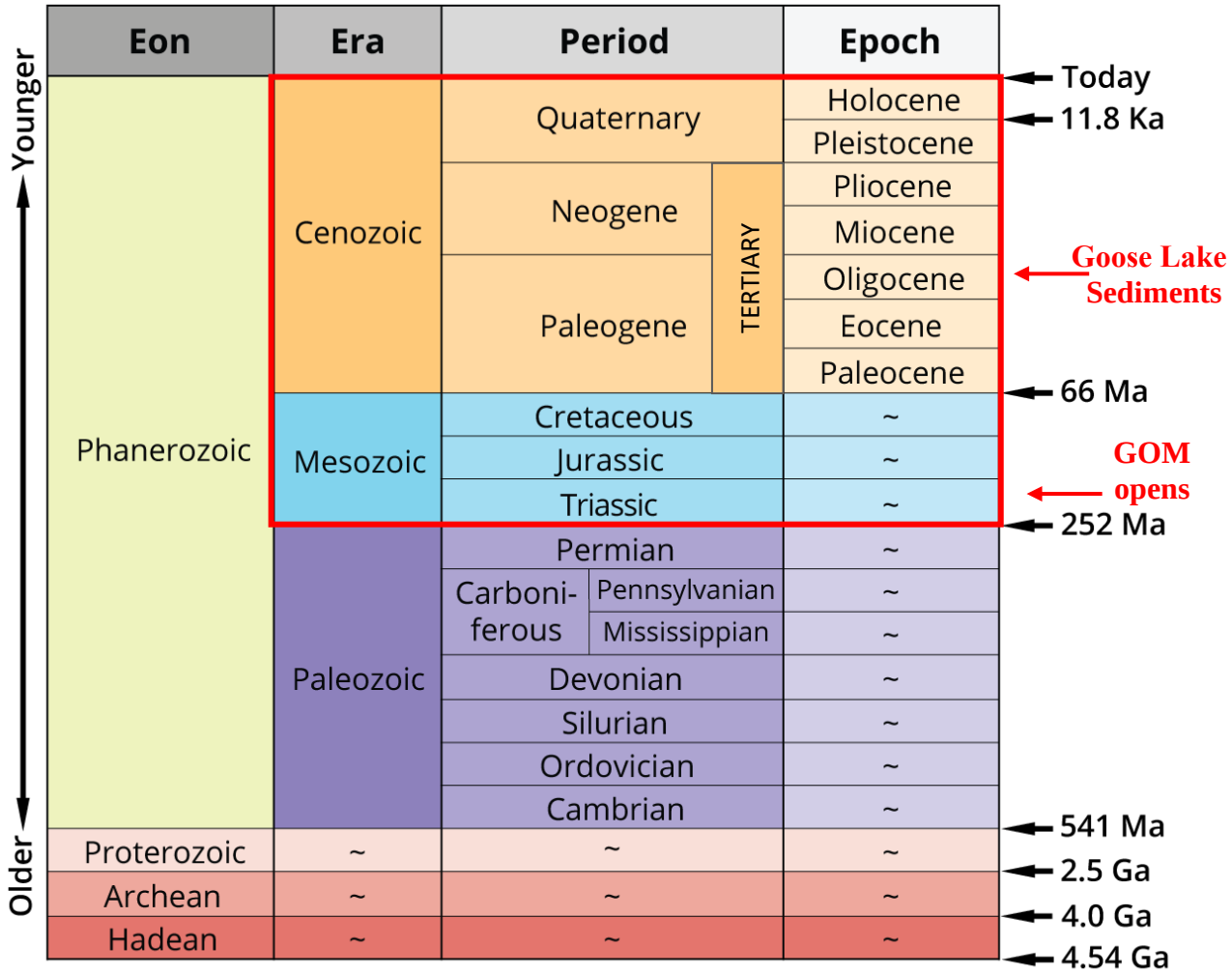


**Figure 3.1-1 Geological time scale. Red box indicates the time interval in which the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) has existed (modified from Jonathan R. Hendricks)**