## **Generalized Illinois Geologic Column**

Era	ı	Period or System and Thickness	Epoch	Age (years ago)	General Types of Rocks	
_		Holocene			Recent; alluvium in river valleys	
CENOZOIC "Recent Life"	Age of Mammals	Quaternary 0–500′	Pleistocene Glacial Age	10,000 –	Glacial till, glacial outwash, gravel, sand, silt, lake deposits of clay and silt; wind deposits of loess and sand dunes. Deposits cover nearly all of state except northwest corner and southern tip	°21 a °
		Pliocene		5.3 m 33.7 m	Chert gravel, present in northern, southern, and western Illinois	
		Tertiary 0–500′	Eocene	54.8 m	Mostly micaceous sand with some silt and clay; present only in southern Illinois	
		Paleo	cene		Mostly clay, little sand; present only in southern Illinois	
MESOZOIC "Middle Life"	f Reptiles	Cretaceous 0–300'	_		Mostly sand, some thin beds of clay, and, locally, gravel; present only in southern and western Illinois	
	Age of			- 290 m -		
PALEOZOIC "Ancient Life"	Age of Amphibians and Early Plants	Pennsylvaniar 0–3,000′	1		Largely shale and sandstone with beds of coal, limestone, and clay	
		("Coal Measures")		000		
		Mississippian 0–3,500 '		- 323 m -	Black and gray shale at base, middle zone of thick limestone that grades to siltstone chert, and shale; upper zone of interbedded sandstone, shale, and limestone	
	Age of Fishes	Devonian 0-1,500'		- 354 m -	Thick limestone, minor sandstones, and shales; largely chert and cherty limestone in southern Illinois; black shale at top	
	Age of Invertebrates	Silurian 0-1,000'		- 417 m -	Principally dolomite and limestone	
		Ordovician 500–2,000'		– 443 m –	Largely dolomite and limestone but contains sandstone, shale, and siltstone formations	
		Cambrian 1,500–3,000′		– 490 m –	Chiefly sandstones with some dolomite and shale; exposed only in small areas in north-central Illinois	
Precambrian 543 m				⊢ 543 m −	Igneous and metamorphic rocks; known in Illinois only from deep wells	