Life appeared when Earth was still a young planet.

Earth’s earliest history is not recorded by rocks at Grand Canyon, but is known from rocks found elsewhere around the world.

**Find** Earth’s oldest rocks.

The oldest known rocks on Earth are 4 billion years old, more than twice as old as Grand Canyon’s oldest known rocks.

**Imagine** a world with only single-celled life.

Modern stromatolites growing in water

Earth’s oldest known fossils are 3.8 billion years old. They formed in algal mounds and are called stromatolites. They helped to slowly oxygenate the planet.

You are on the Trail of Time, a geology timeline trail where 1 meter = 1 million years.

**Walk** left 0.9 km (0.5 mi) to the birth of our planet near Maricopa Point

**Walk** right 1.9 km (1.2 mi) to Grand Canyon’s oldest rocks, just past Grand Canyon Village.