

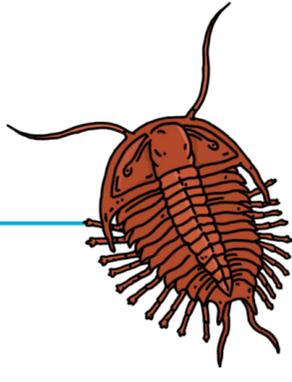
TIMELINE

PATTERNS AND SYMMETRY THROUGH THE AGES

TRILOBITES

Symmetry appears in living things, such as these Trilobites, which begin to dominate life in the seas.

500 MYA



250 MYA

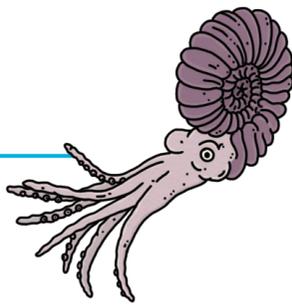
PANGAEA

The world's landmasses converge together into a single giant supercontinent and then begin to split apart again. It's one of the slowest cycles in nature that repeats roughly every 500 million years.

AMMONITES

Beautiful spiral shells appear in these sea creatures. Ammonites become extinct at the same time as land dinosaurs 65 million years ago.

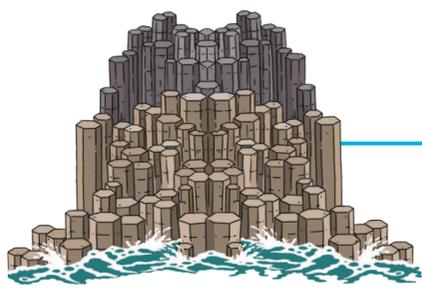
65 MYA



CRYSTALLISED ROCKS

Molten rock from the sea floor rises to the surface and crystallises into hexagonal columns as the forces of nature push crusts of land, such as Britain, above the sea. Hexagonal shapes are often found in nature, such as in the shape of the cells of a beehive.

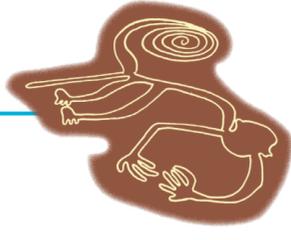
60 MYA



NAZCA LINES

Huge patterns in the ground are made out of dust and dirt by ancient people living in the dry deserts of Peru. They take the shapes of creatures, such as monkeys and spiders. No one really knows how they made them, or why!

500 AD



700 AD



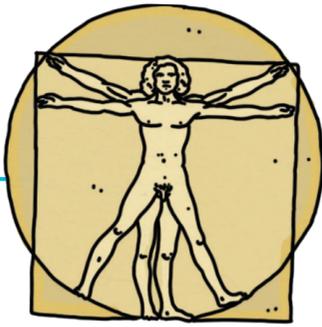
CHICHÉN ITZÁ

The Maya, an ancient South American civilisation, build cities with beautifully symmetrical pyramids. Similar structures appeared in Ancient Egypt from about 3000BC.

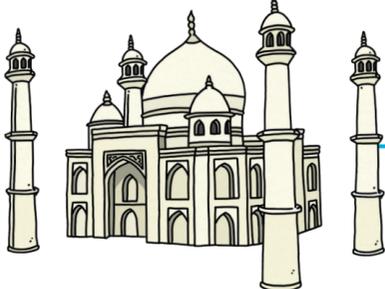
VITRUVIAN MAN

This painting, by Leonardo da Vinci, tries to show how humans are the only species that can touch the edges of the two most perfect geometrical shapes – a square and a circle. It underpins the idea and belief that humans are special.

1490



1653



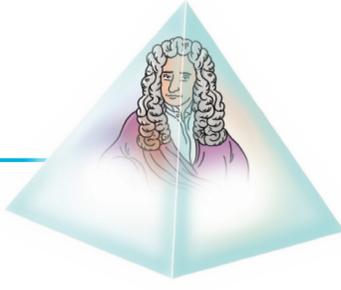
TAJ MAHAL

Construction of this giant marble building on the south bank of the Yamuna river, near Agra, India, is completed. It was built on the orders of Emperor Shah Jahan in 1632 and is widely regarded as one of the most beautifully symmetrical buildings in the world.

SIR ISAAC NEWTON

This famous scientist shows that white light is made up of all the colours of the rainbow. He uses sunlight passing through a prism to split white light into separate colours.

1666



1890



VINCENT VAN GOGH

Van Gogh dies at the age of just 37, but becomes one of the most famous artists of all time. His style uses patterns and swirls of paint to show natural objects, such as sunflowers.

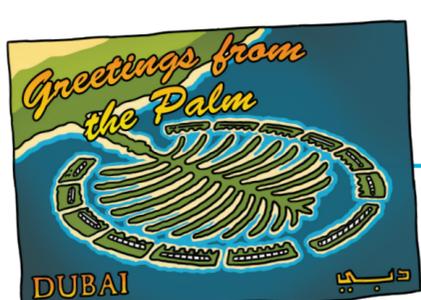
DNA

Three UK scientists discover the structure of DNA, which is found in cells and contains the code for all living things. It is based on a swirling pattern, like a spiral staircase.

1953



2009



THE PALM JUMEIRAH

A series of man-made islands is completed off the coast of Dubai – the islands are shaped around the symmetrical shape of a palm tree.