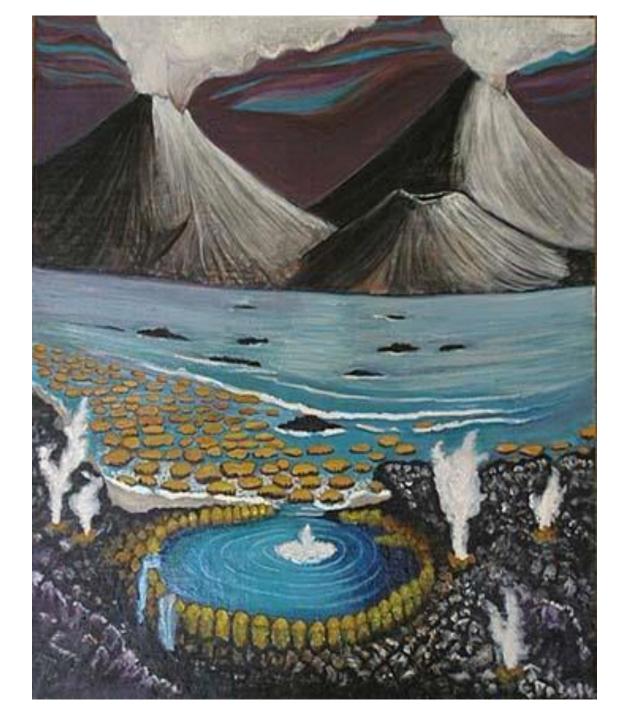
#### Earth's History

# **Precambrian Time**

- Origin of the Earth
- Look at the Precambrian Timeline, p. 216 in book
- Few fossils found in Precambrian rocks. Why?
  - Hundreds of millions of years of changes
  - Precambrian life-forms did not have hard structures
- First shelled organisms appeared
- Earth mostly covered by shallow oceans by end of Precambrian time



# Paleozoic Era

- 542 million years ago-251 million years ago
- Changes in the Earth
  - At beginning-land scattered around Earth
  - At end-one large land mass: Pangaea
- Life on Earth
  - <u>Cambrian explosion</u>: many new life forms develop in a short amount of time
  - Sea-dwelling invertebrates —>First vertebrates
    (primitive fish) —>First amphibians and land plants
    First reptiles

# Paleozoic cont.

• Natural evolution or creation?

 Cambrian explosion: abrupt appearance or common ancestor evolution?

- Mass extinction at end of Paleozoic Era
  - 90% of marine organisms and 78% of land organisms died

### Mesozoic Era

- 250 million years ago 65 million years ago
- Pangaea broke into smaller continents
- Known as the Age of Reptiles
  dinosaurs
- First birds and mammals appeared
- Early dinosaurs video
- Mesozoic ends with mass extinction
  - Impact hypothesis most widely accepted
  - <u>Late dinosaurs video</u>

### Cenozoic Era

- 65 million years ago-present
- Continents moved to present location
- Known as the Age of Mammals
- Climate changes cause extinction of some mammals and proliferation of others
- Modern animals and humans develop
- <u>Video</u>