How do we discuss history?

**Protracted Events**

- The Cold War
- The Bush Administration
- World War II

**Post 9/11**

- How do we discuss history?
- Long Periods of “Sameness”
- The Paleolithic
- The Renaissance Period

**Events Define Boundaries!**

- 9/11
- Hiroshima
- Nuclear Age
- Fall of the Berlin Wall

- End of the Cold War

**Instantaneous Events**
How do we discuss Earth history?

Protracted Events

New "Technology"

How do we discuss Earth history?

Events Define Boundaries

How do we discuss Earth history?

Long Periods of "Sameness"
The Geological Time Scale

Evolution of teeth and skeletons

Shell/Bone Fossils Are Common

Non-Existent

96% of all marine species and an estimated 70% of land species go extinct

Life is never the same!

Large Meteorite Hits Earth

Dinosaurs and Mammals Evolve

No Dinosaur Fossils

"The Great Dying"
The Geological Time Scale

Large Meteorite Hits Earth
Dinosaurs and Mammals Evolve

Mammals Flourish
Mammals Languish
No Mammals

Is there a general pattern?

Evolution of land animals and plants
Evolution of teeth and skeletons
Evolution of multicellular life

Is this change predictable and progressive?