

Table 5. An approximate timescale for important Late Cretaceous and Cenozoic geophysical and climatic events

Event	Date	Reference
New Zealand/West Antarctica separation	85-82 Ma	10
Australia/East Antarctica separation	65-64 Ma	9
End of North Atlantic connection between North America and Europe	55-53 Ma	7
Collision of India with Eurasia	60-49 Ma	2
End of terrestrial connections between South America and Antarctica	40-30 Ma	1
Major uplift of the Andes (southern)	15 Ma	8
Major uplift of the Andes (northern, central)	10-0 Ma	4, 6
Initiation of Miocene climatic deterioration	13-12 Ma	11
Opening of Panamanian isthmus	3.5-3.1 Ma	3

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