

A Schematic Outline of the Cosmic History

Time since the
Big Bang (years)

~ 300 thousand

~ 500 million

~ 1 billion

~ 9 billion

~ 13 billion



← The Big Bang

The Universe filled
with ionized gas

← The Universe becomes
neutral and opaque

The Dark Ages start

Galaxies and Quasars
begin to form
The Reionization starts

The Cosmic Renaissance
The Dark Ages end

← Reionization complete,
the Universe becomes
transparent again

Galaxies evolve

The Solar System forms

Today: Astronomers
figure it all out!