MESOARCHEAN ERA (3200-2800 Ma)

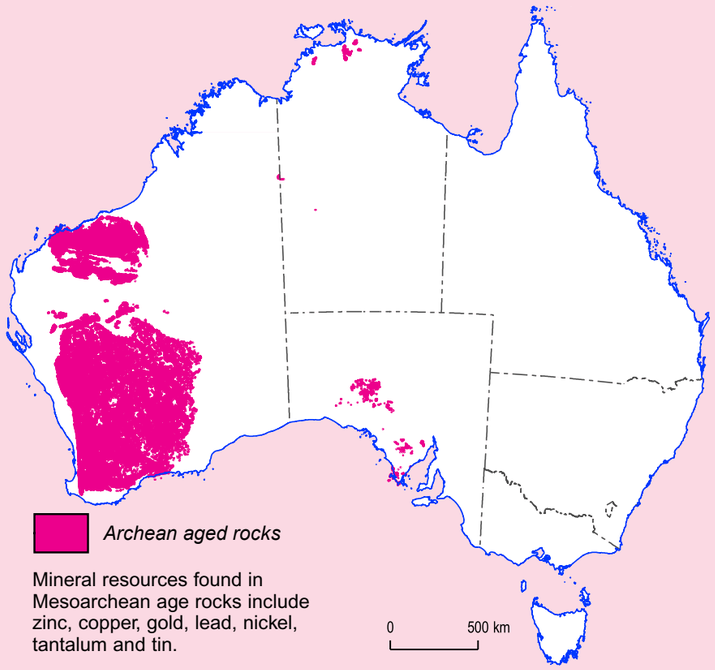
Geological TimeWalk

The development of continents continued, and temperatures were roughly similar to those of today.

Throughout this era, cyanobacteria populations increased and generated greater levels of oxygen. However, most of this **oxygen was absorbed** by the large ocean and did not enter the Earth's atmosphere.

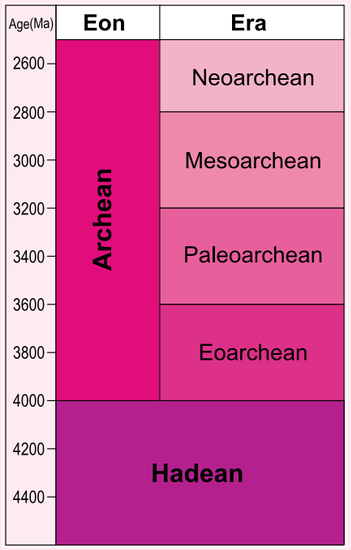
Mesoarchean rocks are found in the present-day Pilbara, Yilgarn and Gawler Cratons of Australia. We do not know on how many continental blocks these originally formed. Underwater volcanoes were abundant.

Archean rocks and resources in Australia



Mineral resources found in Mesoarchean age rocks include zinc, copper, gold, lead, nickel, tantalum and tin.

Mesoarchean Timescale



Banded Iron Formations found near Marble Bar, Western Australia were deposited in the Mesoarchean Era and later transformed into iron ore.

In 2008, rocks from Eyre Peninsula were dated at 3150 million years old, extending the knowledge of South Australia's geological history by 500 million years.

Australian Government
Geoscience Australia