

# A summary of the sequence of events for the last 130,000 years<sup>1</sup>

**150,000 y.a.** - cold, dry full glacial world

## **Eemian interglacial (Stage 5e)**

**130,000-110,000 y.a.** - global climates generally warmer and moister than present, but with progressive cooling to temperatures more similar to present (except for possible global cold, dry event at 121,000 y.a.)

**?110,000 y.a.** - a strong cooling marks the end of the Eemian interglacial (Stage 5e).

**105,000-95,000 y.a.** - climate warms slightly but still cooler and drier than present; strong fluctuations.

**95,000 - 93,000 y.a.** - another cooler phase similar to that at 110,000 y.a.

**93,000 - 75,000 y.a.** - a milder phase, resembling that at 105,000-95,000 y.a.

## **'Lower Pleniglacial' — Stage 4**

**75,000 - 60,000 y.a.** - full glacial world, cold and dry

## **Stage 3**

**60,000 - 25,000 y.a.** - 'middling phase' of highly unstable but generally cooler and drier-than-present conditions

## **'Last Glacial Maximum' — Stage 2**

*This period includes two 'coldest phases' - Heinrich Events - at around 23,000-21,000 y.a. and at 17,000-14,500 y.a.*

**25,000 - 15,000 y.a.** - full glacial world, cold and dry;

**14,500 y.a.** - rapid warming and moistening of climates in some areas. Rapid deglaciation begins.

**13,500 y.a.** - nearly all areas with climates at least as warm and moist as today's

## **Younger Dryas**

**12,800 y.a.** (+/- 200 years)- rapid onset of cool, dry Younger Dryas in many areas

**11,500 y.a.** (+/- 200 years) - Younger Dryas ends suddenly, back to warmth and moist climates

## **Holocene, or Stage 1**

**9,000 y.a. - 8,200 y.a.** - climates warmer and often moister than today's

**about 8,200 y.a.** - sudden cool and dry phase in many areas

**8,000-4,500 y.a.** - climates somewhat warmer and moister than today's

**Since 4,500 y.a.** - climates fairly similar to the present — *except about 2600 y.a. - relatively wet/cold event (of unknown duration) in many areas.*

---

<sup>1</sup> 'real' years