

earth, the *tertiary epoch*, or *era of Leafed Forests*, is much shorter and less peculiar than the three first epochs. This epoch, which is also called the *cænolithic* or *cænozoic* epoch, extended from the end of the *cretaceous* system to the end of the *pliocene* system. The strata deposited during it amount only to a thickness of about 3000 feet, and consequently are much inferior to the three first great groups. The three systems also into which the tertiary period is subdivided are very difficult to distinguish from one another. The oldest of them is called *eocene*, or old tertiary; the newer *miocene*, or mid tertiary; and the last is the *pliocene*, or later tertiary system.

The whole population of the tertiary epoch approaches much nearer, on the whole as well as in detail, to that of the present time than is the case in the preceding epochs. From this time the class of *Mammals* greatly predominates over all other vertebrate animals. In like manner, in the vegetable kingdom, the group—so rich in forms—of the *Angiosperms*, or *plants with covered seeds*, predominates, and its *leafy forests* constitute the characteristic feature of the tertiary epoch. The group of the *Angiosperms* consists of the two classes of single-seed-lobed plants, or *Monocotyledons*, and the double-seed-lobed plants, or *Dicotyledons*. The *Angiosperms* of both classes had, it is true, made their appearance in the *Cretaceous* period, and mammals had already occurred in the *Jurassic* period, and even in the *Triassic* period; but both groups, the mammals and the plants with enclosed seeds, did not attain their peculiar development and supremacy until the tertiary epoch, so that it may justly be called after them.

The fifth and last main division of the organic history