

Geomagnetic Polarity Timescale (GPTS) Plotting Exercise

Data Table

Directions

1. In the lower grid, plot the 11 points listed in the Data Table on the right.
2. In the box above the grid, draw a GPTS from the data plotted on the grid. To do this, use the data plotted on the grid to estimate ages where the magnetic field switched (reversed) its polarity. Shade in periods of Normal Polarity field black, and let periods of Reverse Polarity field be white.

Age (Myr ago)	VGP Latitude (deg.)
0.08	60.4
0.19	82.2
0.39	86.9
0.45	87.6
0.57	38.8
0.76	12.7
0.85	-82.9
1.03	71.1
1.25	-80.5
1.33	-88.5
1.56	-82.9

Notes:
 1 - The y-axis limits are 100 and -100 on the graph, but in reality Latitude only goes -90 to 90. It was just hard for students to plot values very close to 90 when the axis limits were not 100.
 2.- The data table is organized in order of increasing x value (increasing age). That could be a good hint for students

