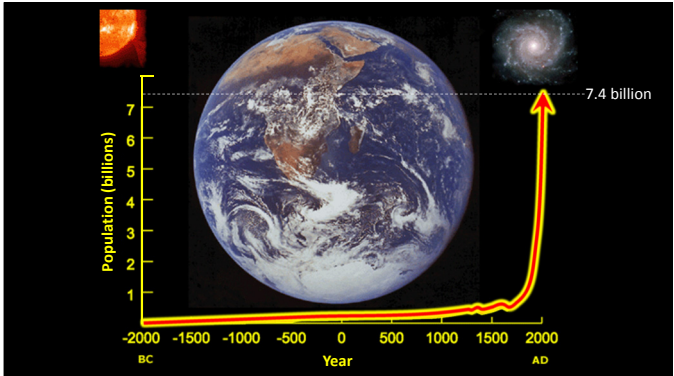


The Anthropocene Golden Spike: The Age of Humans

What have we done?



The term **Anthropocene** comes from ancient Greek.

Anthropo- meaning “human”, and

-cene meaning “new” or “recent”.

-cene is a word-forming element in geology, introduced by [Sir Charles Lyell](#) (1797-1875).

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To define a new geological epoch, a signal must be found that occurs globally and will be incorporated into deposits of the future geological record.

The signal should be expressed in the rock record with unequivocal and characteristic stratigraphic signals.

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What are the physical, chemical and biological signatures that will withstand the test of time and serve as markers, or traces, of human civilization on Earth?