



Name _____ Period/Class _____ Date _____

Shape of Life
The Story of the Animal Kingdom

Major Earth Events, Part One-Page 1 Student's Edition

How do scientists figure out and sequence major events in Earth's history?

Note: You will be using the following timelines throughout the next few lessons.

Personal Timeline

1. Create a personal timeline below.

- Use a metric ruler to draw a vertical line below or on a separate sheet of paper that is as many centimeters as you are old.
- Think of three to five major life events (things that have happened in your life that have shaped who you are). Label them along the timeline at the appropriate measurement. *The bottom of the timeline represents when you were born so oldest events should be at the bottom.*



Major Earth Events, Part One-Page 2 Student's Edition

Earth's Timeline

2. Create a timeline representing Earth's history below or on a separate sheet of paper.
 - Title the top of the page "Earth's timeline." Draw a vertical line the length of the page.
 - The top of the timeline represents present time. The bottom of the timeline represents Earth's formation. Label both and record a numeric guess of how old the Earth is. Add the Cambrian Explosion to where you think it belongs.
 - In the next lesson, you'll look at other major Earth events and add them to the timeline. *Remember oldest events should be at the bottom.*



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Major Earth Events, Part One-Page 3 Student's Edition

How do scientists figure out and sequence major events in Earth's history?

1. Watch *The Cambrian Explosion* and answer the following questions:

- What references to time do you notice? Record them below.
- What was the Cambrian Explosion and why is it considered a major Earth event?
- What is evidence of the Cambrian Explosion?
- When did the Cambrian Explosion take place? Add it to where you think it belongs on Earth's timeline.
- In the video, the Cambrian Explosion was described as happening in a "blink of an eye" geologically. But the period it spans is thought to be 40 million years, from 570 to 530 million years ago. How do you think that time period compares to "a blink of an eye" in human history?