



Unit 3 Biological Evolution

Grade 8 Science

Unit Length and Description:

6 Instructional Weeks

Students will construct explanations on how the geologic time scale is used to organize Earth's geologic history, interpreting patterns in fossil records that document existence, diversity, extinction, and change of life forms throughout Earth's history. Students will also construct explanations for similarities and differences among modern and fossil organisms to infer evolutionary relationships.

Science Standards:

- 8-MS-ESS1-4** Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence from rock strata how geologic time scale is used to organize Earth's geologic history.
- 8-MS-LS4-1** Analyze and interpret data for patterns in the fossil record that document the existence, diversity, extinction, and change of life forms throughout the history of life on Earth under the assumption that natural laws operate today as in the past.
- 8-MS-LS4-2** Apply scientific ideas to construct an explanation for the anatomical similarities and differences among modern organisms and between modern and fossil organisms to infer evolutionary relationships.

Enduring Understandings- Unit Anchor Phenomenon:

Archosaurs, sauropods, and tyrannosaurs were anatomically different from organisms today.

Essential Questions- Reflective Summaries:

- Construct explanations for the anatomical similarities and differences among modern organisms and fossil organisms that lived during Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous periods.
- Explain how patterns in the fossil record are used to document the existence, diversity, extinction, and change in life forms during the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous periods?
- How do life forms in the Cenozoic era compare to life forms in the Mesozoic Era?