



Subject: Science

Grade Level: Middle/High School

DI Strategy: Tiered Scaffold

History of Life Tiered Assignment Lesson

After learning about the major events that have taken place in the history of life on Earth, I wanted to provide students with an opportunity to practice recalling those events and placing them in order. However, I knew that different students were going to need different levels of support to complete this task. After having my students complete a formative assessment on their understanding of the major events in the history of life, I placed them in three tiers. All three tiers would receive a series of pictures depicting some major events in the history of life on Earth. Each tier received a different worksheet which provided them with a variety of scaffolding to help them complete the assignment.

The lowest tier received the name of the event in the history of life on Earth and they had to match it to the picture. The middle tier received a creative title that went along with each picture to give them some assistance in determining the event being depicted. The highest group received no scaffolds and had to determine which event was being depicted by each picture. At the end of the activity, all three groups needed to place the events depicted by the pictures in the correct order.

The worksheets provided to the students can be found below.



Name: _____

Date: _____

History of Life Cartoon Activity

1. Each cartoon represents a major event in the history of life.
2. In the table below, major events in history are being described. Match the number of the cartoon to the description.
3. Create a clever and fun title to summarize the event in history. The first one is provided for you.

Number of picture	Event in history	Title
	First appearance of mammals	<i>What is that hairy thing?!!</i>
	First appearance of human-like primates	
	Formation of planets	
	Chemicals necessary for life accumulate	
	First eukaryotic organisms form	
	First life forms	
	Earth cools- the creation of clouds, rain, oceans occurs	
	Evolution of photosynthesis creates oxygen based atmosphere	
	Sudden radiation or emergence of diversity in life, animals and plants evolve in a short period of time	
	Creation of ozone layer	
	Extinction of the dinosaurs	

4. Sequence the above events in chronological order. Place the number of the correct order below.



Name: _____

Date: _____

History of Life Cartoon Activity

1. Each cartoon represents a major event in the history of life.
2. In the space below, describe the event in history you believe is being represented in the cartoon.
3. Some of these cartoons are hard. So you do get 2 teacher helps. If you need assistance, call me over.

Number of picture	Title	Event in history
1	<i>Punctuated Equilibrium Occurs</i>	
2	<i>What is that hairy thing?!!</i>	
3	<i>O-zoned out!</i>	
4	<i>Symbiotic stories</i>	
5	<i>Cool Things are Happening!</i>	
6	<i>Happy 1st Birthday</i>	
7	<i>Toxic aerobic breaths</i>	
8	<i>When cosmic dust goes unswept</i>	
9	<i>Close families</i>	
10	<i>What is cooking, a gourmet soup?</i>	
11	<i>Long success suddenly ends</i>	



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Number of picture	Event in history
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	

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Teaching Learning Succeeding