Biology Bricks Activity

Rock Layers

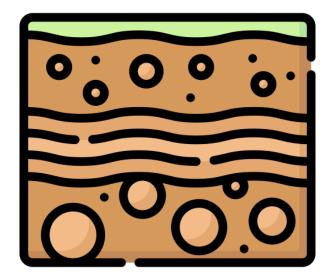
Scientists that study fossils, palaeontologists, find the remains of organisms that lived millions of years ago.

Now, it's your turn to find your own fossils, using this hands-on experiment.

You will need:

- Scissors
- Pictures of organisms

Instructions



- 1. Cut out pictures of different organisms. The pictures represent fossils of these organisms.
- 2. Without referring to the table provided, stack these pictures in the order in which you think they appeared on Earth. Put the oldest organisms on the bottom of the stack and the youngest on the top of the stack.
- 3. Compare your stack to the dates in the table. If necessary, rearrange your stack to make it accurate.
- 4. Add the dates these organisms appeared on Earth to the pictures.



Appearance of Organism	Time in Millions of Years Ago (mya)
Bacteria	3,000mya
Jellyfish	600mya
Shark	400mya
Earthworm	300mya
Small mammal	210mya
Archaeopteryx (birdlike reptile)	140mya
Ants	100mya
Camel	35mya
"Lucy" (early manlike primate)	4mya

Follow Up Questions

What were the first living organisms?

How much time has passed between the appearance of the first living organism and the appearance of insects?

Extension

Research how fossils are formed. Use clay to demonstrate what you learn.



