

Suzy's World

Evolution - How long has there been life on earth?

Fact

- Scientists have found the remains of living things in rocks and have dated them as being 3,500 million years old.
- At this time there was no oxygen on earth so scientist think the remains were from blue-green algae because they didn't need oxygen to survive.
- It took the blue-green algae about 1500 million years to make enough oxygen for other things to live.
- 600 million years ago there were animals without backbones that looked like squid.
- 430 million years ago there were the first fish and then 390 million years ago the first plants on land. Then came the frog-like animals and then the lizard-like animals.

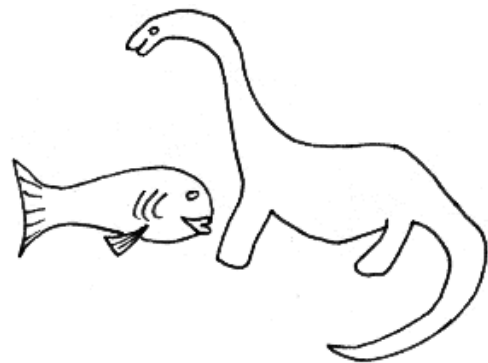


Do you know

- Dinosaurs were quite recent living things. Dinosaurs were only found on earth 190 million years but they disappeared 70 million years ago.
- Birds appeared 155 million years ago then flowering plants and mammals 120 million years ago.
- Humans were found on earth 1 million years ago.

Experiments you can do

Make your own playdough fish shape and make it change to suit different environments. What would it look like if it lived in the sea? What would it look like if it lived in sandy, shallow water? What would need to change if the fish lived in a pond or swamp that dries up in summer? Think about a frog and where a frog lives.



Use the play dough to make dinosaur shapes too.

Other Investigations

Use a paper towel roll, a marker pen and a ruler or tape measure to develop a timeline to show when different things lived on earth first algae, then squid, fish, land plants, frogs, lizards, dinosaurs, birds, flowering plants, then mammals and then humans.

You'll need to think of a scale so that you can start at 3,500 million years ago – maybe 5mm for each million years.