This unit was authored by a team of Colorado educators. The template provided one example of unit design that enabled teacher-authors to organize possible learning experiences, resources, differentiation, and assessments. The unit is intended to support teachers, schools, and districts as they make their own local decisions around the best instructional plans and practices for all students.

DATE POSTED: DECEMBER 2015
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Grade Level Expectations (GLE)</th>
<th>GLE Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Physical Science</td>
<td>Mixtures of substances can be separated based on their properties such as solubility, boiling points, magnetic properties, and densities</td>
<td>SC09-GR.7-S.1-GLE.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Life Science</td>
<td>Individual organisms with certain traits are more likely than others to survive and have offspring in a specific environment</td>
<td>SC09-GR.7-S.2-GLE.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The human body is composed of atoms, molecules, cells, tissues, organs, and organ systems that have specific functions and interactions</td>
<td>SC09-GR.7-S.2-GLE.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cells are the smallest unit of life that can function independently and perform all the necessary functions of life</td>
<td>SC09-GR.7-S.2-GLE.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Photosynthesis and cellular respiration are important processes by which energy is acquired and utilized by organisms</td>
<td>SC09-GR.7-S.2-GLE.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Multiple lines of evidence show the evolution of organisms over geologic time</td>
<td>SC09-GR.7-S.2-GLE.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Earth Systems Science</td>
<td>Major geologic events such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, mid-ocean ridges, and mountain formation are associated with plate boundaries and attributed to plate motions</td>
<td>SC09-GR.7-S.3-GLE.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Geologic time, history, and changing life forms are indicated by fossils and successive sedimentation, folding, faulting, and uplifting of layers of sedimentary rock</td>
<td>SC09-GR.7-S.3-GLE.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Colorado 21st Century Skills**

- **Critical Thinking and Reasoning:** Thinking Deeply, Thinking Differently
- **Information Literacy:** Untangling the Web
- **Collaboration:** Working Together, Learning Together
- **Self-Direction:** Own Your Learning
- **Invention:** Creating Solutions

**Reading & Writing Standards for Literacy in Science and Technical Subjects 6 - 12**

**Reading Standards**
- Key Ideas & Details
- Craft And Structure
- Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
- Range of Reading and Levels of Text Complexity

**Writing Standards**
- Text Types & Purposes
- Production and Distribution of Writing
- Research to Construct and Present Knowledge
- Range of Writing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Titles</th>
<th>Length of Unit/Contact Hours</th>
<th>Unit Number/Sequence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geologic Events Through Time</td>
<td>7-8 weeks</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Title</td>
<td>Geologic Events Through Time</td>
<td>Length of Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>----------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focusing Lens(es)</td>
<td>Change Time</td>
<td>Standards and Grade Level Expectations Addressed in this Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inquiry Questions (Engaging-Debatable):</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● How would the world be different if organisms and the environment did not change over time?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● How is it helpful to our understanding of time and Earth’s history to track time through geology?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Why is it challenging for people to think in terms of geologic time?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Strands</td>
<td>Earth Science, Life Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concepts</td>
<td>Order, Change, Evolution, Time, Interaction, organism, environment, extinction, structure, scale, traits, evidence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generalizations</th>
<th>My students will Understand that...</th>
<th>Factual</th>
<th>Guiding Questions</th>
<th>Conceptual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geologic time, observed in land formations and rock layers, indicate major change events in Earth’s history (SC.09-GR.7-S.3-GLE.2-EO.b,c,d; IQ.1; RA.1)</td>
<td></td>
<td>How can major geologic events be attributed to plate movement? (SC.09-GR.7-S.3-GLE.1;IQ.1)</td>
<td>Why is understanding Earth’s geologic history important today? (SC.09-GR.7-S.3-GLE.2-EO.c)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence is used to determine the order of events in geologic time. (SC.09-GR.7-S.3-GLE.2-EO.d)</td>
<td></td>
<td>How do people know which layer of rock is older? (SC.09-GR.7-S.3-GLE.2-EO.c; RA.1;N.2)</td>
<td>Why are fossils important in understanding geologic history? (SC.09-GR.7-S.3-GLE.2-EO.c; RA.1;N.2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Critical Content:

**My students will Know...**

- Major events in Earth’s geologic history (SC.09-GR.7-S.3-GLE.2-EO.c)
- The causes and effects of mass extinction (SC09-GR.7-S.2-GLE.5-EO.c,d)
- Fossil records used to study the geological/biological history of the Earth (past and present) (SC.09-GR.7-S.3-GLE.2-EO.d)
- The difference between absolute and relative fossil dating (SC.09-GR.7-S.3-GLE.2; RA.2)
- The geologic time scale and sequence of geologic events (SC.09-GR.7-S.3-GLE.2-EO.a)
- The difference between direct and indirect evidence (SC.09-GR.7-S.3-GLE.2-EO.d)

## Key Skills:

**My students will be able to (Do)...**

- Identify, describe, and determine the sequence of major events in Earth’s geologic history by examining rock layers, fossil records, and other geologic evidence. (SC.09-GR.7-S.3-GLE.2-EO.c,d)
- Analyze and critique causes and effects of mass extinction and use technology to share findings (SC.09-GR.7-S.2-GLE.5-EO.b,d)
- Describe the geologic time scale and why it is used (SC.09-GR.7-S.3-GLE.2-EO.a)
- Identify and describe the impact of major geologic events on life on Earth (SC.09-GR.7-S.3-GLE.2-EO.b)
- Identify and describe major events in Earth’s geologic history (SC.09-GR.7-S.3-GLE.2-EO.c)
- Use direct and indirect evidence to determine the sequence of events in geologic time (SC.09-GR.7-S.3-GLE.2-EO.d)
- Interpret and analyze data from the fossil record to support a claim that organisms

## Critical Language:

includes the Academic and Technical vocabulary, semantics, and discourse which are particular to and necessary for accessing a given discipline.

**EXAMPLE:** A student in Language Arts can demonstrate the ability to apply and comprehend critical language through the following statement: "Mark Twain exposes the hypocrisy of slavery through the use of satire."

A student in _____________ can demonstrate the ability to apply and comprehend critical language through the following statement(s):

- Geologic time is shown and scaled through rock layers, fossil records, and other geological evidence.

## Academic Vocabulary:

- Theory, time scale, layers, analyze, succession, sequence, simulation, models

## Technical Vocabulary:

- Geologic time, fossil record, fossil, lithosphere, sedimentation
## Unit Description:
This unit focuses on discovering the history of Earth by interpreting rock layers and their contents (e.g., fossils, composition of rocks). Students will explore how major events are used to divide history into eons, era, and periods, as well as how fossils are formed. This unit culminates in a performance assessment where students are paleontologists asked to investigate a geologic column and create a geologic time scale.

## Considerations:
This unit was created with the intention of following the *Shake, Rattle and Roll* unit.

The original unit had four generalizations, however this unit removed two and added those generalizations into the adaptations unit for a better fit.

**Misconceptions:**
The Earth is not approximately 4.6 billion years old.
All dead organisms become fossils.
Fossils are always the actual bones of the organisms.
Dinosaurs and humans were on the planet at the same time.
All the eons are equal amounts of time.
Dinosaurs all lived at the same time.
All forms of life began at the same point in time.
Life began on land.
Only animal life can become fossilized.

## Unit Generalizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Generalization:</th>
<th>Evidence is used to determine the order of events in geologic time.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Generalizations:</td>
<td>Geologic time, observed in land formations and rock layers, indicate major change events in Earth’s history.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Performance Assessment: *The capstone/summative assessment for this unit.*

**Claims:**
(Key generalization(s) to be mastered and demonstrated through the capstone assessment.)

- Evidence is used to determine the order of events in geologic time.

**Stimulus Material:**
(Engaging scenario that includes role, audience, goal/outcome and explicitly connects the key generalization)

- A company was contracted by the National Science Foundation to extract a geologic column. They have asked you, a paleontologist, to investigate this geologic column. The goal of this investigation is for you to explain the history of what has happened in the area where the column was pulled.
  - You must create a geologic time scale that outlines major events that shaped this area modeled on Earth’s geologic time scale.
  - You must create your own name for various eons and eras, indicating when major events occurred.
  - You must include evidence of life, the age of various rock layers, and other evidence that leads you to your explanations of the column.
Colorado Teacher-Authored Sample Instructional Unit

**Product/Evidence:**
(Expected product from students)

A company was contracted by the National Science Foundation to extract a geologic column. Students will take the role of a paleontologist, to investigate this geologic column. The goal of this investigation is for them to explain the history of what has happened in the area where the column was pulled.

- They must create a geologic time scale that outlines major events that shaped this area modeled on Earth’s geologic time scale.
- They must create your own name for various eons and eras, indicating when major events occurred.
- They must include evidence of life, the age of various rock layers, and other evidence that leads you to your explanations of the column.

**Differentiation:**
(Multiple modes for student expression)

The teacher may limit the number of eons or eras.
The teacher may provide a geologic scale and then students order events based on column.
The teacher may want to change the environment to another planet, various locations, etc.
Teachers may allow students to produce an outline, create a time scale from scratch, use a narrative form, a paragraph, a Prezi, etc.
The teacher may create the column as simple or complicated as necessary to meet students’ needs.

**Texts for independent reading or for class read aloud to support the content**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Informational/Non-Fiction</th>
<th>Fiction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Ongoing Discipline-Specific Learning Experiences**

1. **Description:** Thinking like a scientist: Using the scientific method

   **Teacher Resources:**

   - [http://undsci.berkeley.edu/teaching/misconceptions.php](http://undsci.berkeley.edu/teaching/misconceptions.php) (A list of common misconceptions about the nature of science)
   - [http://undsci.berkeley.edu/teaching/](http://undsci.berkeley.edu/teaching/) (Tips for introducing and teaching scientific method and experimentation)
   - [http://www.livescience.com/6727-invisible-gorilla-test-shows-notice.html](http://www.livescience.com/6727-invisible-gorilla-test-shows-notice.html) (Video in which most people fail to observe large “gorilla” moving across room)
### Skills:
- Designing an experiment,
- identifying variables, and
- analyzing results.

### Assessment:
Within the learning experiences

### 2. Description:
Working like a scientist: Using graphing and mathematics skills

### Teacher Resources:
- **Power Point presentation** (Dealing with identification of dependent and independent variables)
- [http://professionaldevelopment.ibo.org/files/ocd/TaughtPractice%20with%20%20identifying%20variables.pdf](http://professionaldevelopment.ibo.org/files/ocd/TaughtPractice%20with%20%20identifying%20variables.pdf) (Practice worksheet for identifying dependent and independent variables)
- [http://www.clemson.edu/ces/phoenix/tutorials/graph/index.html](http://www.clemson.edu/ces/phoenix/tutorials/graph/index.html) (Rules for graphing)
- [http://www.wtamu.edu/academic/anns/mps/math/mathlab/beg_algebra/beg_alg_tut9_bar.htm#line3](http://www.wtamu.edu/academic/anns/mps/math/mathlab/beg_algebra/beg_alg_tut9_bar.htm#line3) (Teaches how and why to use different graphs and also teaches how to read a graph)
- [http://nces.ed.gov/nceskids/createagraph/default.aspx](http://nces.ed.gov/nceskids/createagraph/default.aspx) (Online way to create different types of graphs)

### Student Resources:
[http://nces.ed.gov/nceskids/createagraph/default.aspx](http://nces.ed.gov/nceskids/createagraph/default.aspx) (Online way to create different types of graphs)

### Skills:
- Creating and interpreting graphs,
- creating data tables,
- creating and interpreting models.

### Assessment:
Students may create graphs using data from learning experiences in order to analyze relationships between variables.

Teachers may make real-time observations and provide feedback for students on their ability to set up a graph correctly.
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# Prior Knowledge and Experiences

Students have a basic understanding of the types of rocks, primarily sedimentary.

Vertical Articulation:
The last time students have seen the concepts within this unit was in 4th grade.

## Learning Experience #1

The teacher may provide examples of various time lines (i.e., chronologically, event, interval) so that students can begin to understand that time can be broken down in different ways.

### Generalization Connection(s):

Evidence is used to determine the order of events in geologic time. (SC.09-GR.7-S.3-GLE.2-EO.d)

### Teacher Resources:

- [geological timeline information and activities](http://www.dynamicearth.co.uk/media/1514/geological-timeline-pack.pdf)
- [example of geologic time on a daily clock](http://www.uky.edu/KGS/education/clocktime.htm)
- [pre-made crossword puzzle with answer key](http://www.whenwecrosswords.com/crossword/geologic_time_scale/36464/crossword.jsp)
- [links for all time lines to include graphs, maps, and added links while reading](http://www.fossilmuseum.net/Paleobiology/Paleozoic_paleobiology.htm)
- [reading component](http://www.nature.com/scitable/knowledge/library/dating-rocks-and-fossils-using-geologic-methods-107924044)
- [printable time line chart](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/129392/community-ecology/images-videos/24/evolution-plant-timeline)
- [graph of plant timeline](http://www.stuegli.com/phyzx/personaltimeline.htm)
- [Time scale song/video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PQURsc2SYs&noredirect=1)
- [create a personal geologic time scale](http://www.stuegli.com/phyzx/personaltimeline.htm)

### Student Resources:

- [geological events on a football field](https://signalvnoise.com/images/grs02_03.gif)
- [example of geologic time on a daily clock](http://www.uky.edu/KGS/education/clocktime.htm)
- [student interactive](http://science.nationalgeographic.com/science/prehistoric-world/prehistoric-time-line)
- [Plant Evolution Timeline interactive](http://www.adonline.id.au/plantevol/evolution-timeline/)
- [Time line interactive](http://www.purposegames.com/game/318)
- [Earth time line Interactive](http://www.bobainsworth.com/fossil/Earths_timeline_dw[1].swf)
- [geological timeline information and activities](http://www.dynamicearth.co.uk/media/1514/geological-timeline-pack.pdf)
- [Human time-line](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/life/human-origins/modern-human-evolution/early-beginnings/)

### Assessment:

Students will create a personal time scale/ timeline mirroring the geologic time scale.

[create a personal geologic time scale](http://www.stuegli.com/phyzx/personaltimeline.htm)
### Differentiation:
(Multiple means for students to access content and multiple modes for student to express understanding.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Access (Resources and/or Process)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Expression (Products and/or Performance)</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The teacher may provide a template of the timeline. The student may complete cut and paste events into a pre-assembled timeline.</td>
<td>The students may create a simple timeline of a period of their lives of major events in their lives.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Extensions for depth and complexity:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Access (Resources and/or Process)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Expression (Products and/or Performance)</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The teacher may provide additional resources (video, PowerPoint) to expand understanding of temperatures at various depths.</td>
<td>The students may create an annotated timeline with a summary of each event.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Critical Content:

- The separation of the geologic timeline

### Key Skills:

- Sequencing events, correlating variables, identify events

### Critical Language:

- Chronological, timeline, label, density, gravity, solidification, billion, timeline, crust, molten, sequencing events, correlating variables, identify events, impact event

### Learning Experience # 2

The teacher may introduce important events in time (i.e., ice age, mass extinction, impact event, evolution of life) so that students can comprehend how the geologic time scale was created and divided into eons, eras, periods, and epochs.

### Generalization Connection(s):

- Evidence is used to determine the order of events in geologic time. (SC.09-GR.7-S.3-GLE.2-EO.d)

### Teacher Resources:

- [http://www.uky.edu/KGS/education/cklctstime.htm](http://www.uky.edu/KGS/education/cklctstime.htm) (example of geologic time on a daily clock)
- [http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/extinction_events](http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/extinction_events) (mass extinction events)
- [http://tinyurl.com/kn834um](http://tinyurl.com/kn834um) (Humans Caused Mass Extinction of Large Ice Age Animals Not Climate Change)
- [http://tinyurl.com/kzcz2219](http://tinyurl.com/kzcz2219) ("Asteroid Strike Confirmed as Dinosaur Killer" Smithsonian video embedded)
- [http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/extinction_events](http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/extinction_events) (mass extinction events)
- [https://kraynaksciencewiki.wikispaces.com/Geologic+Time+Project+and+Webquest](https://kraynaksciencewiki.wikispaces.com/Geologic+Time+Project+and+Webquest) (web Quest for Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic era’s)
- [http://www.hhmi.org/biointeractive/day-mesozoic-died](http://www.hhmi.org/biointeractive/day-mesozoic-died) (scroll down for mass extinction video)

### Student Resources:

- [https://signalvnoise.com/images/grs02_03.gif](https://signalvnoise.com/images/grs02_03.gif) (geological events on a football field)
- [http://www.uky.edu/KGS/education/cklctstime.htm](http://www.uky.edu/KGS/education/cklctstime.htm) (example of geologic time on a daily clock)
- [http://tinyurl.com/npjff1u](http://tinyurl.com/npjff1u) (Geologic timeline with events)
- [http://paleobiology.si.edu/geotime/main](http://paleobiology.si.edu/geotime/main) (Smithsonian click on period for information)
### Assessment:
Students will create a geologic timeline identifying major geologic events that delineate the division of time.

### Differentiation:
(Multiple means for students to access content and multiple modes for student to express understanding.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access (Resources and/or Process)</th>
<th>Expression (Products and/or Performance)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The teacher may provide a timeline template. The teacher may provide a word bank. The teacher may provide illustrations.</td>
<td>The student may develop the timeline using their own illustrations or by correctly ordering those provided.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Extensions for depth and complexity:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access (Resources and/or Process)</th>
<th>Expression (Products and/or Performance)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The teacher may allow access to resources that detail smaller divisions of time.</td>
<td>The student may identify events that delineate smaller divisions of time.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Critical Content:
- Major divisions of Geologic Time

### Key Skills:
- Identifying major Earth events

### Critical Language:
- Ice age, mass extinction, impact event, predict, era, eon, epoch, period, sequence, divisions

### Learning Experience # 3

The teacher may lead a discussion on eons so that students can describe what the Earth was like during each eon and explain what led to the Cambrian explosion.

### Generalization Connection(s):
Evidence is used to determine the order of events in geologic time. (SC.09-GR.7-S.3-GLE.2-EO.d)

### Teacher Resources:
- [http://www.windows2universe.org/earth/geology/hist_paleozoic.html](http://www.windows2universe.org/earth/geology/hist_paleozoic.html) (links to all periods for interactive, graphs, models, etc.,)
- [http://www.rocksinmyheadtoo.com/TimeLine.htm](http://www.rocksinmyheadtoo.com/TimeLine.htm) (charts and added links)
- [http://tinyurl.com/77pod59](http://tinyurl.com/77pod59) (“Geologic Time Scale” research interactive)
- [http://biologos.org/questions/cambrian-explosion](http://biologos.org/questions/cambrian-explosion) (“Does the Cambrian Explosion Pose a Challenge to Evolution?”)
- [http://www2.humboldt.edu/natmus/e_LifeThroughTime.html](http://www2.humboldt.edu/natmus/e_LifeThroughTime.html) (Life Through Time Exhibit)
- [https://geologicaltime.wikispaces.com/wiki/changes](https://geologicaltime.wikispaces.com/wiki/changes) (links to all eras)

### Student Resources:
- [http://palaeo.gly.bris.ac.uk/Communication/Willson/climatechange.html](http://palaeo.gly.bris.ac.uk/Communication/Willson/climatechange.html) (Time period and climate interactive)
- [http://www.rocksinmyheadtoo.com/TimeLine.htm](http://www.rocksinmyheadtoo.com/TimeLine.htm) (charts and added links)
- [http://tinyurl.com/77pod59](http://tinyurl.com/77pod59) (“Geologic Time Scale” research interactive)
- [http://www.fossilmuseum.net/Paleobiology/CambrianExplosion.htm](http://www.fossilmuseum.net/Paleobiology/CambrianExplosion.htm) (“The Cambrian Explosion” virtual fossil museum)
## Colorado Teacher-Authored Sample Instructional Unit

**Assessment:**
Students will write a news report on the Cambrian explosion noting environmental factors before and after the ‘explosion’.

**Differentiation:**
(Multiple means for students to access content and multiple modes for student to express understanding.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access (Resources and/or Process)</th>
<th>Expression (Products and/or Performance)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>The student may create an artistic poster describing the Cambrian Explosion, noting environmental factors.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Extensions for depth and complexity:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access (Resources and/or Process)</th>
<th>Expression (Products and/or Performance)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The teacher may provide video equipment.</td>
<td>The student may create a video or digital presentation of a “news show” describing the Cambrian Explosion and its’ environmental factors.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Critical Content:**
- The Cambrian Explosion
- Flora and fauna of each eon

**Key Skills:**
- Describe Earth during each eon.

**Critical Language:**
- Eon, Cambrian Explosion, Hadean, Archean, Proterozoic, Phanerozoic

### Learning Experience # 4

The teacher may lead a discussion around the events that mark the beginning and end of different eras so that students can evaluate the eras in the Phanerozoic eon based on why and how the eras are separated.

**Generalization Connection(s):**
Evidence is used to determine the order of events in geologic time. (SC.09-GR.7-S.3-GLE.2-EO.d)

**Teacher Resources:**
- [http://paleobiology.si.edu/geotime/main](http://paleobiology.si.edu/geotime/main) (Smithsonian great student resource as well click on period for information)
- [http://geneticsrules.weebly.com/geologic-time-scale-brochure-project.html](http://geneticsrules.weebly.com/geologic-time-scale-brochure-project.html) (Instructions, rubric, and sites for a brochure project)
- [http://www.windows2universe.org/earth/geology/hist_paleozoic.html](http://www.windows2universe.org/earth/geology/hist_paleozoic.html) (links to all periods for interactive, graphs, models, and much more)
- [http://tinyurl.com/kzf5abd](http://tinyurl.com/kzf5abd) (color printable timeline with pictures)
- [teachers.henrico.k12.va.us/godwin/strine_r/ghswebpage/geotime.ppt](http://teachers.henrico.k12.va.us/godwin/strine_r/ghswebpage/geotime.ppt) (simple explanation for divisions Power Point)

**Student Resources:**
- [http://paleobiology.si.edu/geotime/main](http://paleobiology.si.edu/geotime/main) (Smithsonian click on period for information)
- [http://palaeanos.com/phanerozoic/phanerozoic.htm](http://palaeanos.com/phanerozoic/phanerozoic.htm) (overview of the Phanerozoic eon)
- [http://tinyurl.com/inj5wr](http://tinyurl.com/inj5wr) ("Biodiversity Flourishes in the Phanerozoic eon" Kahn Academy video")
- [http://www.corzakinteractive.com/earth-life-history/00b_geologic_time.htm](http://www.corzakinteractive.com/earth-life-history/00b_geologic_time.htm) (interactive time line for Phanerozoic eon)

**Assessment:**
Students will create a table of the 3 eras in the Phanerozoic identifying major events that marked the end and beginning of those eras and listing major life forms present during each of those eras.

**Differentiation:**
(Multiple means for students to access content and multiple modes for student to)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access (Resources and/or Process)</th>
<th>Expression (Products and/or Performance)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The teacher may provide a partially completed table (Cloze). The teacher may provide photos of animals that can be pasted</td>
<td>The student may cut and paste photos into the correct eras.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Colorado Teacher-Authored Sample Instructional Unit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extensions for depth and complexity:</th>
<th>Access (Resources and/or Process)</th>
<th>Expression (Products and/or Performance)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="https://www.lucidpress.com/pages/examples/free-brochure-maker-online">https://www.lucidpress.com/pages/examples/free-brochure-maker-online</a> (free brochure maker)</td>
<td>The student may design a brochure on events separating time periods.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Critical Content: | ● The division of the formation of life |
| Key Skills: | ● Distinguish each era in the Phanerozoic Eon. |
| Critical Language: | Eon, era, Cenozoic, Mesozoic, Paleozoic, extinction |

### Learning Experience # 5

The teacher may use various methods to introduce the Paleozoic and Mesozoic Era so the student can begin to understand that life is complex and developed over time through transformation, originating from the oceans to terrestrial life.

#### Generalization Connection(s):
Evidence is used to determine the order of events in geologic time. (SC.09-GR.7-S.3-GLE.2 EO.d)

#### Teacher Resources:
- [http://www.windows2universe.org/earth/geology/hist_paleozoic.html](http://www.windows2universe.org/earth/geology/hist_paleozoic.html) (links to all periods for interactive, graphs, models, and much more)
- [http://palaeos.com/paleozoic/carboniferous/carboniferous.htm](http://palaeos.com/paleozoic/carboniferous/carboniferous.htm) (map, time line, climate, etc.,)
- [http://tinyurl.com/lru4oem](http://tinyurl.com/lru4oem) (Paleozoic animal images)
- [http://tinyurl.com/lzsgqr6](http://tinyurl.com/lzsgqr6) (images for Paleozoic world maps)
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZGzMw0EuU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZGzMw0EuU) (“Physical Geography: Life During the Paleozoic era”)

#### Student Resources:
- [http://fossils.valdosta.edu/era_paleozoic.html](http://fossils.valdosta.edu/era_paleozoic.html) (reading and interactive for paleozoic era)
- [http://www.hhmi.org/biointeractive/day-mesozoic-died](http://www.hhmi.org/biointeractive/day-mesozoic-died) (short video)
- [http://deeptime.info/](http://deeptime.info/) (interactive for complete timeline)
- [http://www.livescience.com/38596-mesozoic-era.html](http://www.livescience.com/38596-mesozoic-era.html) (use as a tutor research resource)
- [http://tinyurl.com/lru4oem](http://tinyurl.com/lru4oem) (Paleozoic animal images)

#### Assessment:
Students will compare ocean life forms to their terrestrial counterparts, detailing the time when each animal would have most likely moved to land and why. The information will be presented in an illustrated short constructed response.

#### Differentiation:
(Multiple means for students to access content and multiple modes for student to express understanding.)
- **Access (Resources and/or Process)**: The teacher may provide resources for the artwork.
- **Expression (Products and/or Performance)**: The student may use clip art or photos.

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**7th Grade, Science**

Unit Title: Geologic Events Through Time
## Extensions for depth and complexity:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access (Resources and/or Process)</th>
<th>Expression (Products and/or Performance)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>The student may create a digital animation or video fulfilling the above requirements.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Critical Content:
- Eras within the Phanerozoic Eon

## Key Skills:
- Identifying key features on a world map.

## Critical Language:
- Terrestrial, Paleozoic, Mesozoic, Cenozoic, marine, Phanerozoic, era, eon

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### Learning Experience # 6

The teacher may provide opportunities to explore cross sections of rock so that student can compare and contrast absolute and relative dating and learn to use direct and indirect evidence to interpret the sequence of events in geologic time.

### Generalization Connection(s):
- Evidence is used to determine the order of events in geologic time
- Geologic time, observed in land formations and rock layers, indicate major change events in Earth’s history

### Teacher Resources:
- [http://tinyurl.com/qcrc34q](http://tinyurl.com/qcrc34q) (Lab to assist with half-life)
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VLBzMvsiYq8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VLBzMvsiYq8) (“Stratigraphic Cross Section-Interpreting the Geology”)
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lbJrvtxWNE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lbJrvtxWNE) (“Milankovitch Cycles”)
- [https://www.classzone.com/books/earth_science/terc/content/investigations/es2903/es2903page02.cfm](https://www.classzone.com/books/earth_science/terc/content/investigations/es2903/es2903page02.cfm) (The Story in the Rock)

### Student Resources:
- [http://tinyurl.com/pvcezm](http://tinyurl.com/pvcezm) (interactive for absolute dating)
- [https://www.sascurruculumpathways.com/portal/Launch?Id=951](https://www.sascurruculumpathways.com/portal/Launch?Id=951) (virtual dating lab requires you to create a free account)
- [http://fossils.valdosta.edu/home_time.html](http://fossils.valdosta.edu/home_time.html) (superposition interactive)
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VLBzMvsiYq8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VLBzMvsiYq8) (“Stratigraphic Cross Section-Interpreting the Geology”)
- [http://tinyurl.com/a5vfl6](http://tinyurl.com/a5vfl6) (“Older than Dirt” Web Quest)

### Assessment:
Students will be given geologic evidence and determine the order in which events happened, supporting their answer based on analysis of absolute and relative dating information. Their reasoning will be presented in a poster.

### Differentiation:
(Multiple means for students to access content and multiple modes for student to express understanding.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access (Resources and/or Process)</th>
<th>Expression (Products and/or Performance)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The teacher may provide a word bank.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Extensions for depth and complexity: **Access (Resources and/or Process)**
Teacher may provide information about the Milankovitch Cycles to allow students to analyze glacial and interglacial periods.
The teacher may discuss uniformitarianism.  

**Expression (Products and/or Performance)**
N/A

Critical Content:
- The Law of Superposition
- Principal of Lateral Continuity
- Principal of Uniformitarianism
- Principle of Inclusion

Key Skills:
- Identifying layers within a cross-section of Earth’s layers.

Critical Language:
Cross-cutting, carbon dating, radiometric dating, isotope, inclusions, intrusion

Learning Experience # 7
The teacher may introduce the concept of geologic columns using samples, videos, or photography so that students can interpret and analyze data from the fossil record to support claims that life and the environment on earth has changed over time.

Generalization Connection(s):
Evidence is used to determine the order of events in geologic time. (SC.09-GR.7-S.3-GLE.2-EO.d)

Teacher Resources:
- http://www.nps.gov/colm/learn/education/upload/Teachers-Guide_geology.pdf (geology lessons to include geologic columns)
- https://teacherweb.com/MA/Abington/MrsPeruzzi/ATripThroughGeologicTime.ppt (A Trip Through Geologic Time Power Point)
- http://tinyurl.com/lcbrain98 (“How Do You Stack Up-Geologic Column” pictures, labs activity, etc.,)
- http://tinyurl.com/l3to32 (“10 Labs in Earth History and Geologic Time”)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XaEyUwEAGqQ (“The Geologic Column” video)
- http://www.wasdarwinright.com/geologicalcolumn.htm (The Geologic Column-Was Darwin Right?)

Student Resources:
- http://www.amnh.org/ology/features/layersoftime/ (Layers of Time Fossil Game)
- http://foms.johnston.k12.nc.us/cms/One.aspx?portalId=3025912&pageId=4793936 (Relative dating interactive)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EadTLGMu3LI (“Law of Superposition” video)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6DH8PSG9_Q (“Index Fossils” video)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fx3BqQ4zDE (“How to Date a Dead Organism” video)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cpnixlDVMw (”Radiometric Dating” video)

Assessment:
The student will create a short constructed response to explain (based on evidence from rock layers) how the geologic time scale is used to organize Earth’s history. Concepts that should be included:
- Law of Superposition
- Index fossils
- Carbon and radiometric dating
## Colorado Teacher-Authored Sample Instructional Unit

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Differentiation: (Multiple means for students to access content and multiple modes for student to express understanding.)</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The teacher may provide a Cloze paragraph discussing rock layers as they relate to geologic time.</td>
<td>The student may orally present their understanding of the above concepts.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extensions for depth and complexity:</th>
<th>Access (Resources and/or Process)</th>
<th>Expression (Products and/or Performance)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>The student may detail their comprehension of the above concepts via digital presentation (i.e. PowerPoint, Prezi, animated video)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Critical Content:
- The Law of Superposition
- Absolute and Relative Dating

### Key Skills:
- Interpret data to date fossilized remains
- Chronological sequencing of events/fossils

### Critical Language:
- Geologic column, interpret, sequence

### Learning Experience # 8

The teacher may allow for exploration of various fossils so that students can describe how fossils are formed and identify the different types of fossils.

### Generalization Connection(s):
Evidence is used to determine the order of events in geologic time.

### Teacher Resources:
- [http://nature.nps.gov/geology/nationalfossilday/activities.cfm](http://nature.nps.gov/geology/nationalfossilday/activities.cfm) (includes multiple labs, activities, etc.)
- [http://fossils.valdosta.edu/home_time.html](http://fossils.valdosta.edu/home_time.html) (interactive on fossils)
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SStMSvilyjk4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SStMSvilyjk4) (Bill Nye “Fossils”)
- [http://tinyurl.com/m6j7bxd](http://tinyurl.com/m6j7bxd) (images of fossils)
- [http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/fossils](http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/fossils) (“Prehistoric Life”)

### Student Resources:
- [http://fossils.valdosta.edu/home_time.html](http://fossils.valdosta.edu/home_time.html) (interactive on fossils)
- [http://nature.nps.gov/geology/nationalfossilday/activities.cfm](http://nature.nps.gov/geology/nationalfossilday/activities.cfm) (Multiple projects but for this scroll down to “Meet My Fossil”)
- [http://coloradogeologicalsurvey.org/education/free-stuff/](http://coloradogeologicalsurvey.org/education/free-stuff/) (Free Colorado maps and other Colorado geologic resources as well)
- [http://tinyurl.com/m6j7bxd](http://tinyurl.com/m6j7bxd) (images of fossils)
- [http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/fossils](http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/fossils) (“Prehistoric Life”)

### Assessment:
Students will re-create three types of fossil formation using Play-Dough, the process by which each fossil was formed. Students will creatively present these as if they are exhibits in a museum. Choices include:
- Freezing
### Colorado Teacher-Authored Sample Instructional Unit

#### Differentiation:
(Multiple means for students to access content and multiple modes for student to express understanding.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access (Resources and/or Process)</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| The teacher may assign a method of fossil formation to each student. | The student may create fewer fossil models.  
The student may orally present their understanding of the formation of fossils.  
The student may present information via digital format, diorama or visual display (i.e. artwork). |

#### Extensions for depth and complexity:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access (Resources and/or Process)</th>
<th>Expression (Products and/or Performance)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The teacher may provide additional raw materials so that students may create other fossil models (e.g. sand, ice/freezer)</td>
<td>The students may model additional methods of fossil formation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Critical Content:
- Formation of fossils

#### Key Skills:
- Describe how fossils can form in different ways
- Identify different types of fossil
- Sequence the steps of fossils forming in rock
- Describe how scientists study fossils

#### Critical Language:
- Fossilization, petrification, mummification, amber, tar, entombment, decomposition, mold, cast, trace, true form, organism, fossil, mineral replacement

### Learning Experience # 9

The teacher may lead a Socratic seminar discussing how the past is used to tell a story about the present so that students can model how fossil evidence contributes to understanding of life on Earth over time.

| Generalization Connection(s): | Evidence is used to determine the order of events in geologic time.  
Geologic time, observed in land formations and rock layers, indicate major change events in Earth’s history |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|

**Teacher Resources:**

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQ91AxUqHck](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQ91AxUqHck) (“Planet Earth 100 Million Years Into The Future-What Will Happen To Our Earth” with human impact toward ending for optional Socratic prompt)

**Student Resources:**

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVJ8ILNzRKg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVJ8ILNzRKg) (video: Socratic seminar basics for students)

**Assessment:**

Students will construct a brief essay evaluating key questions discussed during the Socratic seminar and provide evidence supporting each key question.

**Differentiation:**
(Multiple means for students to access content and multiple)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access (Resources and/or Process)</th>
<th>Expression (Products and/or Performance)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The teacher may provide questions to prompt thoughtful scientific answers.</td>
<td>The students may video themselves discussing the topics discussed during the seminar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extensions for depth and complexity:</td>
<td>Access (Resources and/or Process)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Critical Content:</th>
<th>Fossil Formation</th>
<th>Geologic Time Divisions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Key Skills:</td>
<td>Interpret fossil evidence</td>
<td>Analyze data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Defending a hypothesis using scientific data</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Critical Language:</th>
<th>Evidence, analyze, interpret, hypothesis, theory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>