Classroom Activity

10 Big Question: How did life evolve on Earth?

Evolution

Scientists study the evolution of life by looking at similarities between different organisms. By comparing DNA sequences, some surprising evolutionary relationships have been discovered.

Did you know:

- Turtles are more closely related to birds than they are to snakes and lizards.
- Bats and whales are more closely related than bats and mice.
- Strawberries are more closely related to roses than they are to blackberries or raspberries.

Online Resources:

(Great introductory website for everyone — Evolution 101)
http://evolution.berkeley.edu/evolibrary/article/evo_01

(Extensive guide for teachers)
http://evolution.berkeley.edu/evolibrary/teach/index.php

This classroom activity was suggested by Kieren Mitchell, PhD student with the Australian Centre for Ancient DNA, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Adelaide.