

World of Wonder

Educational Standards and Suggested Activities

Release week March 14, 2010: Fossils, Part 2

Standards

- *Current Events*: Students will create a current-events timeline.
- *Science*: Students will report on the possible causes of two prehistoric mass extinctions.
- *Science*: Students will watch videos about Earth's geologic and biological timeline, and then create their own timeline.

Activities

1. *Use the News*: Make a timeline of current events. Read the newspaper over a period of time, such as a week, month or year. Briefly summarize major events (clip photos if possible). Finally, organize a large timeline of these news articles on the bulletin board. Individuals, student groups or the whole class can perform this activity.
2. What could have caused the two mass extinctions that scientists believe occurred at the end of the Permian and Cretaceous periods? What happened to the dinosaurs? Could another disaster occur again? Research and report on this topic with the class.
3. A geologic/biological timeline of Earth's developmental history gives us perspective on our own lives. Here is a video that condenses billions of years of change into a few minutes:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Ra9lwKn75s&feature=related>. Be sure to note the people who created the video: Are they members of a scientific organization or students voicing their opinions? (Note to the teacher: The end of the video features a brief advertisement.) Search for other sources online. To continue this activity, collect information about Earth's history, and make a timeline in the form of a drawing, PowerPoint presentation, video, poster, bulletin board, etc.

World of Wonder meets many state educational standards. This guide helps teachers identify standards and related activities generally intended for Grade 6, but teachers can modify activities to the appropriate grade level.