

Biology > Big idea BVE: Variation, adaptation and evolution > Topic BVE1: Variation

Progression toolkit: Changes in species over time – fossil evidence

Learning focus	The fossil record provides evidence that species change over time, but it is incomplete and there are limitations to the conclusions that can be drawn from it.				
As students' conceptual understanding progresses they can:					
As students' conceptual understanding progresses they can:	Recall that fossils provide evidence about organisms from long ago and their habitats. P	Recall that fossils are between ten thousand and billions of years old.	Recognise that all fossils are the mineralised remains of once-living organisms or of traces left behind by once-living organisms.	Explain how the fossil record provides evidence that species change over time.	Explain why there are limitations to the conclusions and explanations that can be made from fossil evidence.
Diagnostic questions	How do we know? What can we learn from fossils?	How old are fossils? Billions of years	Could it become a fossil?	The fossil record	<i>Archaeopteryx</i>
Response activities	The year of life		Fossilisation		<i>Stegosaurus</i>

Key:

P Prior understanding from earlier stages of learning

B Bridge to later stages of learning

