

Unit 1: What is Big History?

Driving Question: Why do we look at things from far away and close up?

Unit Description: Where do we come from? What's the future going to look like? These are the big questions that Big History tries to answer, and you'll each probably come up with a different answer by the end of the year. Before we get exploring those questions, we need to know the basics. Where do other cultures think we came from? Where do our individual timelines fit into the timelines of the entire universe? And more!

By the end of the unit, you should understand and be able to:

- Explain what Big History is.
- Compare and contrast the origin stories of different cultures (including your own)
- Demonstrate how different disciplines can contribute to our understanding of different topics.
- Interpret timelines, and make your own timeline.
- Explain the concept of scale.
- Define "thresholds" and list the thresholds that we'll be looking at this year.
- Use the "three reads" method of reading texts.

Key Vocabulary

| Vocab Word | Definition |
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