

THE EVOLUTION OF MULTICELLULAR LIFE

Life - From the First Organism Onward



Lesson overview

Nearly 80% of Earth's history passed before multicellular life evolved. Up until then, all organisms existed as single cells. Why did multicellular organisms evolve? What led up to this major step in the evolution of life? To put the evolution of multicellularity in context, let's return to what was happening on planet Earth during this part of its history.

Learning objectives

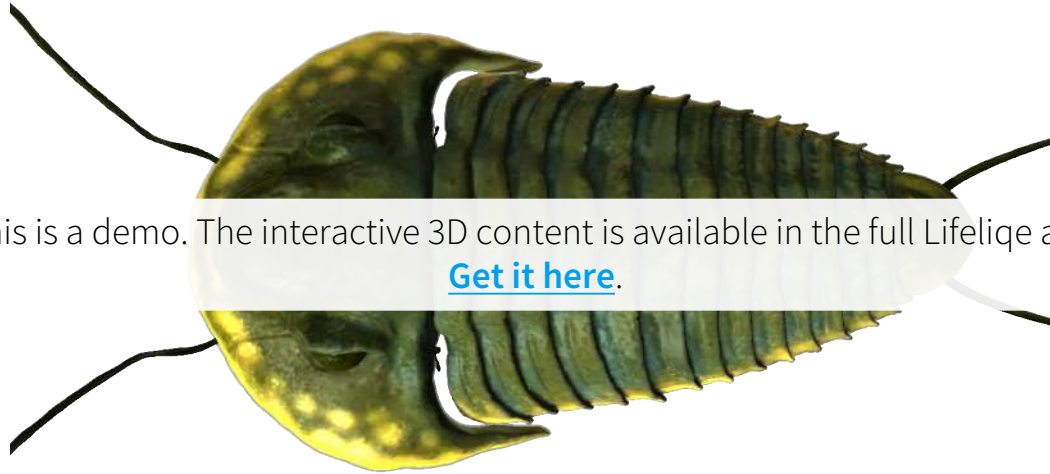
- Describe important events of the late Precambrian.
- Give an overview of evolution during the Paleozoic Era.
- Explain why the Mesozoic Era is called the age of the dinosaurs.
- Outline the main evolutionary events of the Cenozoic Era.

Keywords

Cambrian Explosion, Cenozoic Era, Mass Extinction, Mesozoic Era, Paleozoic Era, Permian Extinction



ENGAGE



This is a demo. The interactive 3D content is available in the full Lifelique app.

[Get it here.](#)

Study the 3D model “**Trilobite**” in the Lifelique **Animal Biology** library. Then, formulate answers to these questions:

- *When do you think this organism first appeared on Earth?*
- *What caused it to disappear?*

EXPLORE



Read “The Evolution of Multicellular Life.”

www.ck12.org/section/The-Evolution-of-Multicellular-Life...

EXPLAIN



Study to the 360o projections “**Ecosystem from the Triassic Period**,” “**Ecosystem from the Jurassic Period**,” and “**Ecosystem from the Cretaceous Period**” in the Lifelique **Paleontology** library. Then, formulate answers to these questions:

- *How are these ecosystems similar?*
- *What is most remarkable about their differences?*





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EXTEND / ELABORATE



Take what you have learned and see it in authentic contexts.

Read and view “Blue Blood.”

www.ck12.org/biology/Late-Precambrian-Period/rwa/Blue-Blood

EVALUATE



Take the following quiz to assess what you have learned.

“The Evolution of Multicellular Life”

www.ck12.org/section/The-Evolution-of-Multicellular...

