

Threshold 1: The Big Bang and the moment of origin

Threshold 2: The stars light up

Threshold 3: A chemically enriched Universe

Threshold 4: The formation of planets

Threshold 5: Life on Earth

Threshold 6: Collective learning

Threshold 7: Agriculture

Threshold 8: The modern revolution

THRESHOLDS OF INCREASING COMPLEXITY

14 billion years ago

5 billion years ago

1 billion years ago

1 million years ago

5000 years ago

1000 years ago

Today

Stars die and create heavier elements

The first stars and galaxies

Hydrogen and Helium form

The Big Bang

The first eukaryotes

Photosynthesis

Life appears

Our solar system forms

Hominines appear

Asteroid Impact triggers extinction

Dinosaurs and mammals appear

Life leaves the sea

First brains develop

Cambrian explosion

Multi-celled organisms

Cities and states

Agricultural communities appear

Humans appear, learning collectively

Big History project born

The Anthropocene

Global connection

BIG HISTORY PROJECT