

# ORGANIZING ORGANISMS

GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE:  
S5L1a,b; S7L1a,b; SB4a

TENNESSEE ACADEMIC STANDARDS:  
5.LS4:1; 7.LS1:4; BIO2.LS4:4,5

## 5th + 7th Grade, High School



## DESCRIPTION

What can we use to understand and classify life on Earth? Students will actively classify different organisms. They will also learn how to use a dichotomous key and use it to identify actual fossil specimens.

### FIELD TRIP - APPROXIMATELY 2 HOURS

#### 30 MINUTES - GALLERY TIME

- Describe fossils and explain how fossils are formed and are dated
- Classify ancient life and apply the taxonomic hierarchy to fossils on display in the gallery

#### 30 MINUTES - STORE

#### 30 MINUTES - LAB

- Define classification
- Classify different forms of life
- Define a dichotomous key and how it is used
- Utilize a dichotomous key to classify genuine fossils

#### 30 MINUTES - FOSSIL DIG

#### TAKE HOME ITEMS

- Keep 3 items excavated from the Fossil Dig

### VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP - APPROXIMATELY 1 HOUR

- Definition of different types of fossils with fossil samples
- Classification Activity
- Why a dichotomous key is important
- Why was the Brontosaurus reclassified?
- Careers in Paleontology
- Q + A with a Tellus Educator

#### PRE + POST ACTIVITIES CURRICULUM PACKET

- Vocabulary Activity
- Pre-recorded Video
- Scavenger hunt (use with video)
- Dichotomous Key Activity (use with video)