

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

Our solar system forms

Life appears

Photosynthesis

The first eukaryotes

Life leaves the sea

First brains develop

Cambrian explosion

Multi-celled organisms

Dinosaurs and mammals appear

Asteroid impact triggers extinction

Homonines appear

Humans appear, learning collectively

Agricultural communities appear

Cities and states

Global connection

The Anthropocene

Big History project born

### BIG HISTORY PROJECT