



Figure 1. Approximate timing of major events in the history of life on earth

Molecular Science & Bioinformatics – connecting past with present

Questions:

1. The early cells: Looks? Genetics? Genomes (plastic vs specialised) Physiology? Metabolism?
2. The early cells were microbes – Did they impact evolution?
3. The early cells - Can they still exist today? Why not?
4. The early cells – Can we recreate them today?
5. Microbes are small - Are they impacting evolution today? How?

Our understanding of life is based on the technology available to us at the time. Technology advances and so does our understanding (facts / hypothesis) – keep an open mind (debate knowledge not emotion).

In MAM, we will try and connect the past with the present with a view to predicting the future using evolutionary / comparative biology tools and findings. We will also use examples of bioinformatics tools useful in improving outcomes in Biotechnology.