

## MY UNIVERSE STORY (TIMELINE)

1. **The Great Radiance** (the “Big Bang”) happens, and our Universe is born.
2. **Galaxies** form, and small galaxies merge into bigger galaxies (like our Milky Way).
3. **Stars** begin to squeeze hydrogen gas into helium, then carbon and calcium and more.
4. **Our Sun** is born after ancestor stars explode and enrich the galaxy with stardust atoms.
5. **Earth** and the other planets form from stardust that swirls into ever bigger clumps.
6. **Earth’s moon** is born when a giant meteor splatters a big chunk of Earth into orbit.
7. **Rain** falls for the first time when Earth cools; then the rain gathers into **oceans**.
8. **Life** begins in the ocean when ancestors of bacteria find ways to eat stardust.
9. **Animals** such as sponges and jellyfish (and, later, clams and fish) evolve in the oceans.
10. **Plants** begin to grow on land when algae (seaweed) evolves ways to survive in dry air.
11. **Amphibians** (like salamanders) evolve from fish who learned to crawl and breathe air.
12. **Insects** evolve wings and become the first creatures to fly.
13. **Trees** grow tall when plants discover how to fill their stems with sturdy cells of wood.
14. **Dinosaurs** evolve and some grow long necks to eat leaves high up in trees.
15. **Reptiles** return to the sea and become mosasaurs, plesiosaurs, and ichthyosaurs.
16. **A giant meteor** strikes Earth; dinosaurs, ammonites, and marine reptiles go extinct.
17. **Turtles** survive the meteor by sleeping in mud; then comes The Golden Age of Turtles.
18. **Little mammals** survive the meteor in burrows; then they diversify into many kinds.
19. **Primates** live in the trees and evolve fingers and toes to hold onto branches.
20. **Grasses** evolve underground stems so that cows (and lawnmowers) can’t hurt them.
21. **Humans** evolve when primates in Africa learn how to walk on grasslands and to talk.
22. **The Ice Age** begins, and humans learn how to make **fire** to cook food and keep warm.
23. **Dogs** are adopted by humans to help them track down animals to hunt.
24. **Cats** are adopted by farmers who need to keep mice and rats away from stored grain.
25. **Horses** are adopted by humans to give us a ride, haul heavy things, and plow fields.
26. **Humans** learn to cooperate in bigger and bigger cities and we learn how to read.
27. **I am born** and now I am learning the story of all that came before.
28. **What will my future be?** And what role will I play in this Universe Story?