

## SCoPE Site Lesson Plan

**Title:** Lesson 2—Stories in the Rocks (SC090202)

**Abstract**

Students examine evidence from the fossil record, beginning with the earliest observations of Smith and Hutton. They infer the potential and limitations of evidence from fossils.

**Subject Area:** Science

**Grade Level and Course Title:** Ninth Grade/Biology

**Unit of Study:** Taxonomy of Evolution

**Benchmarks**

- Gather and synthesize information about evolution from books and other sources of information (I.1.HS.4).
- Describe some general limitations of scientific knowledge about natural selection (II.1.HS.2).
- Discuss the historical development of key scientific concepts and principles related to evolution (II.1.HS.4).

**Key Concept**

speciation

**Instructional Resources**

Equipment/Manipulative

Fossils (*Hexagonaria*, brachiopods, horn corals, bryozoans and ammonites from Michigan Devonian strata recommended)  
Sand or fine, dry soil

Student Resource

Maes, Alison, and Juliana Texley. *Unit 2 Lesson 2 Student Pages*. Teacher-made material. Lansing, MI: Michigan Department of Treasury, 2004.

Teacher Resource

*Burgess Shale Fossil Bed*. 1996. Starry Messenger Communications. 4 February 2004  
<<http://www.scienceweb.org/burgess.html>>.

*James Hutton: Theology and Geology*. 4 February 2004  
<<http://www1.umn.edu/ships/religion/hutton.htm>>.

Maes, Alison, and Juliana Texley. *Grade 9 Unit 2 Teacher Background*. Teacher-made material. Lansing, MI: Michigan Department of Treasury, 2004.