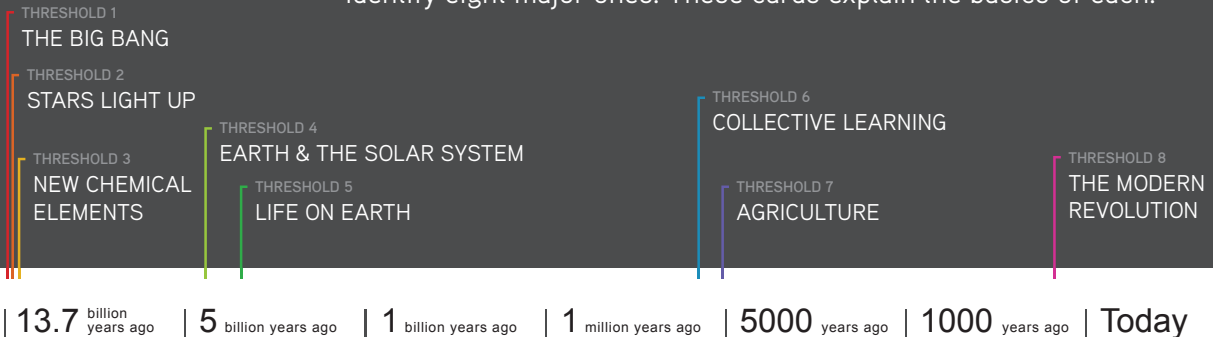


THRESHOLDS OF INCREASING COMPLEXITY

Increasing complexity is one of big history's main themes. That's because throughout the Universe's long history, more and more complex things have appeared in some surprising ways. Each new form built upon existing ones when conditions were just right. We call these events "thresholds of increasing complexity." You can find many of them throughout history. In this course we identify eight major ones. These cards explain the basics of each.



THRESHOLDS OF INCREASING COMPLEXITY

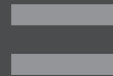
INGREDIENTS

All new forms of complexity build upon previous forms. This section identifies the main components that had to exist at a particular threshold in order to create something entirely new.



GOLDBLOCKS CONDITIONS

Having the right ingredients isn't enough to create new forms of complexity. Conditions also need to be "just right" to trigger the change. This section identifies what those conditions were.



NEW COMPLEXITY

Each threshold results in entirely new things that are more complex than anything before. This section identifies what those are. They'll always have more diverse components that, when arranged in precise ways, contain "emergent" properties unlike any others in existence.