Module 1 – Origin and evolution of life

Student:	

How did life appear?

Origin and Evolution of Life

Everything began. Pre-Cambrian: It started about 4.6 billion years ago. The Earth was formed at the beginning of this era. The air was very toxic. The first one-celled living beings appeared, and then multicelled and more complex beings. They lived in water.

Paleozoic: It was a time of great changes in the planet and it is subdivided into six periods:

- Cambrian: First shellfish, primitive fish, corals, algae and mollusks were dominant in the oceans.
- Ordovician: First land plants and initial fish appeared.
- Silurian: First insects emerged and more plants were on land.
- Devonian: The first sharks appeared, as well as bony fish. Amphibians and spiders and the first terrestrial forests started colonizing land.
- Carboniferous: The first reptiles and insects with wings appeared on land.
- Permian: Diverse animal and plant life appeared, and reptiles diversified. Then there was a mass extinction.

Interesting Facts

Oxygen was not always present on our planet as it is now. In the beginning, toxic gases were all around and some primitive bacteria lived and developed in that environment. Ancient cyanobacteria appeared and released oxygen into the environment for so long and formed the atmosphere. This caused other primitive bacteria to die. It was the beginning of photosynthesis.

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Select TRUE or FALSE according to the information in the reading.

The environment in the Pre-Cambrian Era had oxygen at the beginning.	TRUE	FALSE
The first living things that appeared were cyanobacteria.	TRUE	FALSE
Amphibians appeared before fish.	TRUE	FALSE
Plants first emerged in water.	TRUE	FALSE
The first fish appeared during the Devonian period.	TRUE	FALSE