

Student Sheet

Name _____
Period _____

Title: Biotech Timeline

Introduction: **Biotechnology** is a field of biology that involves the use of living things in engineering, technology, medicine, and food production. It includes procedures for modifying living organisms according to human purposes, going back to domestication of animals, cultivation of plants and improvements to these through breeding program and artificial selection and hybridization. Like all scientific endeavors, human knowledge about biotechnology has accumulated over time. In this activity, you will see what events have shaped our current understandings in this field.

Materials: 4 meter adding machine tape (on wall), Historical Events in Biotechnology Handout, 10 post-it notes

Procedures:

1. Skim the “Historical Events in Biotechnology” and look for common elements as time goes by (strands). For example: new words had to be created to describe new discoveries.
2. Discuss with your group the strand that you picked. Make sure you all know what you will look for in the reading.
3. Go back to the reading and read carefully. Write in your data 10 events that you have chosen for your strand.
4. Copy the date and a short description on the post-it note. Draw a picture if possible. If there are words you do not know, look them up in your book or online.
5. Be prepared to trace your work on the timeline for the class.

Data:

Date	Discovery

Analysis:

1. What is biotechnology?

2. Describe two ways biotechnology has made life better for people:

3. Why do some people find biotechnology threatening?

4. Issac Newton wrote a famous letter to Robert Hooke in February 1676:
It said: "If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants". It is
accepted that "seen further" refers to Newton's numerous scientific accomplishments.
Who were the giants?

Conclusion: