**What is Big History: video**

**Key Ideas—Factual**

1. David Christian emphasizes the importance of questions in the course. What are some of the questions he identifies?
2. What is Big History?
3. What kinds of questions did David Christian ask as a result of his thinking about the teaching of one country’s history? How did these questions lead him back to the origins of the Universe?
4. What are origin stories?
5. What is Big History? (Yes, this is a repeat of the second question. David Christian defines Big History twice in the video – that’s how important it is!)
6. What are “thresholds of increasing complexity”?

**Conceptual Thinking**

In the video, Christian talks about how the modern day origin story isn’t perfect. We keep learning new information about the world, and as a result, we have to keep adjusting what we know, and we have to adjust our stories, as well. So, things that we think to be true today may no longer be true after new evidence comes along. For example, even though Christian says in the video that the Universe is 13.7 billion years old, recent discoveries have led scientists to believe that the Universe is actually 13.8 billion years old. (A minor detail, you think? The difference—one tenth of a billion—is a very large number. If you have a spare minute, figure out just how large.) Does knowing this—that even our modern day origin story is always evolving—change your thinking about how history works and how we understand the past? Explain.