

Taxonomy Unit 5

5:1a Evolution of Major Plant Groups

- Before discussing plant evolution it is important to gain some appreciation for geologic time.
- Scientists who deal with geologic time must accustom themselves to thinking in terms of millions and billions.
- It is difficult to grasp such large numbers.
 - All one can do is focus on powers of ten that are more familiar.



- To most of us a hundred dollars is a substantial amount of money.
- Imagine someone giving you a hundred dollar bill – you would be quite pleased!
- Now imagine the improbability of nine more people lining up to give you another \$100 each.

5:1b Evolution of Major Plant Groups

- You would now have a thousand dollars.
- Receiving \$100 would no doubt be cause to consider this a very good day. A thousand dollars would be incredible!
- Now imagine this unlikely scenario playing out a thousand times. You would have a million dollars.
- Ten thousand people would have to give you a \$100 bill.
- If you are comfortable with the size of the number one million, consider a billion.
- Ten million people would have to give you a \$100 bill before you would have a billion dollars.

