**Objective: (Standard 14):** Life can be organized in a functional and structural hierarchy ranging from cells to the biosphere.

**Activity:**

For each level of hierarchy...I make up a large card from poster board with magnets on the back so that it will stick to my board.

Ex:

| ATOM | MOLECULE | ORGANELLE | CELL | TISSUE |

First I place the cards (atom → organism)....randomly on the board. Then I instruct the class...that a volunteer is needed to come up to the board...and place the cards in order from simplest (smallest) to most complex (largest). I compare this activity to a game on the "Price Is Right"...and call the student volunteer a “contestant”....and just like the audience helps the contestants on the “Price is Right” show....the audience is also allowed to help the “contestant” today. Students are only given about 30 seconds to place the cards in order...with the class calling out answers to help. We keep having contestants come up to the board until the correct order is found.

Afterwards I go over the terms...usually a visual (power point or overhead transparency) to explain each term.

Then we repeat this activity again...but the terms on the cards are: Organism, Population, Community, Ecosystem, and Biosphere. After which I again go over the terms using a visual (power point or overhead transparency)

This is a simple activity....but each year that I do this activity....I actually have students tell me that it was a GOOD activity....fun and they learned from it. I also noticed that they retain this information well ...when reviewing at the end of the year....all students seem to remember and have a very good grasp on this concept.