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Protein Electrophoresis Worksheet

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Post-Lab Questions

1. Scientists create samples using proteins with a known molecular weight (kDa) to help control for variability introduced during electrophoresis. The molecular weight of the unknown protein samples can be determined by comparing the location of the unknown protein band to that of the known protein. In the figure below, determine the molecular weight of the three unknown samples by comparing them to the protein marker in lane 1.

kDa	Protein marker	Unknown 1	Unknown 2	Unknown 3
10				
30				
50				
70				
90				

2. Slight changes in the DNA sequence cause changes in the resulting protein. Often times the protein change includes a change to the molecular weight in the protein. How can this fact be used to trace evolutionary changes in a protein?