



Topic: Natural Selection and Evidence Worksheet

Summary: Students match natural selection and evidence of evolution vocabulary terms with their definitions.

Goals & Objectives: Students will be able to define key words for natural selection and evidence of evolution.

NGSS Standards:

HS-LS4-1. Communicate scientific information that common ancestry and biological evolution are supported by multiple lines of empirical evidence.

HS-LS4-2. Construct an explanation based on evidence that the process of evolution primarily results from four factors: (1) the potential for a species to increase in number, (2) the heritable genetic variation of individuals in a species due to mutation and sexual reproduction, (3) competition for limited resources, and (4) the proliferation of those organisms that are better able to survive and reproduce in the environment.

Time Length: 15 minutes

Materials:

- Class textbook
- Photocopied worksheets
- Pencils or pens

Procedures:

1. Tell the students which section they are to use in the textbook. Students are then going to read the section and answer the questions on the worksheet.

Accommodations:

Give students with a modification IEP two free answers per section. Students with an IEP can take the handout home if they need extra time.

Editable DOCX File and Answer Key:

Available at www.ngsslifescience.com

Natural Selection & Evidence of Evolution WSNatural Selection: Write the letter of the correct definition in the blank space on the left.

1. _____ adaptation a) inherited characteristic that increases chances of survival
2. _____ competition b) organisms with traits well suited to their environment survive and reproduce at a greater rate than less well-adapted organisms in the same environment.
3. _____ natural selection c) a growing population causes a scarcity of resources
4. _____ fitness d) changes in the DNA sequences
5. _____ variation e) ability to survive and reproduce in a specific environment.

Evolutionary Evidence: Write the letter of the correct definition in the blank space on the left.

6. _____ vestigial structure a) remains of dead organisms
7. _____ homologous structures b) similarities and differences in amino acid sequences between organisms.
8. _____ DNA sequence c) related organisms have the same bone makeup.
9. _____ fossil record d) in the early stages of development dogs, pigs, and humans resemble one another.
10. _____ embryology e) structures that have reduced in size because they no longer serve an important function

Fill in the blank using the vocabulary terms in the box.

variation biodiversity genotype	natural selection common ancestor phenotype	adaptation isolation interbreed
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Natural selection could not occur without (11) _____ and acts on a(n) (12) _____. A trait that makes a species better suited to survive in its environment is called a(n) (13) _____. A species is an organism that has different features and cannot (14) _____ with other organisms. All the evolutionary evidence including fossils point to organisms having a(n) (15) _____. Having a lot of different species living in a habitat is called (16) _____.

What are the four principles of natural selection?