

# Natural Selection Project



The slow process of evolution: Take 8

Design an organism that changes over time due to natural selection. It might be a fish, a plant, a dog, or even something extinct like a dinosaur. You can research a specific organism or create an imaginary one of your own. Since natural selection takes many generations to change, so think of your organism as taking a very long period of time to adapt.

Begin at the early stage of your organism. Draw what your organism looks like. Explain its environment – Where does it live, what does it eat, does it have predators, etc?

Add an event to your organism’s environment such as a drought, fire, flood, disruption to the food web, etc. Explain how your organism was able to survive. Now draw how your organism changed.

Add two more environmental events and two adaptations. Explain what happened in the environment and why and how the organism adapted to the changes.

At the end you should have four different pictures of your organism in its environment and three explanations for why the adaptations occurred. Illustrate your pictures and descriptions on a poster.

## Rubric

CATEGORY	8 – 7 A	6 – 5 B	4 – 3 C	2 – 1 D	0 F
<b>Writing - Vocabulary</b>	All four stages are described using correct vocabulary	Only three stages are described using correct vocabulary.	Only two stages are described using correct vocabulary.	Only one stage is described using correct vocabulary.	The student does not reach a standard indicated by any of the descriptors.
<b>Graphics/ Pictures</b>	Three pictures show an accurate adaptation based on environment change	Two pictures show an accurate adaptation based on environment change	One picture shows an accurate adaptation based on environment change	Adaptations are illustrated but are not accurate based on environment change	No adaptations are illustrated
<b>Knowledge Gained</b>	All stages are accurately described.	Three of the stages are accurately described.	Two of the stages are accurately described.	One of the stages is accurately described.	There are no written/typed descriptions.
<b>Attractiveness &amp; Organization</b>	The poster has exceptionally attractive formatting and well-organized information.	The poster has attractive formatting and well-organized information.	The poster has well-organized information.	The poster formatting and organization of material are confusing to the reader.	The student does not reach a standard indicated by any of the descriptors.