U.S. BIOLOGY TEACHING
Save Time, Engage Students, Love Teaching

Name:_____Date:_____ Period:_____

Organism Evolution Research Project

In this activity you will choose an organism and evaluate the organism's evolutionary history. As you conduct your, research you will complete the data collection table below to help keep you organized.

When you are done with the research you will organize your thoughts and communicate the information you learned through the presentation. You can choose from a traditional video, animation, screencast, PowerPoint or another method, if approved by your teacher.

Choosing your organism for research: You may want to have a couple of choices in mind since some information may be difficult to find if the organism you choose is not well researched.

What is the common name of the organism that you are going to research?

_____

What is the Latin name? _____

Be sure to keep track of your sources since you will need to cite them. See rubric and last page of this document.

What are some of the most recent ancestors of the organism you are researching? Search for the phylogenetic tree or a cladogram of the organism. Be sure to analyze it and include a discussion about the shared characteristic in your presentation.

Note: The rubric requires a graphic of the phylogenetic tree or cladogram in your presentation. You can find one or create one.

HS-LS4-1. What evidence supports your organism having the ancestor(s) you described above?

HS-LS4-3 What advantageous heritable trait(s) does the organism have that has resulted in organisms with the trait to increase in proportion to organisms lacking this trait?

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Be Sure to find a graphic to include in your presentation that shows the trait.
There are several types of speciation (allopatric, peripatric, parapatric, sympatric and artificial). Based your research, what type(s) of speciation occurred that resulted in the organism as it is today? Provide evidence for your claim.
HSLS 4-5 Based on your research what types of selective or environmental pressures does/did your organism face? Be sure to include a picture or graphic in your presentation.
HS-LS2-8 Does the organism you researched engage in a group or individual behavior that increases the chances for the individual or species to survive and reproduce?

What types genetic variation exist in individuals in the species due to mutation and sexual reproduction?

What competition exists/ed for limited resources for your organism?

What makes your organism better able to survive and reproduce in the environment.

References:

Teacher Notes: You can access the rubric and editable versions of this document in the USBT Members Area at: https://www.usbiologyteaching.com/members-area/

The USBT Members Area has everything you need for the entire year of teaching Biology. The content is update regularly and there are hundred of other teachers working together using the same Biology Curriculum.