

## Teacher Notes- “Word Adaptation”

Sometimes the hardest thing to do is provide a good example. Next time you cover evolution, try out this activity that gives students a firsthand experience with change over time.

LIKE EVOLUTION	UN-LIKE EVOLUTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Change over time</li><li>• Gradual; 1 change at a time</li><li>• New species emerged</li><li>• Resemblance to “ancestors”</li><li>• Relative dating</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Too fast- variations may not appear for millions of generations</li><li>• Not random; you chose</li><li>• Every change was beneficial (most are neutral)</li><li>• Evolution is not linear</li></ul>

1. Have students take out a sheet of notebook paper.

2. Title the paper “Word Adaptation” and number from 1-8. This is available as a handout (see last page).

### Word Adaptation

1. Take out a clean sheet of paper
2. Number from 1-8

3. Have students write the word “Car” on line 1. You can start with a different word if you want.

This is available as a PowerPoint (see last page).

4. Change 1 letter in the word “Car” (ex.- “cat”, “bar”) and write the new word on line 2. Changes also adding or subtracting letter (ex. “Care”).

### Word Adaptation

1. Take out a clean sheet of paper
2. Number from 1-8
3. Write “Car” on line 1
4. Make a new word on line 2 by:
  - Changing 1 letter,
  - Adding 1 letter, or
  - Subtracting 1 letter
5. Continue forming new words by making 1 change at a time.

5. Continue making new words until line 8, with each line just 1 letter

different than the previous.

6. Give students a chance to share their word adaptations. Some are very clever!

7. With that activity fresh in their minds, let's see how much it resembles evolution. Have students set up a T-chart on their paper as shown.

<b>Word Adaptation</b>	
<b>LIKE EVOLUTION</b>	<b>UN-LIKE EVOLUTION</b>

8. On the "Like" side, put these down. Add any others you want.

<b>Word Adaptation</b>	
<b>LIKE EVOLUTION</b>	<b>UN-LIKE EVOLUTION</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Change over time</li><li>• Gradual; 1 change at a time</li><li>• New species emerged</li><li>• Resemblance to "ancestors"</li><li>• Relative dating</li></ul>	

9. On the “Un-Like” side put these down. Add any others you want.

## Word Adaptation

LIKE EVOLUTION	UN-LIKE EVOLUTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change over time</li> <li>• Gradual; 1 change at a time</li> <li>• New species emerged</li> <li>• Resemblance to “ancestors”</li> <li>• Relative dating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too fast- variations may not appear for millions of generations</li> <li>• Not random; you chose</li> <li>• Every change was beneficial (most are neutral)</li> <li>• Evolution is not linear</li> </ul>

Interactive Science Teacher.com

Come back and visit [InteractiveScienceTeacher.com](http://InteractiveScienceTeacher.com) to upgrade this lesson with:

**PowerPoint-** lead your students through the lesson click-by-click

### Word Adaptation

1. Take out a clean sheet of paper
2. Number from 1-8
3. Write “Car” on line 1
4. Make a new word on line 2 by:
  - Changing 1 letter,
  - Adding 1 letter, or
  - Subtracting 1 letter
5. Continue forming new words by making 1 change at a time.

1.	Car
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	

Interactive Science Teacher.com

### Word Adaptation

LIKE EVOLUTION	UN-LIKE EVOLUTION

Interactive Science Teacher.com

### Word Adaptation

LIKE EVOLUTION	UN-LIKE EVOLUTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change over time</li> <li>• Gradual; 1 change at a time</li> <li>• New species emerged</li> <li>• Resemblance to “ancestors”</li> <li>• Relative dating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too fast- variations may not appear for millions of generations</li> <li>• Not random; you chose</li> <li>• Every change was beneficial (most are neutral)</li> <li>• Evolution is not linear</li> </ul>

Interactive Science Teacher.com

Student Handout

**Word Adaptation**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

LIKE EVOLUTION	UN-LIKE EVOLUTION