

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.

Word Adaptation

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

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. Use 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. Your change can also be to add or subtract a letter.

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 on to line 8, 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 their paper as shown.

Word Adaptation	
LIKE EVOLUTION	UN-LIKE EVOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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Student Handout

Word Adaptation

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

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