

Assessment Activity: Critter Portfolio

Obtain a Habitat card; read through the description; choose one multicellular organism.

1. Draw a sketch of what you imagine the habitat looks like and label several important features. Write down a detailed description of the habitat.
2. Determine its scientific name and common name.
3. Create one or more drawings/diagrams of your organism. Label its distinctive structures.
4. Write a paragraph about the adaptations you labeled on your drawing.
5. Write a second paragraph describing a scientifically reasonable scenario by which your critter may have diverged from an ancestral species to form a new species.
6. Write a third paragraph that explains the characteristics that make your critter a member of its domain, kingdom, and phylum (or division).
7. List at least three characteristics that your critter shares with all other forms of life.
8. After you have completed 1-7, obtain an environmental change card. Write a fourth paragraph predicting what might happen to your critter's species as a result of this change. If you predict that it will go extinct, explain how this may affect the evolution of other species. You may want to use the following terms in your explanation: Natural selection, adaptation, extinction, variation, heritable.