

Nova's Guide to Evolution: How Life Changes

Learning objective: To explain the process of evolution and how living things adapt to their environments over time.

Use this writing frame to help you structure an explanation of how plants and animals evolve. Use the word bank to help you link your ideas together.

Nova the owl has noticed that living things across the world are perfectly suited to their homes, a concept known as adaptation.

Word bank: adaptation · natural selection · environment · characteristics · inherited · generations · consequently · furthermore · in addition · over time

1. Introduction: Define what evolution means and explain why it is a slow process. Start with: Evolution is the gradual process by which... (2 marks)

2. Inherited Traits: Explain how offspring inherit features from their parents. Start with: Living things pass on characteristics to their offspring through... (2 marks)

3. Adaptation: Describe how specific features help an animal survive in its habitat. Start with: An adaptation is a special feature that helps an organism to... (3 marks)

4. Natural Selection: Explain what happens to those that are best suited to their environment. Start with: In the process of natural selection, those individuals with useful traits are more likely to... (3 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise why evolution is important for the survival of species. Start with: In conclusion, evolution is essential because it allows species to... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a specific animal, such as a polar bear or a cactus, and write a paragraph explaining three specific adaptations that help it survive in its unique environment.