Diversity and Evolution of Living Organisms
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Goals and Objectives

A middle school science teacher will typically cover many areas of science within his/her annual curriculum, including earth science, physical science, and life science. It is virtually impossible to become an expert in all these areas, at least not initially. The purpose of the Teacher Institute for Evolutionary Science (TIES) is to familiarize interested science teachers with the concepts of natural selection, common ancestry, and diversity in order for them to confidently cover the topics in their classrooms and fulfill their curriculum requirements. The success of TIES depends upon providing ready-to-use resources that teachers can begin to use immediately. Participating teachers leave our workshops with presentation slides, labs, guided reading assignments, an exam, and a valuable resource list for their lesson plans. In just five years, TIES has presented 180 workshops nationwide with an exceptionally positive response from the participating teachers.
Florida Standards

Big Idea: Diversity and Evolution of Living Organisms -
A. The scientific theory of evolution is the organizing principle of life science.
B. The scientific theory of evolution is supported by multiple forms of evidence.
C. Natural Selection is a primary mechanism leading to change over time in organisms.

For 7th grade:
SC.7.L.15.2
Explore the scientific theory of evolution by recognizing and explaining ways in which genetic variation and environmental factors contribute to evolution by natural selection and diversity of organisms.

SC.7.L.15.1 Recognize that fossil evidence is consistent with the scientific theory of evolution that living things evolved from earlier species.
Course Outline/Overview

TIES is presenting its student-guided units which cover the Florida Science Standards for Evolution. We are presenting the middle school version in this session but we have both middle and high school versions, as well as resources for middle school. The units and all of the related materials are also available in Spanish.

The unit includes:
1. The slide show with embedded online games, hands-on activities, engaging videos, and interactive websites.
2. The student response sheet
3. The answer key and rubric
4. The final assessment and answer key
Lesson Plans

This activity will take about 4-5 hours in total. Consider breaking it up or assigning only certain parts at a time. Three, discrete parts are:
1. What is Evolution (slides 1-6)
2. Evidence for Evolution (slides 7-22)
3. Natural Selection (slides 23-29)

You can e-mail me for a free exam for this content at bvazquez@centerforinquiry.org.

And please visit www.tieseducation.org for many more resources!

Thanks,
Bertha Vazquez
Director, The Teacher Institute for Evolutionary Science

To find the lesson, go to www.tieseducation.org

Scroll down and click on Resources: Teachers will find all the lesson materials here.
Resource List:

In addition to the student-guided units themselves, TIES offers several helpful, ancillary documents. Go to www.tieseducation.org/
Please note the “Complete this Form” link found under Teacher Materials:

You can complete the form for the following resources: