

	Word	Definition	Synonym
1	Charles Darwin	scientist credited with developing the theory of natural selection; famous for his book Origin of the Species and his voyage aboard the HMS Beagle	Theory of Evolution
2	species	a group of similar organisms that can mate and produce offspring	group
3	mule	the offspring of a horse and a donkey; not considered a species as it cannot reproduce	example
4	adaptation	a characteristic that helps an organism survive in its environment	bird beak
5	evolution	a gradual change in a species over time	Darwin
6	selective breeding	purposely pairing two organisms with favorable traits in order to produce an organism with that genetic trait	artificial selection
7	natural selection	individuals that are better adapted to their environment will survive and reproduce	Darwin
8	overproduction	species produce more offspring than can possibly survive	natural selection
9	competition	species in competition with one another for resources	contest
10	variation	any difference between individuals of the same species	differences
11	mutations	genetic variations that produce differences in the phenotype/genotype of an organism	changes
12	extinct	a species that does not have any living members	gone
13	geographic isolation	occurs when some members of a species become cut off from the location of the rest of the species	separated
14	fossil	the preserved remains of an organism from the past	cast or mold
15	sedimentary rock	when rock, remains of plants, and animals get pressed together	layers
16	relative dating	which of two fossils is older	not exact date
17	absolute dating	finding the actual age of a fossil	actual
18	homologous structures	body parts that are structurally similar in related species (bat wing - whale fin)	fins and hand bones
19	branching tree diagram	a diagram that shows how groups of organisms are related	evolutionary pedigree
20	common ancestor	an organism from which 2 related species are said to have come	distant relative