Chapter 9 General Science

Evolution

**evolution**- the process of change in a species over time, usually over thousands or millions of years

**extinct**- no longer existing on Earth

**fossil**- the remains of an organism that lived long ago

**paleontology**- the scientific study of fossils

How did the giraffe get its long neck? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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\* Scientists believe that life first appeared on Earth about 3 billion years ago.

\* Some evidence suggests humans have been around 5 million years.

\* Some species emerge that have never been seen before. Others that existed are now gone (extinct).

\* Other creatures “go away” but are really not extinct because they change over time. This is called evolution. The wooly mammoth, for example, is no longer in existence. The species, however, slowly changed into what we know today as the elephant.

\* Evolution does not take place quickly. In fact, it may take thousands to millions of years!

\* Many times, only bones and teeth of extinct creatures are found, rather than the entire creature. Why might this be? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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\* Skin, lips, organs, etc. rot when they die. Different conditions change the speed at which these items will decompose (rot). What are the only two conditions that would keep these things from rotting? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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am·ber [**am**-ber]

***noun***

**1.**

a pale yellow, sometimes reddish or brownish, fossil resin of vegetable origin, translucent, brittle, and capable of gaining a negative electrical charge by friction and of being an excellent [insulator](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/insulator): used for making jewelry and other ornamental articles.

**2.**

the yellowish-brown color of resin.

**theory**- an explanation about something that is supported by data

**naturalist**- a scientist who studies living things in nature

**natural selection**- the way organisms that are best suited to their environment survive and pass on their helpful traits to offspring