**Evolution and Classification Summative Project**

As you’ve now learned, numerous factors can affect species’ long-term survival. They must be able to face the challenges of their ecosystem, including climate, terrain, competition for limited resources, and predators. Only the fittest organisms survive to pass on their genes to the next generation. This project is designed to help you apply these thoughts to the future!

**Steps to a Successful Project**

1. Start by watching a video called “The Future is Wild”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rbi8Jgx1CNE> It will help you understand what we’re asking you to do in this project!

**Recommended completion date: Thursday, April 2nd**

1. Pick a modern animal species that is currently alive today. This is the animal you’ll be evolving for this project, so choose carefully! Research its taxonomic classification, and enter what you find here: [https://tiyurl.com/uktzchx](https://tinyurl.com/uktzchx)
   1. It must be a REAL animal.
   2. You can’t pick humans.

**DUE DATE: Friday, April 3rd**

***Spring Break is April 6th through 10th. Take a break! We don’t expect you to work on your project during this time.***

1. Fill out the Evolved Animal Info Sheet: <https://tinyurl.com/yx2c7xnh>. To do this, you’ll need to **evolve** your modern species into a brand new species, but be careful! Think about how natural selection works. Use careful consideration when choosing how far in the future this new species lives and how much change could occur in that timeframe. It MUST be realistic! Remember, big changes take a *very* long time!
   1. The **minimum** timeframe for this project is 1 million years. That would be considered a “short” timeframe, evolutionarily speaking.
   2. Don’t include any human influence on the animal’s evolution. We’re pretending that humans completely disappeared off the Earth long before your Evolved Animal came into being.

**DUE DATE: Friday, April 17th**

1. Visually represent your new species. It must be colorful, neat, titled, and informative (label the adaptations). Options for visual representation:
   1. Drawing or painting
   2. Clay model
   3. Computer animation
   4. If you’d like to do something else, just run it by me first!

**DUE DATE: Friday, April 24th – You can email me pictures if you’re drawing/painting/modeling.**

1. Draw (on paper or on a computer) your evolved animal’s cladogram or phylogenetic tree, and email it to me (you can submit pictures of hand-drawn work). I recommend looking up your **modern** **animal’s** cladogram or phylogenetic tree and then adding to it. There should be at least two ‘steps’ (at least two new species) between your modern animal and your evolved animal! Also, complete this form about your cladogram/phylogenetic tree: <https://tinyurl.com/uergqwd>

**DUE DATE: Friday, April 24th**

**Important Dates**

* The Modern Animal Info Sheet is due April 3rd.
* The Evolved Animal Info Sheet is due April 17th.
* The visual representation and cladogram/phylogenetic tree (and its info sheet) are due April 24th.

**Please reach out to me if you have any questions!**