

Teacher Guide sheet for Trackstar #292886 “How Environmental Changes May Alter the Evolution of species”

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In this activity students will visit two websites that give examples of how new environment alters the evolution of species. The first website is about Hummingbirds living in the east slope of the Andes Mountains in Ecuador. The study is done to study differences between adjacent populations. It found the natural selection in different niches moved birds down different evolutionary pathways to create new species.

A second article “Warming to Evolution” explores the effect of global warming on populations. The article goes on to explore the relationship of species evolution to changes in gene frequency.

This activity could be done as a class project in a computer lab, a homework assignment or both.

Questions in the activity are both based on reading and understanding the article and also answering open ended questions to get students to think!

Attached is a Rubric for student evaluation