

## Lesson Plan for Gifted Cluster Students Isn't Evolution Just a Theory?

To be eligible to participate, students must have earned a score of 85% or above on the yearly benchmark exam. Additionally, students must agree to the terms and conditions and adhere to the agreement at all times.

**Objective:** Students will extend their knowledge and understanding of the theory of evolution. The students will synthesize their knowledge into a persuasive essay either refuting or defending evolution.

**Concept:** Evolution, Natural Selection, Adaptation

**Procedures:** Students will be given a handout asking them their current thoughts on the theory of evolution. Students will record what they know about evolution on the handout as well as whether or not they believe the theory. Next, students will view 7 short videos (approximately 6 minutes each) on the theory of evolution. On the handout, students have space to record their notes on each of the seven videos. Students are then responsible for crafting a persuasive essay either refuting or defending the theory of evolution. The paper should use the sources provided and should be 2-3 typed, double-spaced pages.

**Guidelines:** Students must adhere to the terms and conditions at all time. If a student fails to do so, he/she will be required to participate in whole group instruction.

**Assessment:** Students' final papers will be assessed using the rubric provided on the learning agreement

**Timeline:** Students will have four days to complete their persuasive essays.

The videos students will be watching can be accessed using the links below:

Video 1: Isn't Evolution Just a Theory? <http://www.neok12.com/php/watch.php?v=zX0a0d525c726a5a7c777e59&t=Natural-Selection>

Video 2: Who was Charles Darwin? <http://www.neok12.com/php/watch.php?v=zX4455465d5b506a5e79420a&t=Natural-Selection>

Video 3: How do we know evolution happens? <http://www.neok12.com/php/watch.php?v=zX574f4242685c62637c7363&t=Natural-Selection>

Video 4: How does evolution really work? <http://www.neok12.com/php/watch.php?v=zX4a534167637b736e544f55&t=Natural-Selection>

Video 5: Did humans evolve? <http://www.neok12.com/php/watch.php?v=zX4a0d78720f616167664d77&t=Natural-Selection>

Video 6: Why does evolution matter now? <http://www.neok12.com/php/watch.php?v=zX045274710f4a5e5453036b&t=Natural-Selection>

Video 7: Why is evolution controversial anyway?

<http://www.neok12.com/php/watch.php?v=zX627342545a5c55447b4641&t=Natural-Selection>