

MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT EVOLUTION

VOCABULARY – You may need to google some of these terms or use previous lessons (they should be “review”).

- 1) SCIENTIFIC THEORY –
- 2) MISCONCEPTION –
- 3) EVOLUTION –
- 4) NATURAL SELECTION –

SHORT RESPONSE – Provide a short answer (a few sentences or less) in response to each prompt.

- 5) Have you heard someone say any of the misconceptions identified in the PowerPoint? If so, which ones have you heard? If not, which one do you think most people believe incorrectly?

- 6) Slide 6 discusses the misconception that individual organisms evolve over their life span and pass these genetic changes on to their offspring, resulting in changes to the species. How does the picture of the Padaung woman with the neck coils “disprove” this misconception?

- 7) Slide 7 addresses the misconception that evolution arises from a species’ NEED to adapt. How do the examples of the Tazmanian Wolf or the Dodo Bird illustrate why this is an incorrect understanding of evolution?

- 8) If someone says in a conversation with you that they don’t believe in evolution because “Man didn’t come from no monkey!”, how can you respond to them so you might correct their misconception?

- 9) Look at the highlighted green box in the phylogenetic tree of life on slide 11. What do you think this illustration trying to communicate?

- 10) If you could “zoom in” on the phylogenetic tree from slide 11 where it branches off to say, “animals,” you might see something similar to the phylogenetic tree on slide 12. Zooming in on the bottom of that tree, we see a primate phylogenetic tree. Based on this illustration, do humans share a more-recent common ancestor with homo-erectus, chimpanzees, gorillas, or monkeys? How can you tell?