



Dear school district administrator,

The BioInteractive Online Professional Learning: Evolution course is designed to help teachers deepen their content knowledge in evolution, especially content required to teach evolution at the high school level. The course consists of three units. Unit 1 is estimated to require at least 10 hours for completion. Unit 2 and 3 combined are estimated to require at least 5 hours for completion.

In order to obtain a certificate recognizing completion of the course, teachers must complete quizzes at the end of every lesson and the end of the unit and receive an 85% or above on each quiz. If you would like further evidence of what teachers learned in the course, you may want to ask them to print out their completed unit workbook(s).

More information on each of the three units is below.

UNIT ONE

Scientists have long been fascinated with biological diversity, asking questions like “How did all these different organisms arise?” or “What mechanisms or processes cause the differences we see among species?” In this unit, teachers learn how to build an explanation based on evidence for natural selection. Teachers will also reflect on other mechanisms of evolution.

UNIT TWO

Evolutionary theory is the cornerstone of modern biology because it explains both the shared features of many organisms (the unity of life) and the processes by which species change and how new species arise over time (the diversity of life). In this unit, teachers will strengthen their understanding of the wide variety of sources of evidence supporting evolutionary theory, including fossils, anatomy, biochemistry, genetics, and cell biology.

UNIT THREE

In this unit, teachers dive more deeply into how biologists define species, how they use evidence to make claims about the patterns of relationships among organisms, and explore some of the major macroevolutionary changes in the long history of life on Earth.

Sincerely,

The HHMI BioInteractive team