Vocab for Chapter 7 – The Evolution of Living Things

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| Adaptation – a hereditary characteristic that helps an organism survive and reproduce in its environment |  |
| Species – The most specific of the seven levels of classification; characterized by a group of organisms that can mate with one another and produce fertile offspring |  |
| Evolution – the process by which populations accumulate inherited changes over time |  |
| Fossil – the solidified remains or imprints of one living organisms |  |
| Fossil record – a historical sequence of life indicated by fossils found in layers of the Erath’s crust |  |
| Vestigial Structure – the remnant of a once-useful anatomical structure |  |
| Trait- distinguishing qualities that can be passed from one generation to another |  |
| Selective Breeding – breeding of organisms that have a certain desired trait |  |
| Natural selection – the process by which organisms with favorable traits survive and reproduce at a higher rate than organisms without the favorable trait |  |
| Mutation – a change in the order of the bases in an organism’s DNA; deletion, insertion, or substitution |  |
| Generation time – the period between the birth of one generation and the birth of the next generation |  |
| Speciation – the process by which two populations of the same species become so different that they can no longer interbreed |  |