

**LESSON PLAN 2: SPECIATION AND DIVERSITY IN APPALACHIA**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL STANDARDS ADDRESSED:**

Virginia	<p><b>LS.9: The student will investigate and understand how organisms adapt to biotic and abiotic factors in an ecosystem. Key concepts include</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) differences between ecosystems and biomes;</li><li>b) characteristics of land, marine, and freshwater ecosystems; and</li><li>c) adaptations that enable organisms to survive within a specific ecosystem.</li></ul>
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**HIGH SCHOOL STANDARDS ADDRESSED:**

Virginia	<p><b>BIO.7 The student will investigate and understand how populations change through time. Key concepts include</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) evidence found in fossil records;</li><li>b) how genetic variation, reproductive strategies, and environmental pressures impact the survival of populations;</li><li>c) how natural selection leads to adaptations;</li><li>d) emergence of new species; and</li><li>e) scientific evidence and explanations for biological evolution.</li></ul>
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