

These activities were designed for a 4th grade class that had been studying animal adaptations.

Lesson plan:

0 - 15 mins: opening slideshow

15 - 25 mins: group activity

- Each group of 4 was given an adaptation card
- A phylogeny with the following animals was drawn on a posterboard and hung at the front of the room: worm, bird, mouse, cat
- Students worked together to figure out where their adaptation should be placed on the phylogeny

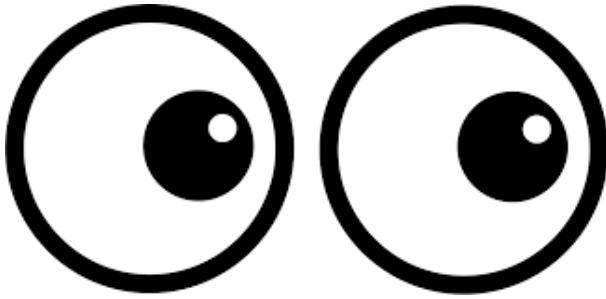
25 - 60 mins: pasta phylogeny

- Students were each given a bag with 4 pieces of dried pasta (spaghetti, macaroni, rigatoni, wheel)
- Students filled out the table on the pasta phylogeny worksheet, then taped each piece of pasta onto their phylogeny
- Then they worked on placing the “adaptations” in the correct boxes and answering the pasta phylogeny questions

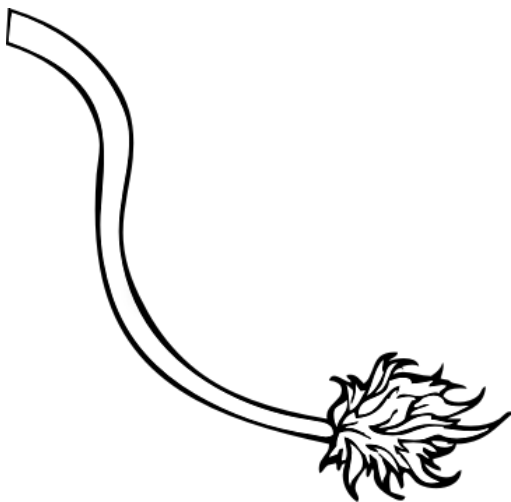
Bonus activity

- Students who finished early worked on the “bonus phylogeny” activity

Adaptation: eyes



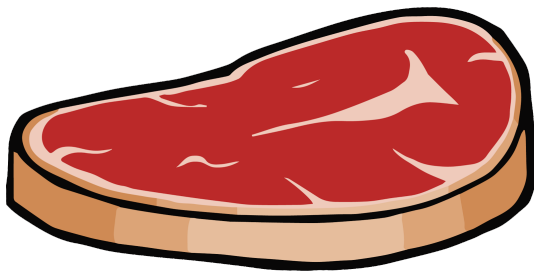
Adaptation: tail

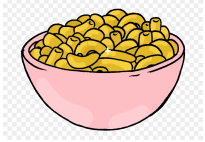


Adaptation: teeth



Adaptation: meat
eater





Pasta Phylogeny

Name: _____

1. Look at the pasta in your bag. Start thinking about what some of the pastas have in common.
2. Fill out the chart below to help you set up your phylogeny. Put a checkmark if the pasta has the "adaptation". One row has been filled out for you.

pasta	yellow?	rounded?	circle?	ridges?
wheel				
spaghetti				
macaroni	✓	✓	✗	✗
rigatoni				

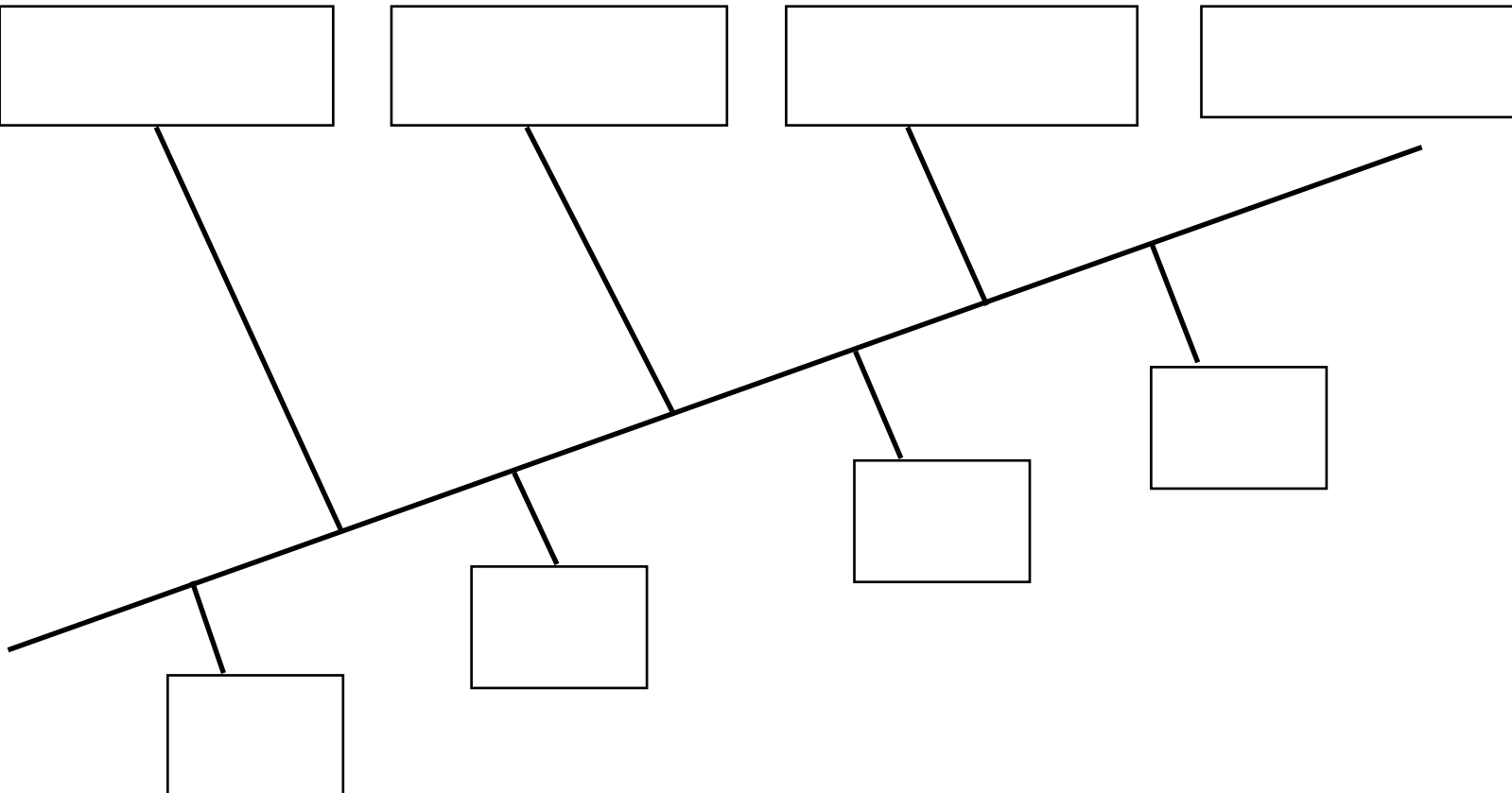
3. Tape each piece of pasta onto the top set of boxes.
4. Fill out the empty boxes with each of the pasta adaptations.

spaghetti

macaroni

rigatoni

wheel



1. What is one adaptation that all the pasta share?

2. Which adaptation is unique to the wheel pasta?

3. Can you think of another adaptation you could add to the phylogeny?

Name: _____

1. Fill out the chart below to help you set up your phylogeny. Put a checkmark if the animal has the adaptation. The first row has been filled out for you.

animal	lungs?	hair?	terrestrial?	eyes?
spider	✗	✗	✓	✓
fish				
bird				
gorilla				

2. Fill out the empty boxes with each of the animal names.
3. Draw a picture of each of the animals!

