

HS-LS4-1

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

- HS-LS4-1. Communicate scientific information that common ancestry and biological evolution are supported by multiple lines of empirical evidence.** [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on a conceptual understanding of the role each line of evidence has relating to common ancestry and biological evolution. Examples of evidence could include similarities in DNA sequences, anatomical structures, and order of appearance of structures in embryological development.]

The performance expectation above was developed using the following elements from *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

Science and Engineering Practices

Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information

Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to evaluating the validity and reliability of the claims, methods, and designs.

- Communicate scientific information (e.g., about phenomena and/or the process of development and the design and performance of a proposed process or system) in multiple formats (including orally, graphically, textually, and mathematically).

Connections to Nature of Science

Science Models, Laws, Mechanisms, and Theories Explain Natural Phenomena

- A scientific theory is a substantiated explanation of some aspect of the natural world, based on a body of facts that have been repeatedly confirmed through observation and experiment and the science community validates each theory before it is accepted. If new evidence is discovered that the theory does not accommodate, the theory is generally modified in light of this new evidence.

Disciplinary Core Ideas

LS4.A: Evidence of Common Ancestry and Diversity

- Genetic information, like the fossil record, provides evidence of evolution. DNA sequences vary among species, but there are many overlaps; in fact, the ongoing branching that produces multiple lines of descent can be inferred by comparing the DNA sequences of different organisms. Such information is also derivable from the similarities and differences in amino acid sequences and from anatomical and embryological evidence.

Crosscutting Concepts

Patterns

Different patterns may be observed at each of the scales at which a system is studied and can provide evidence for causality in explanations of phenomena.

Connections to Nature of Science

Scientific Knowledge Assumes an Order and Consistency in Natural Systems

- Scientific knowledge is based on the assumption that natural laws operate today as they did in the past and they will continue to do so in the future.

Observable features of the student performance by the end of the course:

1	Communication style and format
a	Students use at least two different formats (e.g., oral, graphical, textual and mathematical), to communicate scientific information, including that common ancestry and biological evolution are supported by multiple lines of empirical evidence. Students cite the origin of the information as appropriate.
2	Connecting the DCIs and the CCCs
a	Students identify and communicate evidence for common ancestry and biological evolution, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Information derived from DNA sequences, which vary among species but have many similarities between species; ii. Similarities of the patterns of amino acid sequences, even when DNA sequences are slightly different, including the fact that multiple patterns of DNA sequences can code for

	the same amino acid;
	iii. Patterns in the fossil record (e.g., presence, location, and inferences possible in lines of evolutionary descent for multiple specimens); and
	iv. The pattern of anatomical and embryological similarities.
b	Students identify and communicate connections between each line of evidence and the claim of common ancestry and biological evolution.
c	Students communicate that together, the patterns observed at multiple spatial and temporal scales (e.g., DNA sequences, embryological development, fossil records) provide evidence for causal relationships relating to biological evolution and common ancestry.