

23-GY9 Change and 'need'

Is it something that changes over time, for the better, or indeed, for the worse? Maybe an animal, like a giraffe, grew a longer neck to get their food that they needed, so that evolved over time. I think that giraffes don't just stay.... before they grew the long necks, they had a shorter neck and they weren't getting enough food that they needed so that's why they grew the long neck - over time though, it didn't just happen straight away; it happened over years so they could get the nutrition or the thing or whatever they needed.

Claim(s)

Living things change to meet their needs.

Evolutionary changes happened over years.

Any challenges to the expressed claim?

Anything to disagree with?

Any clarification needed?

Question(s).

Does evolution happen within individual living things or in the species as a whole?

What role does 'need' play in evolution?

How long do evolutionary changes take?

Note: It is necessary to be very careful to avoid language that slips unwittingly into teleological assumptions. Evolution is not alive, so it cannot have any goals or intentions. Evolution happens by chance through random 'blind' mutations.

See the Primary Science article on [DeepTime](#)