

Name _____

Cladistics Review

Cladistics: The study of the evolutionary relationships between different organisms.

Cladogram: a “map” showing the evolutionary relationships of Cladistics

Clade: a group of animals including a common ancestor and all animals that have evolved from that ancestor.

Trait: A feature of an animal. We talk about traits that animals can evolve. When a trait is newly evolved, we call it an adaptation.

Primitive Trait: A trait that evolved early in an animal’s history.

Advanced Trait: A trait that evolved recently in an animals history.

Node: A branching point on a cladogram. Each node represents both a common ancestor and a newly-evolved trait.

In the cladogram below, label the following terms:

Clade

Primitive Trait

Advanced Trait

Node

How can you identify an animal’s closest relative by using a cladogram?