

## Skills Worksheet

# Active Reading

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## Section: Beyond Darwinian Theory

Read the passage below. Then answer the questions that follow.

Two different models of the pace (rate) of evolution have been proposed: gradualism and punctuated equilibrium. *Gradualism* refers to the formation of new species, or **speciation**, due to many small changes building up gradually over a long period of time. *Punctuated equilibrium* refers to species remaining stable for long periods of time until the environment changes. This leads to the “sudden” appearance of many new species. Long periods of no change may follow speciation.

### SKILL: READING EFFECTIVELY

Read each question, and write your answer in the space provided.

1. What does the word in parentheses in the first sentence refer to?

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2. Write in your own words the differences between gradualism and punctuated equilibrium.

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3. A species of plants has remained relatively the same in form and DNA sequence over thousands of years. What model of evolution does this species show, gradualism or punctuated equilibrium?

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4. Why is the word *sudden* in the fourth sentence in quotes?

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