

Name: _____

ANCIENT ADAPTATIONS

In “A New Age” (p. 18), you learned that Earth’s history is divided into different units of time based on specific events, such as changes in climate conditions. These events often had large impacts on life on Earth—causing some organisms to thrive and others to disappear. Follow the steps below to conduct research about one geological time period, and then write an essay about how the organisms suited to live during that time were able to thrive.

STEP 1: RESEARCH IT

Use the article, the internet, textbooks, and your school library to gather information about one geologic era. Below are some useful websites to help you start your research. Use the table that follows to organize what you learn.

Suggested Online Resources:

National Geographic: www.nationalgeographic.com/science/prehistoric-world/jurassic/
University of California Museum of Paleontology: www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/help/timeform.php

GEOLOGICAL ERA: _____

<p>DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What factors did geologists use to define the era? • What specific events occurred at the beginning and at the end of the era? 	
<p>CLIMATE AND GEOGRAPHY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were the general climate conditions? • How was the climate different before and after the era? • Where were the landforms on Earth located? 	
<p>LIFEFORMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What types of organisms were found on Earth? • What types of adaptations were common? • Was there an explosion of a certain type of life or the extinction of certain organisms? 	

STEP 2: WRITE IT

On a separate piece of paper, write a 250- to 300-word essay that explains why certain organisms thrived during your chosen era. Be sure to support your explanation using relevant evidence about the conditions during that era and the adaptations of the organisms.

STEP 3: REVISE IT

After you have written your essay, reread it critically. Is your explanation clear? Did you include sufficient supporting evidence? Rewrite your essay if needed.