

## Introduction to Evolution

Previous compulsory steps / Prior students' knowledge	Basic knowledge about evolution and natural sciences
Learning objectives	Developing initial ideas about evolution and related concepts; gaining understanding about natural selection and adaptations
Subjects	Life sciences, History
Recommended Age	15 - 18
Material needed	Technological equipment to show the videos, video trailers
Sequence duration	45 – 60 minutes
Individual or group activity	Group activity
Skills developed (after learning objectives)	Critical thinking, collaboration & teamwork, communication, presentation skills
Price range of the game	Free videos will be used in this activity; price range of the game 20-40€
Similar games to use with the approach of the sequence	Spore

## Step by step: how to implement the sequence

In this sequence we will use the video game Ancestors: Humankind Odyssey.

- **Step 1 – Showing the first video (10 minutes)**

In this sequence we suggest that you do not introduce the topic to your students but start by showing the [ANCESTORS : the Humankind Odyssey - Teaser Trailer](#).

Ask students to think about what today's lesson might be about and what will be discussed. Ask them to share some thoughts after the video.

- **Step 2 – Introducing the topic and dividing students into 3 groups (5 minutes)**

Depending on the student's answers you can develop the discussion on the topic of this pedagogical sequence. This pedagogical sequence may serve as an introduction to teaching the concepts of evolution, natural selection, and adaptation with the game Ancestors: Humankind Odyssey.

### Short description of the game:

Ancestors: The Humankind Odyssey is a third-person game where you Explore, Expand, and Evolve your clan to the next generation. The game is set in Africa, in the Neogene period and through the game you will explore the ruthless, but beautiful world of the past. To evolve your clan you will need to decide which skills to learn in order to pass the knowledge to future generations and progress through evolutionary stages of human evolution.

- **Step 3 – watching the videos (15 minutes)**

Each group will watch a different video. They will have to answer questions related the video or to note down their observations. After that, each group will prepare a short presentation for the rest of the group. This will create great conditions with peer learning and give students active role in their learning process.

You can also use a tool such as [Mentimeter](#) or [Padlet](#) to collect student's answers to the questions they focused on while watching the videos. This can help in their presentation to the rest of the group.

Points to pay attention to while watching the videos:

- Natural selection
  - Evolutionary adaptations: How do species adapt to changing environments? Do you notice any examples in the videos? Elaborate on your answer.
  - What is the survival of the fittest?
  - What characteristics did apes develop to give them an advantage in surviving?
  - What would happen if they did not develop certain characteristics?

## Group 1

Announcement trailer: [Ancestors: The Humankind Odyssey - Announcement Trailer](#)

Official Gameplay Launch Trailer: [Ancestors: The Humankind Odyssey - Official Gameplay Launch Trailer](#)

## Group 2

Birth sequence – all evolutions: [Ancestors: The Humankind Odyssey - Birth Sequence - All Evolutions](#)

## Group 3

Gameplay Walkthrough Part 1: [ANCESTORS THE HUMANKIND ODYSSEY Gameplay Walkthrough Part 1](#) from 3:25 – 8:24

- **Step 3 – Student’s presentation and discussion (15 minutes)**

If the students used Mentimeter or Padlet you can show the answers to the whole group now and ask each group to present their answers and describe what they saw in the videos and any additional thoughts and reflections they may have.

- **Step 4- Conclusion (5 minutes)**

Following the discussion summarise what was similar in their answers, what was different, and what needs to be explored further. This sequence is created to serve as an introduction to the concepts of evolution, natural selection, and adaptation which should be further explored in other lessons and discussions.

## References

Ancestors: The Humankind Odyssey. Available at: <https://ancestorsgame.com/en/>

GameRiot (August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019) ANCESTORS THE HUMANKIND ODYSSEY  
Gameplay Walkthrough Part 1 [Video]. Youtube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KuQHB49pY2c&t=205s>

GameSpot Trailers (August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019) Ancestors: The Humankind Odyssey – Official  
Gameplay Launch Trailer [Video]. Youtube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BluuLBhDt9s>

GameSpot Trailers (July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015). ANCESTORS: the Humankind Odyssey – Teaser  
Trailer [Video]. Youtube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ru3RogrgXS4>

Panache Digital Games (2019) Ancestors: The Humankind Odyssey [video game].  
New York, USA: Private Division.

Playstation (December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018) Ancestors: The Humankind Odyssey –  
Announcement Trailer | PS4 [Video]. Youtube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4E1jVWUMQiA>

The LoneClaw (June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020) Ancestors: The Humankind Odyssey - Birth Sequence  
– All Evolutions [Video]. Youtube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ds7hOwtvtF8>