

Name _____ Section _____ Date _____

LT: I can infer how domesticated animals benefitted early humans.

Do Now: What does "domesticated" mean? List 3-4 animals that humans have domesticated.

Domestication and Evolution

Part 1: Radiolab Podcast

As stated in an earlier lesson, Radiolab is the best podcast ever. They made an episode about a Russian man who studied evolution. This clip is 16 minutes. As you listen, you should identify 10-15 key words. You can write those below in any form you want (a list, a word map, etc.)

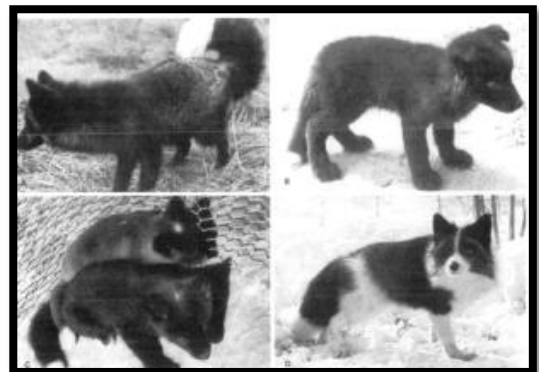
Definitions

Domesticated:

Tamed:



Belyaev and his foxes



Adorable foxes

Part 2: The earliest domesticated animal

1. What is the earliest domesticated animal?
2. Why was it useful to early humans?

Part 2: Guns, Germs, & Steel

Guns, Germs, & Steel is both a book and a documentary by Jared Diamond. He wondered why some early civilizations advanced so much more rapidly than others. Part of his claim is that these early civilizations (Mesopotamia, Indus River Valley, and Egypt) had animals that were easy to domesticate, which gave them a huge advantage over other civilizations.

1. How many species of wild animals are there estimated to be? _____
2. List at least 3 characteristics of animals that are easily domesticated.

3. How has the zebra evolved to succeed in the wild savannah of Africa but to fail at domestication?
4. How many animals have been successfully domesticated? List at least 2 examples here.
5. Which region of the world had majority of the easily domesticated plants and animals?

Part 4: Thinking bigger

1. Inference: Why would having domesticated animals like sheep, cattle, and goats give early humans an advantage over early humans that don't have domestic animals? List at least 4 ideas.
2. "I brought a tiger home with me and domesticated it." Why is that phrase and incorrect use of the word "domesticate"? What would be a better way to phrase it?
3. Is adaptation an action or something inherited? Explain your answer. (This one's difficult but important!)