

convergent evolution *(con-ver-gent-e-vo-lu-tion)*

Definition

n. The independent evolution of similar features in species of different lineages, which results in species having similar structures or functions due to adaptation to similar environments or ecological niches.

Example Sentence

Convergent evolution explains why dolphins and sharks have similar streamlined bodies despite being unrelated.

More Example Sentences

The wings of bats and birds are a classic example of **convergent evolution**.

Synonyms

parallel evolution; analogous evolution; homoplasy

Antonyms

divergent evolution; adaptive radiation; speciation

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