

Cladogram Activity

Biology

A cladogram is a phylogenetic tree that includes the common ancestor of all the organisms shown (there are no stray branches and no branches excluded). Using the cladogram below, answer the following questions individually. Be sure to give clear, thorough explanations. Work in Google Docs and submit your answers through Showbie when you are done.

1. What is the ancestral characteristic that organisms 1-7 all (likely) have in common? How do you know this?
2. Which organism(s) only developed four legs and nothing else?
3. Which organisms have sharp teeth?
4. What characteristic/s does organism 6 have?
5. Which organism(s) do you believe evolved to become hunters? How do you know?
6. Is organism 7 “better” than organism 1? Why or why not?
7. Which organisms are most closely related? How do you know?
8. Which organisms are most distantly related? How do you know?

