**Evolution - Changes Over Time Vocabulary 2**

1. speciation - the process by which two populations of the same species become so different that they can no longer interbreed.
2. branching tree - a diagram that shows how scientists think different groups of organisms are related
3. relative dating - a technique used to determine which of two fossils is older
4. radioactive dating - a technique used to determine the actual age of a fossil on the basis of the amount of a radioactive element it contains
5. extinct - when no members of a species is still alive
6. gradualism - the theory that evolution occurs slowly but steadily
7. punctuated equilibrium - the theory that species evolve during short periods of rapid change
8. natural selection - the process by which individuals that are better adapted to their environment are more likely to survive and reproduce than other members of the same species
9. adaptation - a trait that helps an organism survive and reproduce
10. fossil record- The millions of fossils that scientists have collected.

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