

This project aims to develop animated courseware for introducing basic concepts of evolutionary biology for CUHK students. We have constructed both 1) a website including basic information and concepts of evolutionary biology, as well as 2) developing an animated story showing the evolution of organisms. The materials are intended to be made in an interactive way to which students can understand basic key concepts, especially on how organisms evolve in terms of mutation, competition, migration, and extinction throughout time. Students can better understand these key concepts via interacting with the animation.

The “Evolution” concept is usually abstract to most students, and their understanding will be enhanced or aided with the interactive animated courseware. We aim to use the developed materials as flipped classroom, where students can carry out self-study before going to lectures, which will not only facilitate the teaching and understanding, but will also allow us to have more time to teach both broader and deeper to benefit our students.

One special feature during the development of this courseware is that we have asked a part-time research assistant as well as current postgraduates who were previous undergraduate students of our School, and had taken the courses, to help with development of the courseware. This was done in light that inputs would not only be coming from the perspective of the team leader (i.e. course teacher), but also from the views of students who had taken the course, to facilitate multi-directional inputs during the construction of courseware.

In addition, we had carried out a questionnaire surveys (to those who had taken or not taken the related courses) to help with evaluating the products at the end, and allowed us to make final amendments to facilitate and cater for the best students learning experience.

We envision that this established platform can be used to keep on adding other topics and modules related to evolutionary biology to the website, so we foresee this courseware can be and will be multi-stages. Overall, the project on track meets its objectives, and can be found at: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/culive/evolution/>.