



Coherence and Alignment Among Science Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment (CASCIA) Project

Grade 8 Unit 3: Understanding Earth History and the Origin of Species

Task 2 Prompt 2 Scored and Annotated Anchor Set

May 2025

Grade 8 Unit 3: Understanding Earth History and the Origin of Species, Task 2 Prompt 2 Scored and Annotated Anchor Set was developed with funding from the U.S. Department of Education under the Competitive Grants for State Assessments Program CFDA 84.368A. The contents of this paper do not represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and no assumption of endorsement by the Federal government should be made.

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CASCIA Grade 8 EOU Assessment 3 Task 2: Hold Your Horses!

Prompt 2 Score Point 2

Prompt 2 Rubric

Prompt	Score Point 0	Score Point 1	Score Point 2	Score Point 3	Score Point 4
Prompt 2	No aspect of the response is correct	Identifies one (1) of the two (2) aspects	Response includes the following aspects: - Identifies the similarities and differences in the toe structure over time in Table 3 - Identifies the similarities and differences in the skull structure over time in Table 4	NA	NA

Score Point 2 (2/2 aspects met)

- Identifies the similarities and differences in the toe structure over time in Table 3.
- Identifies the similarities and differences in the skull structure over time in Table 4.

Describe the observable **similarities** and **differences** among the fossil features of the animals over millions of years within **Table 3**. Consider the number of toes, bone size, and where the weight might be concentrated.

As time went on the toes change from four to three, still balancing most of the weight on the same toe. Then the balance shifted to focus on the middle toe. I slowly turned into the single hoof that we have today.

Describe the observable **similarities** and **differences** among the fossil features of the animals over millions of years within **Table 4**. Consider the overall shape, size, and features of the skulls.

The head got larger and it developed teeth coming from the end of the jaw. It also had a more elongated face than the predecessors as time between them increased.

CASCIA Grade 8 EOU Assessment 3 Task 2: Hold Your Horses!

Prompt 2 Score Point 1

Prompt 2 Rubric

Prompt	Score Point 0	Score Point 1	Score Point 2	Score Point 3	Score Point 4
Prompt 2	No aspect of the response is correct	Identifies one (1) of the two (2) aspects	Response includes the following aspects: - Identifies the similarities and differences in the toe structure over time in Table 3 - Identifies the similarities and differences in the skull structure over time in Table 4	NA	NA

Score Point 1 (1/2 aspects met)

- Identifies some similarities and differences in the toe structure over time in Table 3.
- Does **NOT** identify any similarities and differences in the skull structure over time in Table 4.

Describe the observable **similarities** and **differences** among the fossil features of the animals over millions of years within **Table 3**. Consider the number of toes, bone size, and where the weight might be concentrated.

Over time the horse forefoot went from 4 to 1 toes. The middle toe was always the biggest bone and was where most of the weight was at.

Describe the observable **similarities** and **differences** among the fossil features of the animals over millions of years within **Table 4**. Consider the overall shape, size, and features of the skulls.

CASCIA Grade 8 EOU Assessment 3 Task 2: Hold Your Horses!

Prompt 2 Score Point 0

Prompt 2 Rubric

Prompt	Score Point 0	Score Point 1	Score Point 2	Score Point 3	Score Point 4
Prompt 2	No aspect of the response is correct	Identifies one (1) of the two (2) aspects	Response includes the following aspects: - Identifies the similarities and differences in the toe structure over time in Table 3 - Identifies the similarities and differences in the skull structure over time in Table 4	NA	NA

Score Point 0 (0/2 aspects met)

- Does **NOT** identify the similarities and differences in the toe structure over time in Table 3.
- Does **NOT** identify the similarities and differences in the skull structure over time in Table 4.

Describe the observable **similarities** and **differences** among the fossil features of the animals over millions of years within **Table 3**. Consider the number of toes, bone size, and where the weight might be concentrated.

the feet get smaller

Describe the observable **similarities** and **differences** among the fossil features of the animals over millions of years within **Table 4**. Consider the overall shape, size, and features of the skulls.

they get bigger heads