

***Tiktaalik*: A Fish Out of Water**

Final Assignment Instructions

In this lesson, you have learned how a recently discovered fossil named *Tiktaalik* represents an important step in the transition of animal life from water to land. You will now write an essay that shares what you have learned and what you think about it. You will need to review your notes.

- Choose one of the topics below and **write** an essay.
- **Organize** your response so that it includes at least three supporting details that you have learned from the reading passage, video, and other materials in this lesson.
- **Use** at least three vocabulary words (or a form of the words) as part of your supporting details.

Essay Topics

1. Describe how different features and behaviors help different species survive in the conditions in which they live. In your essay, be sure to point out which characteristics of *Tiktaalik* are similar to those of primitive fish, and which are similar to those of amphibians.
2. Describe how scientists can use a transitional fossil like *Tiktaalik* to explain the general sequence in which two major animal groups (in this case, primitive fish and amphibians) appeared. In your essay, be sure to explain the importance of the discovery of *Tiktaalik*.

Vocabulary Words

fossil
characteristic
transition
tetrapod
species
amphibian
evolution