

RADIOLAB Podcast
"New Nice?" Assignment



Silver Fox
a melanistic
form of red fox
(*Vulpes vulpes*)

Name: _____

Listen to the **Radiolab Podcast** "[New Nice](#)" (*Click on link to access podcast. You must have internet access to do this.*) Then completely answer all questions below. Your grade will be based on how complete and correct your answers are.

<http://www.radiolab.org/story/91696-new-nice/>

1. Dmitry Belyaev was a famous Russian geneticist in the 1950s. He ran into some trouble, as a Dawinian, after WWII. What trouble, and how did he solve his problem?
2. What scientific question did Dmitry Belyaev ask? Why would he be interested in this?
3. How did Belyaev design his experiment? Describe his experiment.
4. What was the result of his experiment? How long did it take for him to domesticate wild foxes.

5. What changes did the domesticated foxes show, that Belaev did NOT intentionally select for?

6. What is the hypothesis regarding why these additional changes that happen when tameness is selected for? (This is complicated. We will listen to it 2x.)

EXTRA CREDIT!

7. This type of selection may be happening to humans. We are domesticating our species.
 - a. In what ways are humans showing domesticated features, similar to what is happening in the foxes?

 - b. In what ways is natural selection selecting for “tameness” in humans; *Who* is doing the selecting?

 - c. Paraphrase the scenario that Richard Wrangham thinks is possibly happening in the domestication of humans.

8. What was the main topic the “New Nice” episode? (I want to see if you understand the big picture.)