Journal Club Prep Sheet
-please be prepared to discuss these question during the recitation section

Title
Based on the title, what is the main point being made by the paper?

Authors
Was this research performed by one or a few individuals, or was the research a broad, collaborative effort across several institutions?

Abstract
Try to translate the abstract into your own words line by line.

Introduction
What questions is this study trying to answer? What is the current understanding of these topics?
Why are the authors addressing the questions that they are?
Is there a scientific debate or controversy that this study will help address? If so, what is it?

Materials and methods
Summarize the approach that the study takes to answering the main question.
Does the study involve an experiment, modeling, some other sort of testing, or a combination of approaches?
Are there any aspects of the study's method that you do not understand? If so, what are they?

Results
What are the main findings of this study?

Tables
What interpretations described in the Results section are supported by each table?
Do any of the tables include particularly important results? If so, what are they?

Figures
Do any of the figures include particularly important results? If so, what are they?

Discussion and conclusion
What are the most important findings of this study? What ideas are supported or contradicted by these findings?
Why are these findings important to the study of evolution or biology in general (i.e., outside the context of this particular study)?
Were any of the study’s findings surprising or hard to explain? If so, what were they, and why were they surprising?
What were the strengths and weaknesses of the study's design?
What sort of additional studies would help address the weaknesses of this study?
What questions about the topic of this paper remain to be answered?