

Natural Selection

Go to the link provided by your teacher. Explore the information about natural selection and record your observations below.

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Play the game to see if you can help your species survive for a million years. As you play, consider the following questions.

- How long did your species survive?
- How do individual organisms change?
- Which traits in the population changed over time?

Elements of Natural Selection

	Diversity is observed in every species. Organisms within the same population may express different forms of a particular trait, such as color, size, or beak shape.
	Organisms are born with a particular set of genetic traits inherited from their parents. Organisms cannot change their genetic traits in response to changes in the environment.
	Some traits may help an organism survive in a particular environment. Other traits may not be beneficial in the same environment. Organisms with traits that enhance survival are more likely to reproduce and pass on beneficial traits to their offspring.
	Over time and many generations, beneficial traits are passed on to more and more offspring. As the beneficial traits become more common in the population, the species becomes better adapted to the environment.

It is important to remember that individual organisms cannot change their own genetic traits to adapt to an environment. Natural selection is a process that occurs over time within a population of organisms.