

Darwin's Natural Selection Theory Worksheet

Read the following scenarios and identify the 5 points of Darwin's Natural Selection Theory.

Scenario 1: There are 2 types of worms: worms that eat at night (nocturnal) and worms that eat during the day (diurnal). The birds eat during the day and seem to be eating ONLY the diurnal worms. The nocturnal worms are in their burrows during this time. Each spring when the worms reproduce, they have about 500 babies, but only 100 of these 500 ever become old enough to reproduce.

- a. What worm has natural selection selected AGAINST? _____ FOR? _____

Identify the 5 points in the scenario above.

1. Population has variations:

2. Some variations are favorable:

3. More offspring are produced that survive:

4. Those that survive have favorable traits:

5. A population will change over time.

Scenario 2: There are 3 types of polar bears: ones with thick coats, ones with thin coats, and ones with medium coats. It is fall, soon to be winter. The temperatures are dropping rapidly and the bears must be kept warm or they will freeze to death. Many of the bears have had ~ 2 cubs each, but due to the extreme temperatures, many mothers only have 1 cub left.

- a. What bear will natural selection select AGAINST? _____ FOR? _____

Identify the 5 points in the scenario above.

1. Population has variations:

2. Some variations are favorable:

3. More offspring are produced that survive:

4. Those that survive have favorable traits:

5. A population will change over time.