

The Process of Evolution

Lesson 1 Natural Selection

Grade 7 Science Content Standards—3.b: Students know the reasoning used by Charles Darwin in reaching his conclusion that natural selection is the mechanism of evolution. Also covers: 3.a, 7.c

Scan Lesson 1 of your book. Write two facts you discovered about Charles Darwin and natural selection while scanning the lesson.

1. _____

2. _____

Review Vocabulary

Define population using your book or a dictionary. Use it in a sentence to show its scientific meaning.

population

New Vocabulary

Write the correct term on the blank to the left of each definition.

_____ person who studies the natural world

_____ inherited trait that increases an organism's chance of surviving and reproducing in a particular environment

_____ process in which traits that give animals a better chance for survival increase in a population over time

_____ genetic change in a population over time

Academic Vocabulary

Use a dictionary to define the term diverse, and then use it in a sentence.

diverse

Lesson 1 Natural Selection (continued)

Main Idea

Charles Darwin

I found this information on page _____.

I found this information on page _____.

I found this information on page _____.

Details

Summarize the key observation that Darwin made about animals he found on his journey, and the conclusion that he drew.

Observation	Conclusion
When Darwin compared animals he found on the Galápagos with _____, he saw that many of them were _____.	Darwin reasoned that perhaps some of the animals and plants on the Galápagos _____ and over time _____.

Organize information about variations that Darwin noticed among similar animals in different habitats.

Animal	Variations	Suitable for
Tortoises	longer neck, saddle-shaped shell	
	shorter neck, dome-shaped shell	
Finches		

Define selective breeding.

Selective breeding is _____

SUMMARIZE IT

Highlight the main idea of this section below.

Charles Darwin thought about why there are so many species of organisms on Earth and explored some of life's most remarkable diversity around the world. Through his observation, Darwin uncovered an important process that accounts for such variation.

Lesson 1 Natural Selection (continued)

Main Idea

Darwin's Theory of Natural Selection

I found this information on page _____.

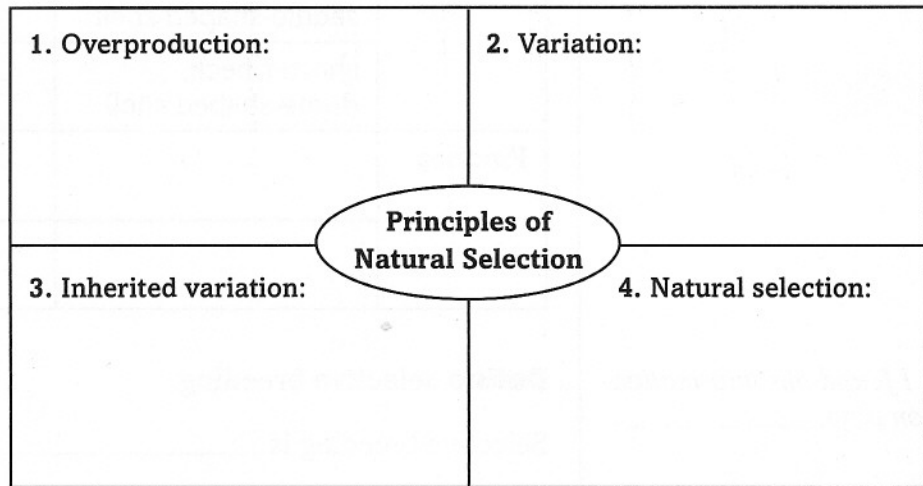
I found this information on page _____.

Details

Summarize the three strands of thought that Darwin tied together in his idea of natural selection.

Darwin's Theory of Natural Selection		
Genetic Variation	Population Growth and the Struggle to Survive	Environmental Factors

Rephrase in your own words the four principles on which Darwin's theory of natural selection is based. Complete the graphic organizer.



SUMMARIZE IT

Summarize the main idea of the above section of this lesson.
