

Natural Selection

UNIT QUESTION:

- Why do populations change over time?

Chapter 1 Question:

- What caused the newt population to become more poisonous?

Key Concepts:

1. A population can be described by the traits present and by the number of individuals who have each trait
2. The number of individuals with each trait in a population can change over time.
3. Over many generations, individuals with adaptive traits become more common in a population, while individuals with non-adaptive traits become less common.
4. The traits that exist in a population determine which traits can become more common over many generations.
5. Whether or not a trait is adaptive depends on the environment.
6. Biologists analyze data about environmental conditions (the causes) to explain changes in the distribution of traits in a population (the effects).

Chapter 2 Question:

- How did the trait for increased poison level become more common in the newt population?

Key Concepts:

1. Individuals inherit their genes from their parents, and these genes determine their traits. Therefore, traits in a population are passed down from generation to generation.
2. Individuals with adaptive traits are more likely to live longer and have offspring. Individuals with non-adaptive traits are more likely to die without having offspring.