

# Natural Selection

8th Grade

Four conditions, and what the theory does and does not claim.

*Natural selection needs four things to be true. If all four hold, it follows necessarily.*

## **VARIATION**

1

Individuals in a population differ from one another.

## **INHERITANCE**

2

Some of that variation is passed to offspring.

## **COMPETITION**

3

More offspring are produced than can survive.

## **DIFFERENTIAL SURVIVAL**

4

Some variations survive and reproduce more often.

### **THE RESULT**

Helpful traits become more common over generations.  
The population changes; no individual ever did.

Organisms do not adapt on purpose. Traits that already existed simply become more common.