

# Download File PDF How Populations Evolve Workbook Answers

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**Evolution and Survival, Adaptation**

Evolution is the change in a population over time. In the 1800s, you will learn about Darwin's theory about how a species changes over time. **Survival of the fittest** is a theory about why some organisms survive and others do not. **Adaptation** is a change that an organism develops or acquires over time to survive in its environment. According to Darwin, a giraffe could stretch its neck to reach the leaves on high branches of trees when it needed to eat. The next generation inherited its neck, the longer-necked giraffe. The giraffe could then stretch its neck to reach the leaves on high branches of trees. This led to the survival of giraffes with longer necks. The giraffe with the longest neck passed its trait to its offspring, and the giraffe with the shortest neck died. This is called **survival of the fittest**.

**Survival of the Fittest**

An organism with a trait that is well-suited to its environment is said to have a **survival advantage**. In the case of giraffes, the longer-necked giraffe has a survival advantage because it can reach higher leaves to eat. This means that only the giraffes with the longest necks will survive to have offspring. If the environment changes, different traits may become more useful, and the survival advantage of the population will change. Natural selection is a mechanism for evolution.

**Survival of the Fittest**

In the example, the giraffe in the first generation with shorter necks cannot reach the leaves in the trees. Although food, the short-neck giraffe is able to survive and reproduce. However, giraffes with longer necks that can reach the leaves can obtain more food and reproduce. Therefore, the population of giraffes evolves over time, with more individuals in the population with longer necks.

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