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Crash Course Biology #13: Natural Selection: Life's Way of Stayin' Alive

Name: _____ Date: _____

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1. The characteristics that help organisms survive and reproduce in their environment are called _____.
2. _____ selection is the process by which certain traits become more common because they increase an organism's chances of survival and reproduction.
3. The inherited genetic makeup of an organism is known as its _____.
4. The observable traits of an organism, influenced by its genotype and environment, are called its _____.
5. The presence of different traits within a population, necessary for evolution to occur, is called _____.
6. Traits must be _____ in order to be passed from parents to offspring and contribute to evolution.
7. When an extreme version of a trait is favored over others, leading to a shift in the population's traits, it is called _____ selection.
8. The process in which both extremes of a trait are favored over intermediate traits is called _____ selection.
9. _____ selection occurs when intermediate traits are favored over extremes, reducing variation in a population.
10. A trade-off in evolution, where gaining one beneficial trait may come at the cost of another, is known as an _____.
11. The random changes in allele frequencies due to chance events, especially in small populations, are referred to as _____.
12. The specific versions of genes inherited from parents are called _____.
13. The process by which humans selectively breed organisms to enhance desired traits is called _____ selection.
14. A sudden change in an environment, such as a hurricane, that influences the survival of certain traits can act as a driver of _____.
15. The study of genetic variation and evolutionary changes within populations is known as _____ genetics.

Crash Course Biology #13: Natural Selection: Life's Way of Stayin' Alive – KEY

1. The characteristics that help organisms survive and reproduce in their environment are called **adaptations**.
2. **Natural** selection is the process by which certain traits become more common because they increase an organism's chances of survival and reproduction.
3. The inherited genetic makeup of an organism is known as its **genotype**.
4. The observable traits of an organism, influenced by its genotype and environment, are called its **phenotype**.
5. The presence of different traits within a population, necessary for evolution to occur, is called **variation**.
6. Traits must be **heritable** in order to be passed from parents to offspring and contribute to evolution.
7. When an extreme version of a trait is favored over others, leading to a shift in the population's traits, it is called **directional** selection.
8. The process in which both extremes of a trait are favored over intermediate traits is called **disruptive** selection.
9. **Stabilizing** selection occurs when intermediate traits are favored over extremes, reducing variation in a population.
10. A trade-off in evolution, where gaining one beneficial trait may come at the cost of another, is known as an **evolutionary trade-off**.
11. The random changes in allele frequencies due to chance events, especially in small populations, are referred to as **genetic drift**.
12. The specific versions of genes inherited from parents are called **alleles**.
13. The process by which humans selectively breed organisms to enhance desired traits is called **artificial** selection.
14. A sudden change in an environment, such as a hurricane, that influences the survival of certain traits can act as a driver of **natural selection**.
15. The study of genetic variation and evolutionary changes within populations is known as **population genetics**.

15 Questions

Answer Key Included

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