

Darwin Contest — Survival of the Fittest

*Each organic being . . . during each generation or at intervals,
has to struggle for life and suffer great destruction. . . . The
vigorous, the healthy, and the happy survive and multiply.*

— Charles Darwin, *The Origin of Species*, 1859

Submission deadline: Friday, May 5, 5:00 P.M.

Along with the Darwin assignment, we're going to hold the CS106B Darwin Creature Contest! The idea of the contest is to design a creature that can best compete in the Darwin world. Although designing your evolutionarily-fit creature won't get you out of the final exam (sorry :-), you can earn a few minutes of fame in lecture and a nice meal complete with scintillating conversation out of the deal. Nothing too serious, just a fun little exercise in playing with the creature language and allowing you a chance to flex your competitive muscle.

Official rules:

1. Only students registered in CS106B are eligible to submit entries.
2. Only one entry per person will be accepted.
3. All entries are due at 5:00P.M. on Friday, May 5. Late entries will not be accepted. Contest entries must be separate from your assignment submission and must be marked with the words "Darwin Contest." They should be submitted to Julie in class or to Julie's office in Gates 192.
4. Each submission must consist of a Macintosh disk containing the program for a Darwin creature. That program must use only the standard instructions given in the Darwin assignment and may not exceed 250 instructions.
5. Each creature will be tested in the default Darwin 15x15 grid populated with 10 individuals each of your creature, an enemy creature, and the Food creature. The winner will be the creature with the greatest population after 1000 generations.
6. A round-robin tournament will be used to select two finalists who will then be pitted against each other in a best two-out-of-three contest in class.
7. For the winner of the final round, we will hike your Darwin grade by two full buckets and all four contestants who make it to the quarter-finals will be invited to a tasty weekend brunch at the Hobee's with Julie and Yves where we promise to be at our sparkly-est!