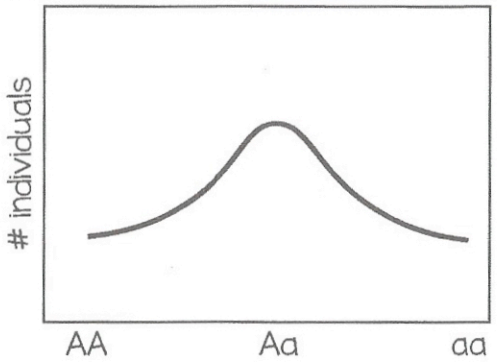
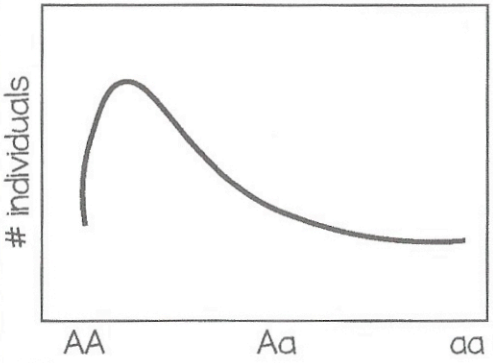
Natural Selection Types

Name: _____

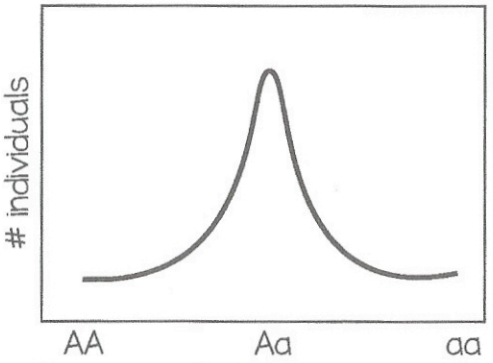


- Natural selection is a large driving force in evolution.
- Scientists sometimes classify natural selection into different types depending on how it acts on a particular phenotype or trait in a population.

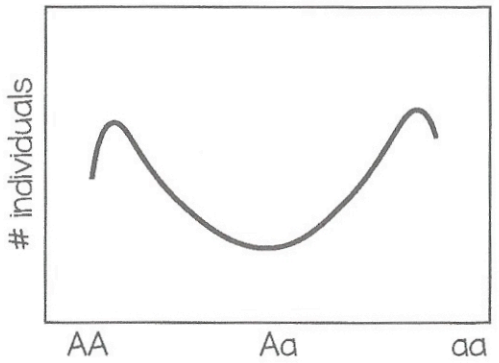
In the example below, each genotype (AA, Aa, aa) has a different phenotype. Aa, the heterozygote, has an intermediate phenotype.



Directional Selection:
One phenotype is favored by environmental conditions.
Natural selection will cause the population's next generations to shift to contain more individuals with the favored phenotype.



Stabilizing Selection:
The intermediate phenotype is favored by environmental conditions.
Natural selection will cause the population's next generations to shift to contain more individuals with the intermediate phenotype.



Disruptive Selection:
In an environment, both extreme phenotypes have some advantage.
Natural selection may cause two separate groups defined by the two extreme phenotypes to grow in the next generations.
This type of selection is considered to be much more rare than the other types.

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