

6 - Mechanisms of Evolution

Term	Definition
Bottleneck effect	Small populations are at higher risk for random genetic factors
Genetic drift	Cheetahs have little genetic variation due to dwindling populations
Founder effect	Dutch-descended S. Africans have a high rate of Huntington's disease
Natural selection	Differential reproductive success; 'survival of the fittest'
Disruptive selection	Medium-sized beaks of finches are a poor fit for the environment
Directional selection	The tendency for larger individuals to survive
Artificial selection	Brassica oleracea can be bred to create a host of vegetable types such as broccoli, cauliflower and Brussels sprouts
Stabilizing selection	A tendency for a population mean to also become the mode
Gene flow	New individuals migrate to an island bringing their own genes