

Skills Worksheet

Active Reading

Section: Applying Darwin's Ideas

Read the passage below. Then answer the questions that follow.

The theory of evolution by **natural selection** can be summarized as follows: (1) Every population produces more offspring than can survive in an environment with limited resources, known as overproduction. (2) All populations show variation in traits, and much of this variation is inherited. (3) In a given environment, individuals with traits that make them better suited to survive long enough to reproduce leave more offspring than individuals without these traits. (4) Over time, inherited traits that improve the chances of survival and reproduction, called **adaptations**, become more common than other traits within a population. In other words, the population evolves.

SKILL: READING EFFECTIVELY

Read each question, and write your answer in the space provided.

1. What does the word *overproduction* refer to in the second sentence?

2. Define the word *adaptation*.

3. How does natural selection lead to the evolution of a population?
