

Evolution Vocabulary Unit 6

Resources – all the things an organism needs to stay alive (food, water, space)

Overproduction – having so many offspring that not all can survive

Peppered moth – one famous example of how natural selection works

Resistant – to act against; an organism that is not effected by a chemical

Anatomy – the structure or body of a living thing

Vestigial structure—a body part that may have been useful at one point, but now is not because of evolution

Embryo—a developing living thing before it is born

Selective breeding—when humans choose traits in organisms and breed then to get that trait

Natural selection—Darwin’s idea that nature selects traits that make an organism better adapted to its environment

Variation—the idea that a species has a lot of variety in traits (color, size, etc.)

Biodiversity—the many different kinds of living things alive today

Evolution—change over time

Adaptation—a trait that helps an organism survive in its environment

Species—a group of organisms that can mate and have offspring, which can have offspring

Common Ancestor—a relative shared by 2 or more organisms