



Grades 9–12

3.1.9-12.T Life Science: Natural Selection and Evolution

Students who demonstrate understanding can *construct an explanation based on evidence that the process of evolution primarily results from four factors: (1) the potential for a species to increase in number, (2) the heritable genetic variation of individuals in a species due to mutation and sexual reproduction, (3) competition for limited resources, and (4) the proliferation of those organisms that are better able to survive and reproduce in the environment.*

Clarifying Statement: Emphasis is on using evidence to explain the influence each of the four factors has on number of organisms, behaviors, morphology, or physiology in terms of ability to compete for limited resources and subsequent survival of individuals and adaptation of species. Examples of evidence could include mathematical models such as simple distribution graphs and proportional reasoning.

Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include other mechanisms of evolution, such as genetic drift, gene flow through migration, and co-evolution.

Science and Engineering Practices (SEP)	Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCI)	Crosscutting Concepts (CCC)
<p>Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions</p> <p>Constructing explanations and designing solutions in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to explanations and designs that are supported by multiple and independent student-generated sources of evidence consistent with scientific ideas, principles, and theories.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct an explanation based on valid and reliable evidence obtained from a variety of sources (including students’ own investigations, models, theories, simulations, peer review) and the assumption that theories and laws that describe the natural world operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future. 	<p>LS4.B: Natural Selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural selection occurs only if there is both (1) variation in the genetic information between organisms in a population and (2) variation in the expression of that genetic information—that is, trait variation—that leads to differences in performance among individuals. <p>LS4.C: Adaptation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evolution is a consequence of the interaction of four factors: (1) the potential for a species to increase in number, (2) the genetic variation of individuals in a species due to mutation and sexual reproduction, (3) competition for an environment’s limited supply of the resources that individuals need in order to survive and reproduce, and (4) the ensuing proliferation of those organisms that are better able to survive and reproduce in that environment. 	<p>Cause and Effect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empirical evidence is required to differentiate between cause and correlation and make claims about specific causes and effects.

Pennsylvania Context: Examples of Pennsylvania context include but are not limited to genetic variations within native species such as albino squirrels, black squirrels, albino deer, Pennsylvania elk, timber rattlesnakes, river otters, and brown trout. Various Pennsylvania organisms are impacted by changing environmental conditions.

PA Career Ready Skills: Situate self in any social context as a means to determine a response.



Connections to Other Standards Content and Practices

Standard Source	Possible Connections to Other Standard(s) or Practice(s)
Agriculture (AFNR)	CS.02.02.01.a: Identify and summarize the components within AFNR systems (e.g., Animal Systems: health, nutrition, genetics, etc.; Natural Resources Systems: soil, water, etc.).
Science, Environmental Literacy and Sustainability (NAAEE)	9-12 Strand 2.1.B. Earth's living systems: Learners describe basic population dynamics, genetic mechanisms behind biological evolution, and the importance of diversity in living systems. They explain how changes in the hydrosphere, atmosphere, and geosphere affect the biosphere. They describe how human sustainability is dependent on the biosphere.
PA Core Standards: ELA	CC.3.5.9-12.A: Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts, attending to the precise details of explanations or descriptions. CC.3.5.11-12.A: Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts, attending to important distinctions the author makes and to any gaps or inconsistencies in the account. CC.3.6.9-12.B: Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/experiments, or technical processes. CC.3.6.9-12.H: Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
PA Core Standards and Practices: Math	MP.2: Reason abstractly and quantitatively. MP.4: Model with mathematics. CC.2.4.HS.B.4: Recognize and evaluate random processes underlying statistical experiments. CC.2.4.HS.B.5: Make inferences and justify conclusions based on sample surveys, experiments, and observational studies.
PA Standards: Social Studies	N/A
Educational Technology (ISTE)	1.3. Knowledge Constructor: Students critically curate a variety of resources using digital tools to construct knowledge, produce creative artifacts and make meaningful learning experiences for themselves and others.
Technology and Engineering (ITEEA)	STEL-10: Assess how similarities and differences among scientific, mathematical, engineering, and technological knowledge and skills contributed to the design of a product or system.