DARWINS NATURAL SELECTION WORKSHEET

NAME										

Read the following situations below and identify the 5 points of Darwin's natural selection.

QUESTION ONE

There are 2 types of worms: worms that eat at night (nocturnal) and worms that eat during the day (diurnal). The birds eat during the day and seem to be eating ONLY the diurnal worms. The nocturnal worms are in their burrows during this time. Each spring when the worms reproduce, they have about 500 babies but only 100 of these 500 ever become old enough to reproduce.

What worm has natural selection selected

AGAINST? Diurnal worms FOR? Nocturnal worms

Identify Darwin's 5 points of natural selection in the scenario above.

Population has variations

There is diurnal and nocturnal worms

Some variations are favorable

Noctural worms have the advantage

More offspring are produced than survive 500 born but only 100 survive

Those that survive have favorable traits

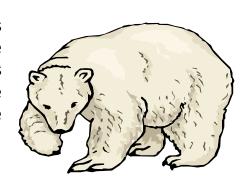
A population will change over time

The noctural worms have more babies

Diurnal worms become nocturnal worms

QUESTION TWO

There are 3 types of polar bears: ones with thick coats, ones with thin coats and ones with medium coats. It is fall, soon to be winter. The temperatures are dropping rapidly and the bears must be kept warm, or they will freeze to death. Many of the bears have had 2 cubs each but due to the extreme temperatures, many mothers only have one cub left.



What bear will natural selection select

AGAINST? Thin coats FOR? Thick coats

Identify Darwin's 5 points of natural selection in the scenario above.

Population has variations There is thick, medium and thin coats

Some variations are favorable Thick and medium coats over thin coats

More offspring are produced than survive 2 cubs born but many only have one left

Those that survive have favorable traits Thick and medium coats survive

A population will change over time Thin coats > medium coats > thick coats



In ostriches, there are 2 types: ones that run fast and those that run slowly. The fast birds can reach up to 40 miles an hour. Jackals love to eat ostrich, and they can reach speeds of up to 35-40 miles per hour. A flock of ostrich will lay approximately 10 eggs (each mother only lays 1), but many rodents break into the eggs and eat the fetus before they hatch.

What ostrich will natural selection select
AGAINST? Slow ostriches FOR? Fast ostriches

Identify Darwin's 5 points of natural selection in the scenario above.

Population has variations There are slow and fast ostriches

Some variations are favorable Fas

More offspring are produced than survive

Those that survive have favorable traits

A population will change over time

Fast ostriches can out run the jackals

Rodents eat the eggs before they hatch The fast ostriches can outrun the jackals

Slow ostriches into fast ostriches

QUESTION FOUR

Bob believes that giraffes have long necks because they have stretched their necks to try and reach food that is high in trees. Since the parent had stretched its neck, it passed the long neck on to its offspring.

Ryan believes that giraffes have long necks because the ones with long necks were able to reach the food, and those with short necks could not and died. The long necked giraffes reproduced, and soon all of the giraffes had long necks.

Who thinks like Lamarck? Bob

Who thinks like Darwin? Ryan

