What is evolution?

Evolution is descent with modification Charles Darwin (1859), On The Origin of Species.

How does it work?

Variability

Given any population, there are differences in traits among all individuals.

Not all individuals are the same.



Mutations

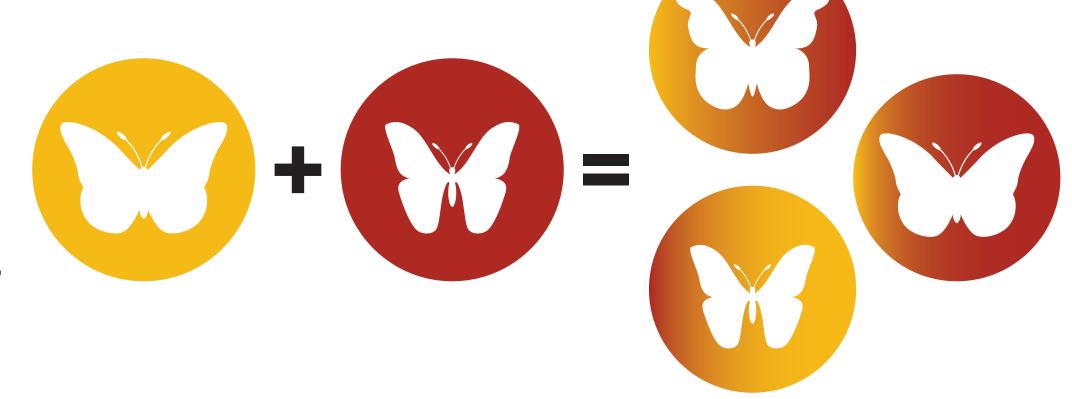
Random mutations may occur, modifying certain traits.



Heredity

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Offspring inherit, on average, half the traits from each parent.



Natural Selection

Individuals with certain traits will have a reproductive advantage, depending on the environment, over individuals without those traits.

