MEET THE BLOCKERS.

Evolution is described as the biological change over time (Rosenbaum, 2011). Does this mean that each person is evolving into something new? Evolution occurs over many generations and varies relative to different conditions. This means it might take hundreds of years to see an entire population change. One major part of evolution has to do with natural selection. Natural selection deals with individuals mating based in specific traits that help their children (offspring) survive. There are many cases where individuals mate to create offspring based on desired physical traits.

ACTIVITY

In a land far far away, there is a population of animals called blockers. These blockers live happily but encounter some issues that limit their population. As a scientist breeding these animals, you are to determine what mating pairs are most beneficial to the offspring.

Here are the problems your team needs to solve in order to make a successful population.

For each question:

* 1. Write down the number of each parent (it does not matter which one is the mother or father).
  2. Draw what you think the offspring would look like.

1. Because the blockers are very small, they are unable to reach the fruit on trees. Their only food source comes from fruit that falls to the ground. Their inability to reach the trees limits the success of the population. What two organisms would produce an offspring what would help the population thrive?
2. Because the blockers have small eyes, they are unable to see predators. What 2 organisms will create offspring with better eyesight?
3. Because the planet has been entering an ice age, the environment has been significantly colder. What two organisms would create an offspring that would most likely survive cold weather?

go to: <http://science.discovery.com/interactives/literacy/darwin/darwin.html> to have more practice with evolution!

ABSTRACT QUESTIONS

Based on what you know from the activity and the electronic game, how does diversity (in characteristics) affect the population?

Predict what trait would be selected for if the climate changed to a warmer environment instead of colder?

CITATIONS

Rosenbaum, A. Peter. (2011). Volpe’s understanding of evolution: Seventh edition. New York: McGraw-Hill Companies Inc.

Discovery Communications Inc. (2012). Darwin’s evolution game. <http://science.discovery.com/interactives/literacy/darwin/darwin.html>.