***Natural Selection – The Mechanism of Gradualism (Descent with Modification)***

 Example

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1Overproduction of Young | More offspring are produced than can possibly survive |  |
| 2Competition for Resources | There is a struggle for existence |  |
| 3Variations | In any population, mutations and sexual reproduction result in new variations and new combinations of characteristics |  |
| 4Survival of the Fittest | Those that have the variations that make them best suited to survive in their environment will live while others perish |  |
| 5The Fittest Reproduce | Those that survive to reproduce will pass on successful traits to offspring. Eventually, the successful traits are taken on by the entire population A variation that is useful and becomes commonplace in the species is called an adaptation.  |  |