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

Example

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| 1  Overproduction of Young | More offspring are produced than can possibly survive |  |
| 2  Competition for Resources | There is a struggle for existence |  |
| 3  Variations | In any population, mutations and sexual reproduction result in new variations and new combinations of characteristics |  |
| 4  Survival of the Fittest | Those that have the variations that make them best suited to survive in their environment will live while others perish |  |
| 5  The 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. |  |