

Darwinian Explanations

1. Use the Darwinian model handout to underline and label the sections of the following Darwinian explanation. 5 pts

Darwinian Explanation: Tigers and Cheetahs

A long time ago lions were solid tan in color. In that population there was individual variation in hair color, just as variation existed in many other traits. In areas with greater shading from trees, individuals with dark stripes or spots were more easily camouflaged from the prey that they hunted. Lions with a solid tan color were more easily spotted by their prey and therefore were more likely to starve or die before reproducing and passing on their traits than the lions with dark spots or stripes. The offspring from lions with dark spots or stripes were likely to inherit the trait for dark spots or stripes. Over many generations the majority of the lions in forested habitats had dark stripes or spots, though variation in hair color still existed.

2. Write a Darwinian explanation of how Spotted Towhees could have evolved from their close relative the California (Brown) Towhee. Underline and label the parts of your Darwinian explanation. 10 pts

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3. Write a Darwinian explanation of how giraffes came to have very long necks. Underline and label the parts of your Darwinian explanation. 10 pts