

The Making of the Fittest: Natural Selection and Adaptation in Rock Pocket Mice

- Discuss the questions below with your table partners and answer them in your BILL.
 1. What is a mutation?
 2. Can mutations be caused by a selective pressure in the environment? Explain why or why not.
 3. Are all mutations advantageous in every situation? Explain why or why not.
 4. How does the environment play a role in changing the frequency of a mutation in a population?
 5. **True or false:** The dark-colored volcanic rock caused the mutation for black fur to appear in the rock pocket mouse population.
 6. Using what you know about natural selection, explain how the dark fur trait increased in frequency in the rock pocket mouse population. Include the terms fitness, evolution and selection.