

Analogous structures: similarities among unrelated species that result from convergent evolution

- Ex: wings of a butterfly vs. wings of a bat

Vestigial structures: remnant of a structure that may have had an important function in a species' ancestors, but has no clear function in the modern species

- Ex: appendix

More Key Words & Concepts

Speciation: formation of new species

- Ex: evolution of dogs from wolves

Natural selection: process by which individuals with inherited characteristics well suited to the environment leave more offspring than other individuals

Artificial selection: selective breeding of domesticated plants and animals to produce offspring with desired genetic traits; ex: Farmers only keep seeds from best crops or horse breeders breed winning race horses with each other

- Includes genetic engineering

Gene pool: all of the alleles in all the individuals that make up a population

Genetic drift: change in the gene pool of a population due to chance; ex: death within population due to disease

Gene flow: exchange of genes between populations; occurs due to migration; coming or leaving of organisms=addition or subtraction of genes

Microevolution: evolution on the smallest scale—a generation-to-generation change in the frequencies of alleles within a population; could happen due to genetic variations like mutations, recombination or shuffling of genes in sexual reproduction

Reproductive isolation: condition in which a reproductive barrier keeps two species from interbreeding

Adaptive radiation: evolution from a common ancestor of many species adapted to diverse environments

Geographic isolation: separation of populations as a result of geographic change or migration to geographically isolated places