

HAVE YOU EVER EATEN CORN BEFORE?

WELL 10,000 YEARS AGO, THERE WOULD'VE ONLY BEEN ABOUT 7 KERNELS ON YOUR COB.

This can be explained by artificial selection! However, there is something called natural selection that accounts for why the majority of the life in the world is the way it is.

NATURAL SELECTION

Changes of a population based upon their ability to survive and reproductive success. It can be seen as a process:

Individual organism has an advantageous characteristic that allows it to survive.



Individual organism is able to pass trait onto its offspring and the offspring is more likely to survive.



The advantageous trait is passed from generation to generation and evolution occurs.



ARTIFICIAL SELECTION

Changes of a population based upon how it can benefit a humans needs (influenced by direct human interaction)

Certain individuals have more appealing traits that benefit humans.



Humans utilize certain methods involving technology or selective breeding in order to increase the occurrence of this trait.



Microevolution, or evolution over a short time period occurs to benefit humans.



THE EVOLUTION OF CORN!



Wild teosinte progression to current day Maize
photo credit: Terry Daynard

Wild Teosinte was naturally selected over thousands of years.

Maize is the result of artificially selecting wild teosinte for traits like larger ears and weaker hulls, eventually becoming maize.

