

ExplorLearning

Name: _____ Date: _____

Student Exploration: Evolution: Mutation and Selection**Vocabulary:** adaptation, allele, chromosome, evolution, fitness, gene, genotype, mutation, natural selection, phenotype, trait**Prior Knowledge Questions** (Do these BEFORE using the Gizmo.)

1. Imagine a white lizard and a brown lizard sitting on a brown rock. A hawk is circling overhead hunting for its next meal. Which lizard do you think the hawk would most likely try to catch? Explain your choice.

2. Now imagine that the same two lizards were sitting on a dune of white sand. Which lizard do you think the hawk would then most likely try to catch? Why?

Gizmo Warm-up

How long could a parrot survive in Antarctica? It would probably not survive long. Parrots do not have **adaptations**—or helpful characteristics—to survive icy cold weather. Because of this, a parrot is not fit for Antarctica. **Fitness** describes how well an organism can survive and reproduce in an environment.

In the *Evolution: Mutation and Selection* Gizmo™, you will see how a species' fitness can change over time as it becomes better adapted to its environment.



- On the SIMULATION pane, what is the **Average fitness** of the population? _____
- On the CONTROLS pane, experiment with the **Background color** sliders.
 - Which background color results in the highest fitness? _____
 - Which background color results in the lowest fitness? _____



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