

Natural Selection: Giraffes

1. Giraffes live on the savannah and eat leaves out of trees. Some are shorter and some are taller. That's because:

- a) Some giraffes decide to be taller and others decide to be shorter
- b) **There are random differences between giraffes**



2. Taller giraffes can reach and eat out of more tall trees. There is less *pressure* for them to find food because they can access more of the trees (food).

3. As a result:

- a) **The shorter giraffes get less food and are less likely to survive**
- b) The giraffes that decide not to grow longer necks aren't as smart, so they get less food and are less likely to survive





4. Because the taller giraffes are likely to survive longer:

- a) They spend time with the shorter giraffes and help them get food, and all giraffes have babies
- b) **They are more likely than the shorter giraffes to have baby giraffes**

5. When tall giraffes have babies, the baby giraffes:

- a) **Tend to be taller, because the trait of being tall is passed down from the tall giraffes**
- b) All decide to be tall



6. Over hundreds of years:

- a) The total population of giraffes gets smarter so they all decide to have long necks
- b) **The total population of giraffes is taller, because the taller giraffes are more likely to survive and have taller baby giraffes**