

MythUnderstood

Part 1: Find the Myths

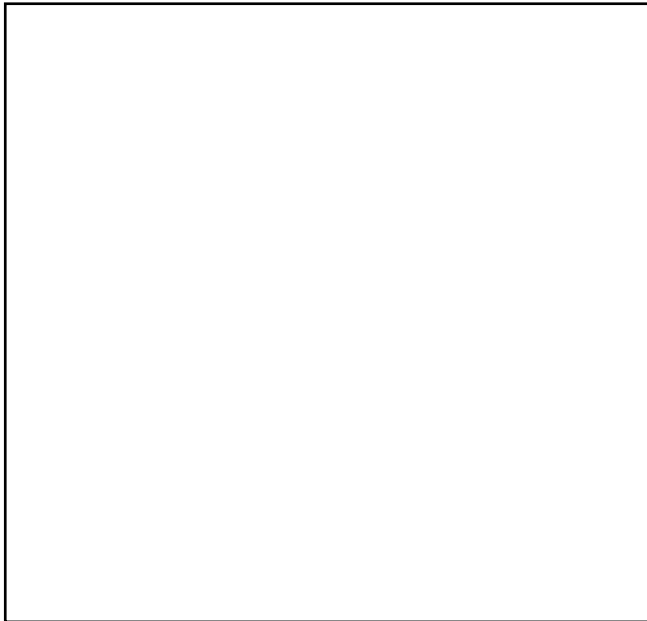
Read your story. It violates four science ideas that are very important to understanding Natural Selection:

Science Idea	Where the Myth gets it wrong
1. Individuals' genetic traits vary because of mutation and recombination during reproduction—not because they decide to change them.	
2. Only differences in genetic traits can pass from parents to offspring. Traits an individual acquires during its lifetime are not inherited.	
3. Natural selection acts on a population, not an individual organism.	
4. It takes many generations for a trait to become common in a population.	

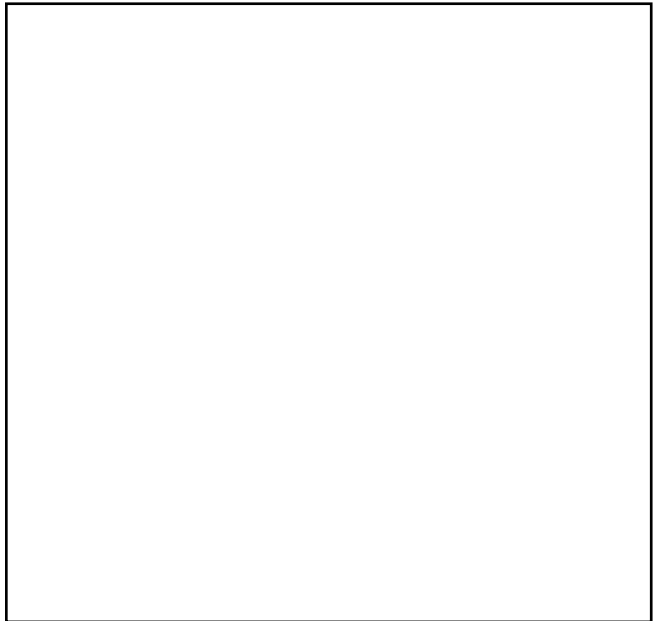
Part 2: How does a species *really* come to have its traits?

The *How Natural Selection Works* video describes what is needed for natural selection. The *myth* gets most of those things *wrong*. **You can create a better story!** You may **write** or **draw** your ideas. It does not need to be what really happened but should be built on solid science.

Choose one: Elephants' long trunk Armadillos' tough plates Kangaroos' strong legs



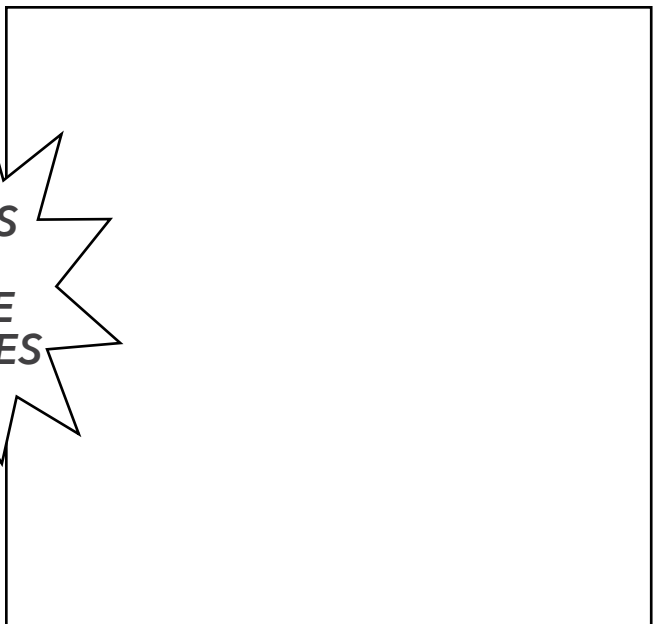
A population with lots of variation in genetic traits



An environment where the trait you chose is helpful



Those with the trait are more likely to pass it on



What the population is like now

