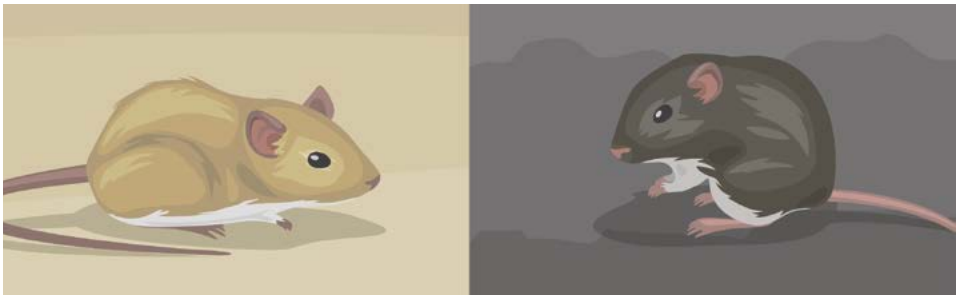
NAME _____ DATE _____

Natural Selection: Three Models

Read carefully:

Conceptual models are sets of ideas that explain phenomena. Phenomena are observable things that happen in the world around us.

Natural selection is a process through which the traits in a population can shift over time. For example:



Rock pocket mouse populations living in some habitats have changed over time to have darker fur.

A group of students is discussing their understanding of natural selection.

Lamar: When the environment changes, individuals change their traits to better fit with the new environment. Over time, these helpful trait variations become more common in the population.

Alex: Individuals with helpful trait variations are more likely to reproduce, passing their traits to the next generation. Over many generations, these helpful trait variations become more common in the population.

Juan: Individuals that are strong and healthy are better able to adapt to a changing environment. When individuals with the traits that make them strongest and healthiest reproduce, each generation is better adapted.

Answer questions 1 & 2 only

1. Do you most agree with Lamar, Alex, or Juan? _____

2. Explain your thinking, as it relates to the rock pocket mouse phenomenon above.

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Answer questions 3–5 *after* you have completed *Natural Selection: Weigh the Evidence*

3. Do you most agree with Lamar, Alex, or Juan? _____

4. If you changed your mind, explain why.

5. List one piece of evidence from *Natural Selection: Weigh the Evidence* and explain why it supports the model you chose.