

Concept 14.3

Darwin proposed natural selection as the mechanism of evolution.

Darwin's Theory of Natural Selection

- **Population** - a group of individuals of the same species living in the same area at the same time.
- **Variation** - differences among members of the same species.

Theory of Natural Selection

Darwin recognized that all species tend to produce excessive numbers of offspring. Darwin, drawing from Malthus's ideas about human (Thomas Malthus p. 297) population growth and limited resources, leads to a struggle for existence.

- ◇ Individuals with inherited traits that are best suited to the local environment are more likely to survive and reproduce than less fit individuals. (Individuals that function best tend to leave the most offspring.)

Artificial Selection - the traits that become more common in a population and are chosen by humans.