Natural Selection

The first step is <u>overreproduction</u>. More offspring are born than can survive. This causes a struggle for existence (due to limited food, water, mates, habitat, etc.). Likely, the smallest, weakest, diseased will not make it.

The second step is **genetic variation**. Each organism in a population is genetically different from each other. This means that each organisms has slightly different traits than every other one.

The third step is **favorable traits**. Traits are physical characteristics that organisms are born with. Organisms with traits that are better suited to their environment have a better chance to survive and reproduce, passing on genetic information. Those without the favorable traits likely will die out before reproducing or not find a mate.

The fourth step is <u>successful reproduction</u> and over time, the population contains more individuals with the favorable traits. Eventually, after many generation, favorable traits will become part of the whole population.

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