

Module 8: Evolution and Natural Selection

Topic 3 Content: Types of Natural Selection Notes

DIRECTIONAL SELECTION



Directional Selection

When one phenotype on an extreme end of the phenotype spectrum is favored, it is called directional selection. Over time, the appearance of the phenotype will shift in that direction. If the favored phenotype was rare, it will become more frequent.

STABILIZING SELECTION



Stabilizing Selection

With stabilizing selection, the mean value of a trait is selected. The trait will shift in the middle direction, and will become more frequent.

DISRUPTIVE SELECTION



Disruptive Selection

When more than one phenotype on extreme ends of the phenotype spectrum are favored, it is called disruptive selection. Over time, the population divides into two separate groups.