

	Lesson 1: Engage	Lesson 2: Explore	Lesson 3: Explore	Lesson 4: Explain
Student Experience	Students will investigate the fossil record to observe the similarities and differences of organisms in a particular geographical area.	Students will design an organism that is best suited for its food source, test it, collect and analyze data, and explain what the best “traits” for survival are.	Students will re-design their organism based on a list of traits given so that it is best suited for its food sources, test it, collect and analyze data, and explain why having a greater genetic variation is important for a species survival.	Students will read the natural selection reading and apply their Engage and Explore activities to what they have just learned.
Upcycled Materials	N/A	Food Sources: Building Materials:	Food Sources: Building Materials:	Natural Selection Reading
Big Idea	Students notice that organism’s physical appearances change over time.	Some traits are more favorable than others. Organisms that are more adapted to their environments are more likely to survive.	Greater genetic variety in a population allows for greater survival of the species.	Natural Selection
Connection to Culminating Task	Students start to collect evidence to explain what natural selection is.	Students collect evidence to explain favorable traits.	Students collect evidence to explain natural selection.	Students verify their ideas of natural selection and collect evidence to back up claims.
CA Standards	CA.7.5.c	CA.7.5.b CA.7.5.e	CA.7.5.b CA.7.5.e	CA.7.5.a CA.7.5.b CA.7.5.e
Next Generation Science Standards	MS-LS-4-2	MS-LS-4-4	MS-LS-4-4	MS-LS-4-4
Time	1 Period	2 Periods	2 Periods	1 Period

	Lesson 5: Explain (Culminating Task)	Lesson 6: Extend	Lesson 7: Evaluate
Student Experience	Students create a claim and argument mini essay using the paragraph frames to explain how having a variety of traits in a population allows for natural selection and ultimate survival of the species.	Students will complete a reading and discussion on artificial selection in our society today. Students will extend the activities they did and determine if the Explore activity was natural selection or artificial selection.	Students will research one artificially selected organism and evaluate whether or not the organism has benefited the environment it lives in.
Upcycled Materials	N/A	N/A	N/A
Big Idea	Greater genetic variety in a population allows for greater survival of the species.	Artificial Selection - humans picking traits/breeding for them Natural Selection - environmental pressures create favorable traits.	Are all artificially selected organisms a positive influence on our environment?
CA Standards	CA.7.5.b CA.7.5.e	CA.7.5.a	
Next Generation Science Standards	MS-LS-4-2	MS-LS-4-5	MS-LS-4-5
Time	1 Period	1 Periods	2-3 Periods