

natural selection vs sexual selection

natural selection

natural selection is a theory presented by Darwin and is often referred to as survival of the fittest - it is the idea that those organisms with the most adaptive characteristics are able to survive different selection pressures to then reproduce and have offspring. this will pass on the genes for the adaptive characteristics to their offspring which will occur for many generations and will increase the frequency of the adaptive allele in the gene pool

sexual selection

whereas sexual selection is a separate theory also presented by Darwin suggesting that those with the preferred characteristics are more likely to be selected for mating so that their genes are passed on to future generations.

what makes natural selection and sexual selection different?

sexual selection is different to natural selection as the mating partners are selected by organisms rather than nature. the characteristics selected by the mating partner also may also not be the most adaptive to survive selection pressures

what is anisogamy?

anisogamy - the difference in male and female gametes (sperm and eggs)

females

females have a limited supply of eggs and can be sure that the child is theirs as they physically give birth - females invest more into their child

males

males produce millions of sperm but cannot be certain that the child is theirs - they invest less into their child

anisogamy gives rise to two different mating strategies

Buss - sex differences in human mate preferences

aim

to investigate whether there are differences between males and females and how they choose their mates - also to investigate whether these differences are universal and why

intrasexual and intersexual selection

intrasexual selection - competition within one sex (usually males) to outcompete each other. this increases their chance of selection by females so that they can pass on their genes to future generations

some examples of areas in which organisms have to compete for female selection may include

- strength
- height
- intelligence

intersexual selection - when one sex (usually females) develops preferences for desirable qualities for potential mates (usually males) - this leads to the preference of the sex determining the areas in which the other sex must outcompete

for example if females seek resources males must work on this to outcompete others also seeking a partner



By **Taalithaa** (Taalithaa)
cheatography.com/taalithaa/

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