



Selection In Action

Introduction

Students will build their own cars out of Lego and K'Nex pieces. They will then put them through a series of obstacles including avoiding a predator, surviving a natural disaster and finding food. These obstacles represent the environment in which the cars live. Those that survive will have the opportunity to pass on their genetic traits to their offspring.

Selection In Action is a hands-on activity that helps explain several evolutionary concepts such as natural selection, genetic variability, recombination, mutations and the founder effect. In addition, the activity illustrates the important role that the environment plays in evolution. Although the initial cost is high, once a class set of Lego and K'Nex is purchased, the activity can be repeated in subsequent years for little or no cost.