



Selective Breeding Vs Natural Selection



Spot the Odd one out!



Over time we have bred domestic animals (pets) with particular **desirable characteristics** - in the case of the Miniature horse and micro pig they have been bred to be small.

According to the British Miniature Horse society, the Miniature horse has been bred to be a scaled down version of a riding horse. Due to its size and temperament, it is often kept as a pet. Likewise, the Micropig, sometimes known as the teacup pig, has been bred down in size over generations to produce pigs that are small in size when they are fully grown adults. Both the Miniature Horse and Micropig are examples of animals that have undergone **selective breeding** or "**artificial selection**", where animals with particular features (short legs or small body size) have been bred together to produce small offspring. Dogs are often 'cross-bred' to produce new breeds with desirable characteristics and temperaments e.g. a labradoodle.

The leaf chameleon is a wild animal that has evolved to be this small as an **adaptation** to surviving in the wild. Being that tiny enables it to hide from predators. This characteristic has evolved through **natural selection**.

You can find out more about the leaf chameleon here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p05bc88p>

Making new creatures - fabulous or Frankenstein?

Watch the BBC teach video about selective breeding on Youtube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tuj-qyg7fc4&list=PLcvEcrsF_9zL-ezi2arrUDzqkjz5Lmfba&index=1 . There are more videos in this series that you may want to explore in the menu on the right-hand side of the screen. Get permission from an adult before searching!

A quick Google-search brought up a few strange looking creatures...

Take a look at my selection of imaginary animals that have been 'selectively bred' on the class web page- don't worry, they aren't real!

- What kind of habitat would they have come from if they were real?
- What characteristics do they have which enables them to better survive in this habitat?

Can you create your own new species of animal? Draw it in your Darwin journal, label its features and describe its habitat, listing its needs in order to survive.

Do you think selective breeding is ethically ok?

What do you think the benefits and drawbacks are?

Do you suppose God intended for his creations to be selectively bred?