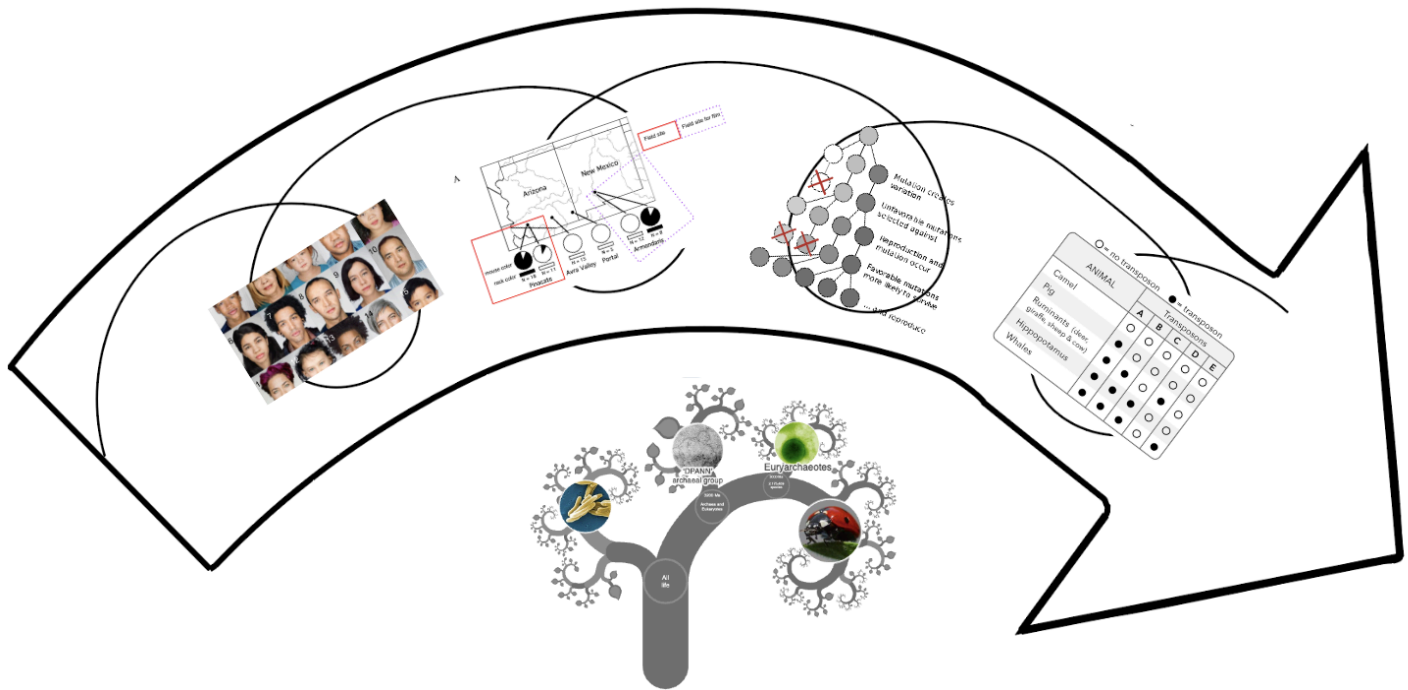


Patterns Biology Unit 5 Overview

Unit Essential Question: How does the environment drive the characteristics needed for fitness? How does the theory of evolution explain both the unity and diversity of life on earth?

Unit Anchoring Phenomenon: Humans have a wide variety of skin colors.



Task Set	Essential Question	Phenomenon
Task 1	Is race a biological characteristic determined by our genes?	Race has historically been used to separate humans into categories with the argument that we are biologically different, but in reality there is no biological basis for this categorization.
Task 2	How do populations change over time?	Rock pocket mouse populations have evolved fur colors that match their local environments.
Task 3	How do adaptations increase the fitness of a population?	Bacteria rapidly adapt to environments and overcome antibiotics at high concentrations.
Task 4	How do new species evolve?	There are about 150 species of Anoles Lizards on the Bahamian islands.
Task 5	How does the alignment of multiple lines of evidence support common ancestry and the theory of evolution?	Whales and dolphins are mammals, but mammals evolved on land.
Task 6	How did variation in human skin colors evolve?	Humans can not be sorted into biological categories based on skin color, yet skin color does vary among individuals and can affect human health.