**Natural Selection Activity**

Standards: B.5.4, B.5.5, SEPS.3, SEPS.6

Materials: Paper leaf cut out

Tape

Ladder

1. Take class to a place where the ceiling is high or outside.
2. Place a leaf cut out on a wall at a height everyone in the class can easily touch it.
3. Have the students line up and take turns trying to touch the leaf. Tell them if they can touch it they eat and they can go to the back of the line to “live” another day. The students that cannot touch the leaf don’t eat and have to wait out of line for the activity to be over.
4. Repeat step three, moving the leaf a little higher each time. When there is only one or two students left that can touch the leaf head back to the classroom.

The next part of this activity can be done as a class discussion, a journaling assignment, or a combination of both.

1. Have the students identify what the environmental pressures in the activity were.
2. Next, ask what trait or traits were selected for.
3. Now, have the class describe the other traits the students who made it to the end of the activity have.
4. Ask the class if these traits were selected for as well by this activity and why.
5. Ask the students who made it to the end of the activity if they would be willing to share their food with a mate. If yes, have them describe what characteristics they like in a mate (PG rated!!!)
6. Now ask the class what other traits were selected in this activity due to breeding.

A follow up writing activity could be to have the students make up their own natural selection activity. The activity should have an environmental pressure(s) identified, the trait(s) directly selected for, and trait(s) indirectly selected for. A research opportunity could be to have the student a real world example of natural selection.