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| Local Adaptation | A pattern in which individuals have higher fitness in their habitat of origin than in other regions because they have adaptations to their local environment. |
| Adaptation | A trait that helps an individual survive in their environment. |
| Natural Selection | Over time, organisms better suited to their environment survive longer and reproduce more; the process by which evolution occurs. |
| Gene Flow | The process of alleles being transferred from one population within a species to another population. |
| Fitness | The ability of an organism to survive and reproduce. |
| Population | Many individuals of a single species in the same general geographic location. |
| Ecotype | A population within a species that is locally adapted to a particular set of conditions; displays traits that match the ecological conditions where it is found. |
| Tolerance | The ability of an organism to recover from damage. |
| Resistance | The ability of an organism to ward off damage. |
| Reciprocal Transplant Study | A method of studying local adaptation whereby individuals from different ecotypes are planted at some or all sites being studied. |
| “Home-Away” (HA) Test of Local Adaptation | Local adaptation is tested by researching whether individuals of one ecotype perform better at their “home” site than at their “away” site; focus is on the organism. |
| “Local-Foreign” (LF) Test of Local Adaptation | Local adaptation is tested by researching whether “local” or “foreign” individuals perform better at a given site; focus is on the site. |
| “Sympatric-Allopatric” (SA) Test of Local Adaptation | Local adaptation is tested by comparing the degree to which a particular ecotype of organism survives in its site. |