Describe the process of natural selection.

You are going to model the process of natural section using cocktail sticks.

You will need

- 20 toothpicks coloured to match the floor/carpet
- 20 toothpicks in natural wood
- Tweezers or chopsticks
- Small bowl

Method

1. Take your toothpicks and scatter these randomly on the ground.
2. You then have 20 seconds to pick up as many toothpicks as you can using tweezers, placing them in a small bowl.
3. After the 20 seconds count up how many of each cocktail stick you've picked up.
4. Repeat this three times and then total of your results.

Stretch:
Try adding another 20 cocktail sticks of a different colour. Does this impact you results?

Challenge:
How would using your hands to pick up the sticks affect your results?

Trial	Number of natural wood sticks	Number of coloured sticks
1		
2		
3		
Total		

Write a one sentence about what happened in your experiment.

Describe the process of natural selection.

Answer the questions below about the model. Use the word bank to help you

Which type of toothpick was picked up the least?
Explain why you think this happened.

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Draw a line to match the object to what it represents

Tweezers	Hungry bird
Wooden cocktail sticks	Mutated worms
Coloured cocktail sticks	Normal worms

Prey species that develop a camouflage are more likely to survive. Explain what will probably happen to a prey species that is not camouflaged well.

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Explain why species cannot make themselves better adapted to survive at will.

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Word Bank

random

mutation

survive

reproduce

likely

extinct