

## Battle of the Beaks – Terms you NEED to KNOW!!

adaptation - An adaptation is a characteristic that helps an organism survive and reproduce.

next generation - the entire body of organisms born and living at about the same time, that are subsequent to (come after) prior generations.

natural selection - Organisms possessing certain inherited traits are better able to survive and reproduce compared to other organisms in the same environment. Therefore, the organisms containing the traits that are better suited to their environment will be 'selected by nature' to survive and reproduce, thus keeping their genes going in the next generation.

inherited variation - Differences in genes, traits, or behaviors among members of a population, which may result in differences in reproductive success.

speciation - the evolutionary process by which populations evolve to become distinct species

evolution – the process in which inherited characteristics within a population change over generations such that new species sometimes arise.