

The Peppered Moth - literacy task

There are many pieces of evidence for the theory of evolution but the peppered moth shows the perfect example of survival of the fittest.

Before the industrial revolution, most peppered moths were of the pale variety. This meant that they were camouflaged against the pale birch trees that they rest on. Moths with a mutant black colouring were easily spotted and eaten by birds. This gave the white variety an advantage, and they were more likely to survive to reproduce.

Airborne pollution in industrial areas blackened the birch tree bark with soot. This meant that the mutant black moths were now camouflaged, while the white variety became more vulnerable to predators. This gave the black variety an advantage, and they were more likely to survive and reproduce. Over time, the black peppered moths became far more numerous in urban areas than the pale variety.



The pale peppered moths camouflage well against the Pale birch tree



The darker mutant peppered moths camouflage well against the blackened birch tree

