

## Peppered Moth Example

The English peppered moth, *Biston betularia*, has two distinct varieties – light colored with speckles of pigments and uniformly dark color. These moths spend their days on trees in the area. Birds feed on the moths.

- a. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, the trees in England were a light color.
  - Which variety of the moth was better able to survive in the environment of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century?
  - Why was it better able to survive?
  
- b. In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the environment changed because of industrialization. During this time, pollutants were released into the air. This pollution darkened the trees.
  - What happened to the # of light colored moths?
  - Why did this happen?
  - What happened to the # of dark colored moths?
  - Why did this happen?
  
- c. Explain why this is an example of natural selection