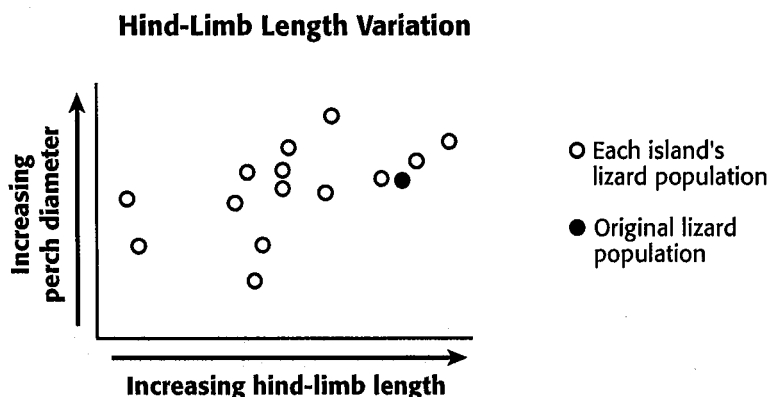


Math Lab

Analyzing Change in Lizard Populations

Background

In 1991, Jonathan Losos, an American scientist, measured hind-limb length of lizards from several islands and the average perch diameter of the island plants. The lizards were descended from a common population 20 years earlier, and the islands had different kinds of plants on which the lizards perched. Examine the graph and answer the questions that follow.



Analysis

- 1. Interpreting Graphics** How did the average hind-limb length of each island's lizard population change from that of the original population?

- 2. Predict** what would happen to a population of lizards with short hind limbs if they were placed on an island with a larger average perch diameter than from where they came.

- 3. Justify** the argument that this experiment supports the theory of evolution by natural selection.
