Woolly Worm Lab

Name _____
Block _____ **Date** _____

Objective: Students will pretend to be birds who "eat" woolly worms. Through a number of trials, students will reenact natural selection and analyze the results.

Materials:
5 different colors of yarn, each cut into 200 pieces (~ 2 in long) open field

Procedure:

Woolly Worms- Predator or Prey (circle one)

Size _____
Color Variations: _____, _____, _____, _____, _____

Niche Characteristics:
Food: _____
Habitat: _____
Feeding time (circle one) Nocturnal (night) Diurnal (Day) Crepuscular (dusk or dawn)

Predators: _____

Birds a.k.a. Students- Predator or Prey (Circle One)

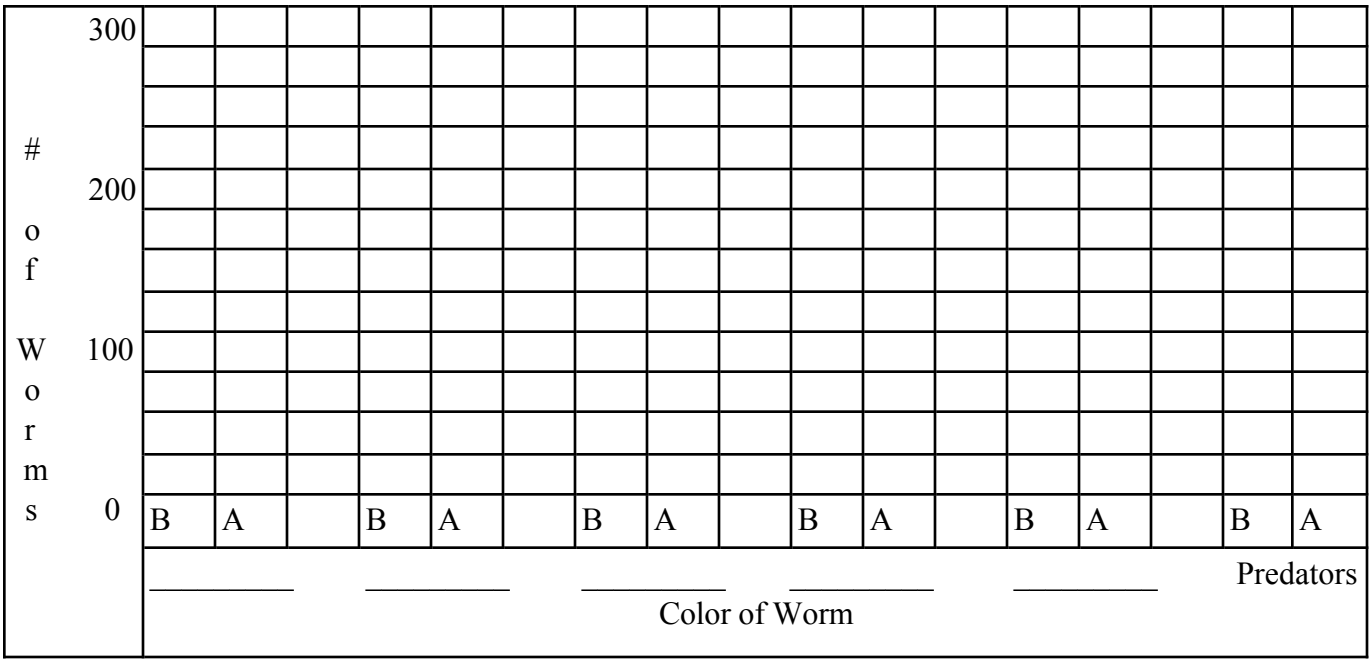
Niche Characteristics:
Food: _____ Must consume _____ to survive.
Habitat: _____
Feeding time (circle one) Nocturnal (night) Diurnal (Day) Crepuscular (dusk or dawn)

Predators: _____

1) You will have 3 minutes to find as many woolly worms as you possibly can in the open field. Remember- you want to try to capture at least 30 to survive.

Color of Woolly Worm	# of Woolly Worms before Attack	# of Woolly Worms that YOU captured	# of Woolly Worms the Class Captured	# of Woolly Worms Left (200- # the class captured)	Predator Data
	200				# of Predators:
	200				
	200				# of Predators surviving (captured at least 30 worms):
	200				
	200				

Graph: Make a COMPARISON bar graph of the number of woolly worms of each color & predators before (B) the attack and the number of worms & predators after (A) the attack using the class data.



Questions:

1) a. Based on the graph above, which color variation of woolly worm survived the attack the best? _____
b. Why? _____

2) a. What variation of the woolly worm will soon go extinct if the predator attacks continue? _____
b. Why? _____

3) a. If predator attacks continue, what will the wooly worm population eventually evolve into? _____
b. Name 2\ traits woolly worms could evolve
to protect themselves against predators. _____

4) How many predators survived? _____ Why? _____

5) If the feeding continues, how will the predator population evolve? _____

6) If woolly worms became nocturnal, how would this affect the predators? _____

7) How did this lab simulate the 5 points of Darwin's theory of Natural Selection?
a. variation in a population: _____
b. some variations are favorable: _____
c. More young produced than survive: _____
d. Those that survive have favorable characteristics:_____
e. Changes accumulate & a population can change: _____

7) a. A mutation occurs in the worm population and a new color is created- it is camouflage and looks JUST like grass BUT these worms are sterile. Could the population ever evolve into these type of woolly worms? _____
b. Why? _____