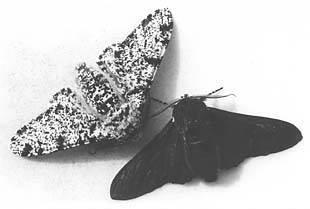
# Peppered Moth Story

Mr Edleston was an English naturalist who studied insects in the 1800’s. In 1848 he recorded an unusual discovery in his journal. “Today I caught an almost totally black form of *Biston betularia* (peppered moth) near the centre of Manchester.” This is the first recorded sighting of a dark pepper moth. What was rear in 1848 became common over the next 50 years. By 1900, the peppered moth populations in areas around English cities were as much as 98% dark moths. Scientists became curious why this was happening.

During that time, England was experiencing what is known as the Industrial Revolution. Factories were being built, and they ran by burning coal for fuel. The result was a dark smoke that covered the surrounding countryside. Trees that had been light and covered by lichens now were dark and bare. This clearly was having some impact on the moths. Since then, scientists have been working on trying to find out why and how this has happened.



Light and dark forms of the peppered moth

## Explanation

Using the model of species change we developed in class, explain how the dark colored peppered moths came to be the predominant color of moth. Please remember to use all of the ideas of the model and give a **very detailed** explanation!

Extra credit: In 1956 the government in the United Kingdom passed a regulation to reduce air pollution. Using your model of natural selection can you predict what happened to color distribution of the peppered moth?