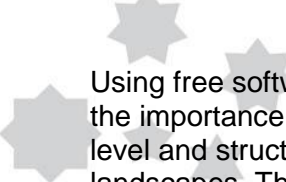


Classroom Activities

10 Big Questions - How did life evolve on Earth?

Simulation of tree populations



Using free software, you can simulate tree populations to gain an understanding of the importance of population size, mating system, mutation rate and gene flow on the level and structure of genetic diversity in a range of fragmented and degraded landscapes. This activity assumes a basic knowledge of genetics, particularly the meaning of the term 'alleles'.

We have provided the required definitions in the worksheet 'Glossary of terms'. If you would prefer not to run the simulations yourself or would like to compare your results to those expected, we have also provided the data in this workbook.

To run the simulations:

1. Download the EASYPOP software for your operating system from http://www.unil.ch/dee/page36926_fr.html
2. For each example, enter the parameters as given in the worksheet.
3. Once the simulation is run, the data set will be saved to the same location as you saved the program file. The '.equ' file is the data output and can be opened in Notepad and copied into an Excel spreadsheet for further manipulation.