

Natural Selection

This lab manual chapter illustrates the principles of natural selection by performing what is usually known as a “Zone of Inhibition” lab exercise. This demonstration certainly proves the point of mutation of the bacteria by ultraviolet light. Your instructor will probably perform this exercise as a demonstration because to do otherwise may be beyond the time and resources designed for your class. Perhaps if you have the opportunity to participate as a preparation assistant, you will have the chance to work with the bacteria first-hand. Take advantage of this chance, if possible. If nothing else, you will have an increased appreciation for medical professionals that deal with bacteria and sterile conditions every day.