Peppered Moth Virtual Lab Write-up

**Data Table**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Percent Dark Moths that make up the Population | Percent Light Moths that make up the Population |
| Lichen **(light colored)** Forest |  |  |
| Sooty **(dark colored)** Forest |  |  |

**Conclusions**

1. What *variations* do you observe within this moth species?

2.  How does the color of the moth affect its survival?

3.  What role does the environment play in the moth’s survival?

4. Is there anything else that may affect the moth’s survival?

5. What moth coloration is the best adaptation for a dark polluted forest? How do you know?

6.  What do you think would happen to this species of moth if there were no black moths at all, just white, and the environment changed to a dark environment?

**Analysis**

1. 500 light colored moths and 500 dark colored moths are released into a polluted ***(dark colored)*** forest by scientists.  After 2 days the moths were recaptured and counted by these scientists (Remember, humans/scientist are smarter than birds).  How many light colored moths and how many dark colored moths would you expect to recapture? Why?

2.  During the 1800’s the industrial revolution began in England.  This produced large amounts of soot that covered trees and rocks, making every natural surface a darker color.  Before this change, almost all moths found in the forest were light colored. Today, in real life, you will now find few light colored moths and mostly dark moths in the forests of England.  How has the striking ***change*** in coloration come about? Please do a detailed explanation in your own words.