Go Beyond: Science Journal
Can a population evolve to survive?

In your science journal record your thoughts and research on the following topic.

a.) Over the course of history, some human populations have been more dispersive while others have been more sedentary. What are some of the pressures that might drive a human population to leave one area and colonize another?

b.) Imagine and describe a radical climate change that could occur where you live (shorter winters, less rain, more storms, etc.). Is it better to stay where you are or move to a new location? Why?

c.) What causes most shifts in genetic variation (evolution)?

Process:

1. Select one or more of the questions above.
2. Write down or sketch what you think answers the question based on your own understanding without looking anything up.
3. Ask a family member, friend, or teacher the same question(s) and write down or sketch their answers.
4. What are the common ideas in the answers you’ve collected? Write or sketch the common themes/ideas.
5. Devise your own strategy for digging deeper (ask a scientist, check out university or government agency websites like NASA and NOAA, go to the library, design and conduct an experiment, etc.) until you’re satisfied the answer makes sense to you.
6. Summarize what is known and unknown about the subject of the question(s). Also note what evidence there is in supporting what is known and how the evidence was obtained.
7. Rate the answer you’ve come up with on a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being weak with lots of uncertainty, 10 being perfect.