

Lecture 11

Monday, October 15, 2018

BIO1130

Finishing Chapter 5...

- Video of the Elephant Seal
 - Difference between **intrasexual** and **intersexual** selection
 - The **Pinnipeds**: Seals, Sea Lions, and Walruses. The word pinniped means fin or flipper-footed and refers to the marine mammals that have front and rear flippers. These animals live in the ocean but are able to come on land for long periods of time.
 - Elephant Seals, and walruses have the penis bone
 - An advantage for the male when interacting with the female
 - Scientists are asking why (as a species) did we lose the penis bone?
 - We don't know exactly when it was lost
 - Chimpanzees had it, therefore we had it as well
 - Not clear whether it was lost in our species, or lost in one of our ancestors
 - The hypothesis: intersexual selection.
 - This hypothesis is difficult to test and verify because of the uniqueness of humans.
 - Maybe the fact that we lost the penis bone is to provide females with an indication of the quality of the male (if you don't have a penis bone, an erection is not possible)