Reading response guide 2


In reading this paper, consider the different demographic and environmental sources of variation in population growth. What unique information do the authors use that would not be available without 40 years of tracking individuals in the population? Are the main conclusions of the paper well-supported by the data?

You need not write about the following points, but please come prepared to discuss them: The authors conclude that age at first reproduction is under strong directional selection. How might you go about testing this hypothesis in a selection experiment? What factors would you manipulate in such an experiment? Without doing a selection experiment, can you think of any other ways to test this hypothesis, at least indirectly.