# Genetic Drift Infographic (Accessible Text Version)

Title: Genetic Drift – Random Changes in Genes

Allele frequency or genetic change that occurs in a population due to random, chance events. The genetic change that occurs is not a result of environmental changes.

Small Populations:
- Can undergo genetic drift more quickly than large populations.
- Smaller populations cause greater allelic frequency changes.

Small Populations experience Sampling Error:
This means each generation samples a small number of alleles from the gene pool, leading to greater fluctuations in allele frequency by chance. Larger populations find a “buffer” against these random changes with more individuals, and we see more stable frequencies.

Founder Effect & Bottleneck Effect more prominent in Small Populations:
When a small group of individuals (“founders”) establish a new population or when a drastic reduction in a population occurs due to a random event (like a natural disaster) leading to a “bottleneck,” the genetic makeup of these smaller groups is unlikely to represent the full genetic diversity of the larger, original population.