
Adaptation and Change on the Galapagos Islands

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Chapter 1: The Galapagos Islands

Comprehension Questions

1. Where are the Galapagos Islands?
 - a. In the Pacific Ocean, near the islands of Hawaii.
 - b. Not far from the South Pole.
 - c. *In the Pacific Ocean, about 600 miles west of Ecuador.*
 - d. Near Charles Darwin's home in England.

2. Three of the sentences below tell about the Galapagos Islands. Which one of the sentences is **not** true?
 - a. There are about 70 islands in the Galapagos group.
 - b. *The Galapagos Islands have sandy beaches and palm trees.*
 - c. The Galapagos Islands are black and rocky.
 - d. The Galapagos Islands were formed by volcanoes.

3. Which sentence below explains one way that land animals may have come to the Galapagos Islands?
 - a. Charles Darwin may have brought land animals from England.
 - b. Tourists may have brought land animals from many different countries.
 - c. Scientists may have brought land animals from Ecuador.
 - d. *Land animals may have drifted to the islands on chunks of earth.*

Adaptation and Change on the Galapagos Islands

Start-to-Finish® Core Content



Chapter 1: The Galapagos Islands

Vocabulary Questions

1. The hot melted rock that pours out of a volcano is called _____.
 - a. *lava*
 - b. sand
 - c. territory
 - d. black ash

2. An explanation of something we observe in the natural world is called a _____ theory.
 - a. sneaker
 - b. geography
 - c. *scientific*
 - d. physical

3. An animal that has been saved to be studied is called a _____.
 - a. *specimen*
 - b. feature
 - c. zone
 - d. creature

4. _____ is the name for a protected place where people are not allowed to harm birds and animals.
 - a. Wonderland
 - b. *Wildlife refuge*
 - c. Natural home
 - d. Tourist zone

Adaptation and Change on the Galapagos Islands

Start-to-Finish® Core Content



Chapter 2: Charles Darwin Visits the Galapagos

Comprehension Questions

1. Three of the sentences below tell about the life of Charles Darwin. Which one of the sentences is not true?
 - a. Darwin became a doctor and a minister.
 - b. Darwin was born in England in 1809.
 - c. Darwin spent most of his time studying nature.
 - d. A scientist showed Darwin how to use a microscope.

2. What did Darwin do on his trip aboard the ship called the Beagle?
 - a. He cooked meals for the men who ran the ship.
 - b. He helped Captain Fitzroy make maps of the coast.
 - c. He studied the plant and animal life everywhere he went.
 - d. He was the ship's doctor and he helped sailors who were sick or injured.

3. What is the most important thing about animals of the same species?
 - a. They can go without water for a long time.
 - b. They can travel to other countries when food becomes scarce.
 - c. They cannot mate and have healthy offspring.
 - d. They can mate and have healthy offspring.

Adaptation and Change on the Galapagos Islands

Start-to-Finish® Core Content



Chapter 2: Charles Darwin Visits the Galapagos

Vocabulary Questions

1. A scientist who studies nature is called a _____.
 - a. doctor
 - b. tourist
 - c. *naturalist*
 - d. captain

2. An animal's offspring are its _____.
 - a. nutrients
 - b. *babies*
 - c. specimens
 - d. wildlife

3. A _____ is a group of animals that are closely related to each other and are alike in many ways.
 - a. *species*
 - b. specimen
 - c. theory
 - d. territory

4. Darwin caught animals and birds and killed them, and then he treated them with _____ or chemicals so they wouldn't rot.
 - a. lava
 - b. *alcohol*
 - c. seaweed
 - d. organs



Chapter 3: Darwin's Theory of Evolution

Comprehension Questions

1. What was Darwin's theory of evolution?
 - a. That all species had been created at the same time.
 - b. That animals of one species can mate with animals of another species.
 - c. That all species have traits that never change over time.
 - d. That all species slowly evolved or changed over time.

2. What idea did Darwin use to explain how evolution happens?
 - a. The idea that predators eat colorful plants and animals.
 - b. The idea that most islands are formed by lava.
 - c. The idea of geography.
 - d. The idea of natural selection.

3. What does natural selection mean?
 - a. It means that animals select the places in nature where they want to live.
 - b. It means that nature selects those traits that give living things an advantage for survival.
 - c. It means a way for naturalists to select specimens, then to study them.
 - d. It means protecting the environment by selecting a place as a wildlife refuge.

Adaptation and Change on the Galapagos Islands

Start-to-Finish® Core Content



Chapter 3: Darwin's Theory of Evolution

Vocabulary Questions

1. The word _____ means a kind of change that happens gradually over a long time.
 - a. extinct
 - b. genus
 - c. *evolution*
 - d. predator

2. If a species has died out completely, we say that it has become _____.
 - a. scientific
 - b. *extinct*
 - c. current
 - d. wildlife

3. A natural enemy is called a _____.
 - a. *predator*
 - b. trait
 - c. naturalist
 - d. specimen

4. A _____ is something that an animal has, such as the size of a bird's wings, or something the animal can do, such as run fast.
 - a. genus
 - b. generation
 - c. *trait*
 - d. surrounding

Adaptation and Change on the Galapagos Islands

Start-to-Finish® Core Content



Chapter 4: Darwin's Finches and Their Beaks

Comprehension Questions

1. What did Darwin observe about the beaks of finches?
 - a. The beaks of all the species of finches were the same.
 - b. The different shapes of beaks proved that some of the birds were not finches.
 - c. Even finches that belonged to the same species had different kinds of beaks.
 - d. *Each species of finch had a different kind of beak.*

2. Where did all the species of Galapagos finches come from?
 - a. *Probably from a single species of finch that lived more than one million years ago.*
 - b. From Charles Darwin, who brought them to the Galapagos Islands from England.
 - c. Probably from a species of penguins that first arrived in the Galapagos from the South Pole.
 - d. From naturalists who wanted to breed new generations of finches.

3. What natural selection took place on the small island of Daphne Major as the result of a drought?
 - a. The finches with the smallest, thinnest beaks survived because they could eat small seeds.
 - b. The finches on Daphne Major became extinct.
 - c. *The finches with the largest, thickest beaks survived because they could eat big, hard seeds.*
 - d. The finches with the strongest wings survived because they could fly to other islands for food.

Adaptation and Change on the Galapagos Islands

Start-to-Finish® Core Content



Chapter 4: Darwin's Finches and Their Beaks

Vocabulary Questions

1. A long period of dry weather is called a _____.
 - a. specimen
 - b. drought
 - c. current
 - d. mist

2. The place where a plant or an animal lives can be called its _____.
 - a. evolution
 - b. trait
 - c. current
 - d. environment

3. The _____ members of an animal species are the ones that have the right traits for their environment and are most likely to survive.
 - a. fittest
 - b. amazing
 - c. related
 - d. predator

4. Scientists study the _____ in the cells of different species to find out how closely the species are related.
 - a. DNA
 - b. a theory
 - c. HMS
 - d. nutrients

Adaptation and Change on the Galapagos Islands

Start-to-Finish® Core Content



Chapter 5: Is Bigger Always Better? Survival of the Fittest on the Galapagos

Comprehension Questions

1. Three of the sentences below tell why larger finches had trouble after a very wet winter on Daphne Major. Which one of the sentences is **not** true?
 - a. The larger finches' beaks were too big to crack open small seeds.
 - b. *Giant caterpillars destroyed the eggs of the larger finches.*
 - c. The larger finches needed more food to survive than the smaller finches did.
 - d. The plants that produced the biggest seeds did not do well in so much rain.

2. Why is being small an advantage for sneaker iguanas?
 - a. Because their bright red color is easier for females to see.
 - b. Because they can move more quickly when they fight with the large male marine iguanas.
 - c. *Because they can sneak into a big male's territory to mate.*
 - d. Because larger male marine iguanas are afraid of any animal that is smaller and faster.

3. What did Darwin mean by "the survival of the fittest"?
 - a. *He meant that living things need to have the right traits for their particular environment.*
 - b. He meant that bigger is always better because bigger plants and animals are the strongest.
 - c. He meant that small animals usually die out whenever there is a drought.
 - d. He meant that it is important for athletes to stay fit if they want to do well in sports.

Adaptation and Change on the Galapagos Islands

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Chapter 5: Is Bigger Always Better? Survival of the Fittest on the Galapagos

Vocabulary Questions

1. The sneaker iguana is a Galapagos creature that is helped by _____.
 - a. its red color
 - b. being large
 - c. sea turtles
 - d. *being small*

2. Natural selection has given sneaker iguanas a clever way of passing their _____ on to their offspring.
 - a. *traits*
 - b. food
 - c. territory
 - d. nutrients

3. Male marine iguanas fight by _____ at each other, pushing each other, and butting their heads together.
 - a. *bobbing their heads*
 - b. throwing sand
 - c. looking
 - d. barking loudly

4. A male marine iguana claims a certain _____ and then tries to mate with any females there.
 - a. genus
 - b. drought
 - c. specimen
 - d. *territory*

Adaptation and Change on the Galapagos Islands

Start-to-Finish® Core Content



Chapter 6: Marine Iguanas, Giant Tortoises, and Birds That Don't Fly

Comprehension Questions

1. Which one of the following sentences about marine iguanas is true?
 - a. *The faces of marine iguanas are flatter than other lizards so they can bite off algae from rocks.*
 - b. Marine iguanas eat rocks to help them digest the algae that they eat near the shore.
 - c. All marine iguanas are the same size.
 - d. Marine iguanas cannot stay under water a long time.

2. Why are there two different kinds of tortoises on the Galapagos, each with its own kind of shell?
 - a. Because one kind of shell belongs to male tortoises and the other kind belongs to female tortoises.
 - b. *Because the different shells are adaptations that allow the tortoises to eat different kinds of food.*
 - c. Because young tortoises have smooth shells and older tortoises have rough, bumpy shells.
 - d. Because one kind of tortoise was brought to the Galapagos from England.

3. Which of the following sentences about the flightless cormorant is true?
 - a. Flightless cormorants can fly, but only to islands that are nearby.
 - b. Flightless cormorants have strong wings that help them dive for fish.
 - c. Flightless cormorants only eat algae.
 - d. *Flightless cormorants have no real predators on the Galapagos so they do not need strong wings to escape.*

Adaptation and Change on the Galapagos Islands

Start-to-Finish® Core Content



Chapter 6: Marine Iguanas, Giant Tortoises, and Birds That Don't Fly

Vocabulary Questions

1. Members of the same species that have some important differences are called _____.
 - a. bacteria
 - b. DNA
 - c. fittest
 - d. *subspecies*

2. _____ are small plants that grow like a green carpet on rocks near the shore and under water.
 - a. Currents
 - b. Nutrients
 - c. *Algae*
 - d. Variations

3. _____ is a gradual change in a plant or an animal that helps the plant or animal survive in its environment.
 - a. *An adaptation*
 - b. A specimen
 - c. A generation
 - d. A genus

4. Tiny living things that can only be seen under a microscope are called _____.
 - a. predators
 - b. *bacteria*
 - c. offspring
 - d. traits

Adaptation and Change on the Galapagos Islands

Start-to-Finish® Core Content



Chapter 7: How Species Have Changed or Become Extinct on the Galapagos

Comprehension Questions

1. What have scientists found inside lava tubes on the Galapagos?
 - a. Hundreds of giant tortoises.
 - b. Lakes of fresh water.
 - c. *Fossils of many animals.*
 - d. Charles Darwin's notebooks.

2. Why might a species of animal become extinct?
 - a. *Because changes happen in the place where the species lives and it cannot adapt to the changes.*
 - b. Because breeders choose new traits for the species that don't develop naturally.
 - c. Because the members of the species mate and have healthy offspring.
 - d. Because the members of the species are closely related to each other.

3. What dangers threaten living things on the Galapagos today?
 - a. Dangers caused by currents and wind.
 - b. Dangers caused by changes in DNA.
 - c. *Dangers caused by humans.*
 - d. Dangers caused by lava tubes.

Adaptation and Change on the Galapagos Islands

Start-to-Finish® Core Content



Chapter 7: How Species Have Changed or Become Extinct on the Galapagos

Vocabulary Questions

1. _____ is a part of an animal or a plant that has died, and then dried out or hardened over many years.
 - a. A genus
 - b. A subspecies
 - c. Algae
 - d. A fossil

2. A lava _____ is an underground tunnel that is formed by lava flowing out of a volcano.
 - a. tube
 - b. variation
 - c. territory
 - d. park

3. The _____ of a plant or an animal is the place where it lives.
 - a. habitat
 - b. variation
 - c. species
 - d. refuge

4. The _____ of a species means that there are no animals or plants of that species living on Earth any more.
 - a. evolution
 - b. natural selection
 - c. environment
 - d. extinction