

EVOLUTION

WHAT WILL YEAR 5/6 BE LOOKING AT IN THE SECOND SUMMER 2026 TERM?

WHAT ARE WE LEARNING ABOUT?

English	Narrative Journal of the Galapagos Islands Biography of Darwin
Maths	BIDMAS & Calculator Skills Algebra Angles
Science	Evolution and Inheritance
Art	Botanical Watercolours
Computing	Game Creator
DT	Make an Electronic Toy
French	Moi dans le monde (Me in the World)
History	How have humans impacted the Galápagos Islands?
Music	Singing for a Performance
PE	Outdoor and Adventurous Striking & Fielding Acer: Swimming
PSHE	Jigsaw: Changing Me
RE	What is my world view?

DARWIN'S DRAGONS

This term we are going to be reading *Darwin's Dragons* by Lindsay Galvin for our class novel. Here is the synopsis:



Syms Covington has landed the job of a lifetime – cabin boy and fiddler on Charles Darwin's Beagle - but when he is separated from the crew during a storm, his life takes a truly extraordinary turn.

Shipwrecked on a Galápagos island, he makes a discovery that could change the world - and make his fortune. But should he share his find, or will it lead to the extinction of a legendary species?

There's one person who could help, but he's busy writing a book...

MATHS

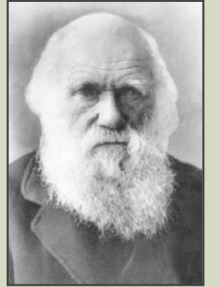
In Maths, we will be looking at the order of operations with BIDMAS, using a calculator and simplifying and using algebraic equations.

BIDMAS

() x' ÷ or × + or -
Brackets Indices Divide & Multiply Add & Subtract

CHARLES DARWIN

Charles Darwin (1809-1882) was an expert in natural history who put forward a theory of evolution by natural selection. He went on a famous sea voyage in 1831 on a ship called HMS Beagle and visited many places around the world, collecting animal and plant samples. The observations he made led him to his theory of evolution. When Darwin's book *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* was published in 1859, some religious people were very shocked that he was suggesting animals and humans shared a common ancestry.



THEORY OF EVOLUTION

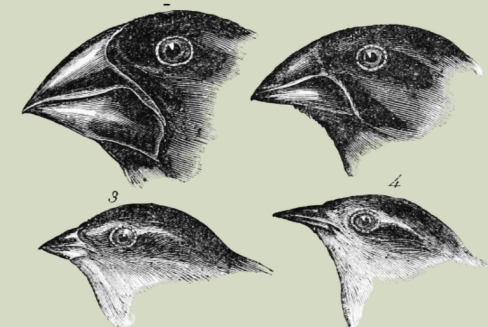
After studying the animals from the Galápagos Islands, Charles Darwin came up with the idea that animals evolve due to having the characteristics that make them best suited to their environment. He called this 'the survival of the fittest' or 'natural selection'. His idea was that in any environment, living things from the same species show natural differences in their characteristics. Darwin suggested that the living things that were best suited to their environment were most likely to survive and pass on their characteristics to their offspring. Over a long period of time, these characteristics can be seen in every animal.

A MAP OF THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS



KEEP PRACTISING YOUR TIMES TABLES ON TT ROCKSTARS.

WHO WILL BE TOP OF THE LEADERBOARD?

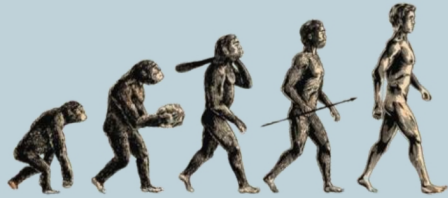


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EVOLUTION

Evolution is the gradual process by which different kinds of living organism have developed from earlier forms over millions of years. Scientists have proof that living things are continuously evolving - even today!



INHERITANCE

Animals and plants produce offspring that are similar but not identical to them. Offspring often look like their parents because features are passed on.



VARIATION

In the same way that there is variation between parents and their offspring, you can see variation within any species, even plants.

ADAPTIVE TRAITS

Characteristics that are influenced by the environment the living things live in. These adaptations can develop as a result of many things, such as food and climate.



INHERITED TRAITS

Eye colour is an example of an inherited trait, but so are things like hair colour, the shape of your earlobes and whether or not you can smell certain flowers.

USEFUL LINKS

BBC Bitesize: Evolution and inheritance

<https://tinyurl.com/2nk68fft>

Galapagos Conservation Trust

<https://galapagosconservation.org.uk/>

Please note, these external links have been checked, but caution is always suggested when using the internet.

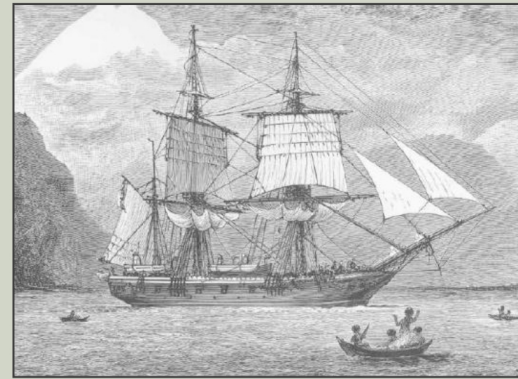
PREVIOUS LEARNING

You have already learnt to:

- recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways.
- explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment.

ROUTE OF HMS BEAGLE

On 27th December 1831, HMS Beagle set sail from Plymouth Harbour. It carried a crew of 73 men, including Captain Robert FitzRoy and Charles Darwin. It travelled across the Atlantic Ocean to South America where it stopped frequently, allowing Darwin to gather specimens. After spending five weeks in the Galápagos Islands, HMS Beagle travelled across the Pacific Ocean to New Zealand and Australia. The ship eventually arrived back in England on 2nd October 1836.



GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

The volcanic Galápagos islands lie 1000 km off the west coast of Ecuador in South America. There are 13 main islands, with several smaller islands and rocks. Darwin noticed that many species of animal, including land and marine iguanas, the blue-footed booby and the flightless cormorant, were only found on these islands. Darwin also noticed several different species of finch that all lived on the Galápagos Islands. Each had developed a different type of beak that best suited their diet.

VOCABULARY

adaption	A characteristic of a living thing that makes it suited to its environment.
ancestry	The line of relatives from which someone is descended.
evolution	The process by which living things gradually change over time.
extinct	An animal or plant species that has died out and is no longer present in the world population, such as dinosaurs.
fossil	The remains of a once-living organism preserved as rock.
habitat	A specific area or place in which particular animals and plants live.
inheritance	The process of passing on characteristics, such as eye colour, from parents to their offspring.
naturalist	A person who studies the natural world.
natural selection	The process where organisms that are most suited to their environment are more likely to reproduce, and in doing so, pass on these adaptations to the next generation.
natural world	The animals and plants that exist in nature and are not made or caused by people.
species	A group of organisms that have common characteristics and can breed.
variation	Natural differences between living things in a species.