

**Unit Title: Unit 1 –  
Evolution and the Galapagos**

**What should I know?**

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 in the world, collecting animal and plant samples. The observations he made led to his Theory of Evolution. In 1859, some religious people were very shocked that he was suggesting that animals and humans shared a common ancestry.

**Key Knowledge**

- The volcanic Galapagos islands lie 1,000km off the west coast of Ecuador in South America.
- Darwin noticed that many of the animals on the islands weren't found anywhere else in the world.
- He found that there were several different types of finches who lived there who each had beaks suited to their diet.
- Darwin suggested that the animals best suited to where they lived survived and passed their characteristics onto their offspring. He called this 'survival of the fittest' or 'natural selection'.
- We can find information about the evolution of extinct animals and plants through the study of fossils.



**Key Vocabulary**

adaptation  
ancestry  
extinct  
fossil  
inheritance  
naturalist  
natural selection  
species  
variation  
biome  
vegetation  
land use  
topological

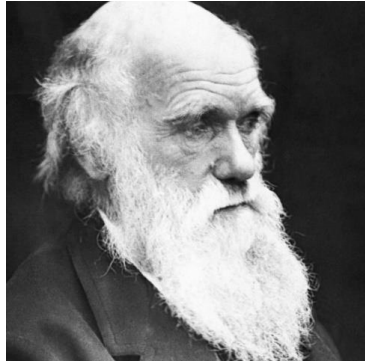
**What should I know by the end of the unit?**

- *Adaptations are characteristics of a living thing that make it suited to its environment.*
- *Darwin developed the Theory of Evolution through close study of animals and plants all around the world.*

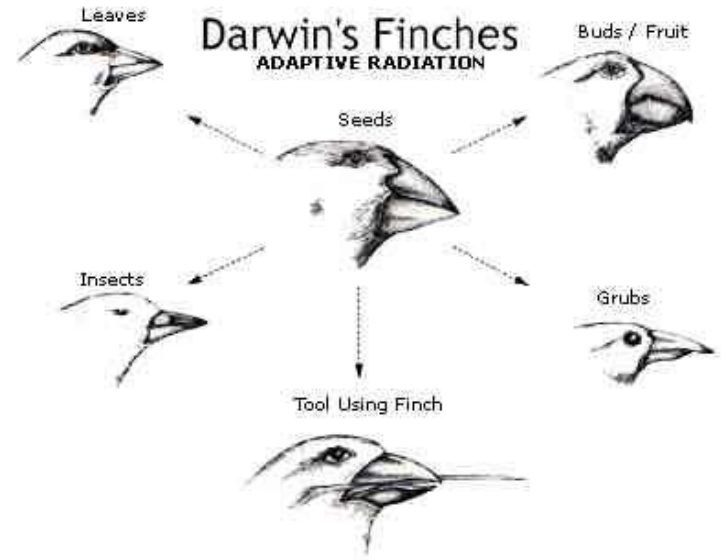
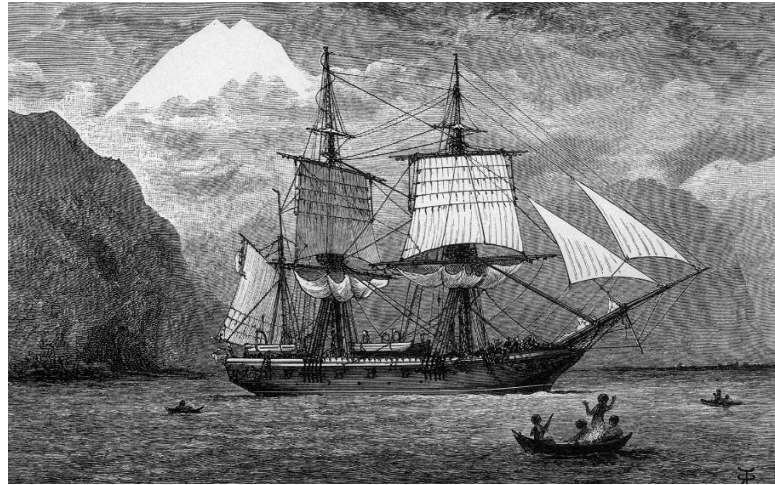
**Making Links – Remember when you.....**

- *Learnt about animals habitats.*
- *Learnt about the desert and rainforest biomes for Alexander the Great's Empire.*
- *Learnt about latitude and longitude.*

Charles Darwin



HMS Beagle



Where are the Galapagos Islands?