

Unit Title:

What comparisons can we make between the Galapagos Islands and the UK?

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.*

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.*

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

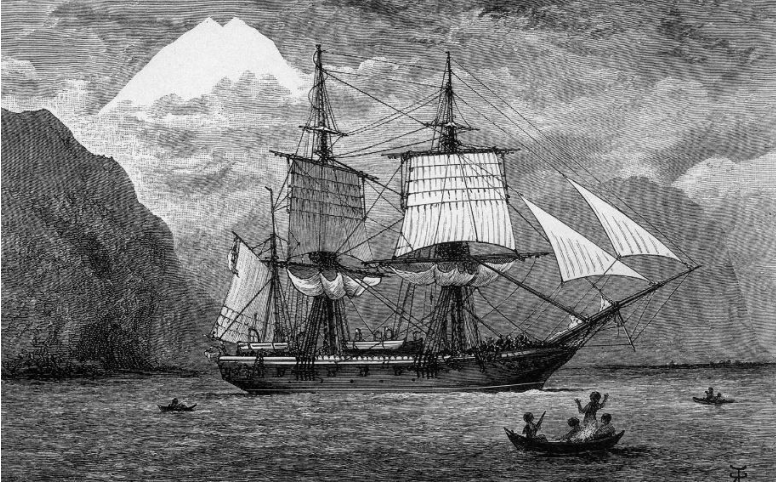
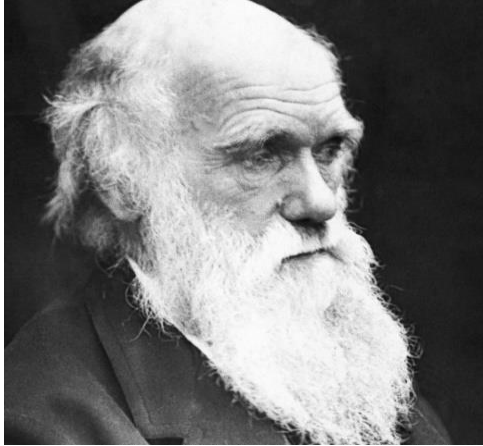
*adaptation
ancestry
extinct
fossil
inheritance
naturalist
natural
selection species
variation biome
vegetation land
use topological*

Making Links - Remember when you....

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



Charles Darwin



HMS Beagle

Where are the Galapagos islands?

