

# Theory of Evolution

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The background of the slide is a vibrant purple color. It is decorated with a collage of various historical figures' faces, including Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein, and other notable scientists and thinkers, rendered in a stylized, sketch-like manner. These faces are scattered across the slide, partially obscured by the central text boxes.

# Aim

- I can identify the key ideas of the theory of evolution.

# Success Criteria

- I can demonstrate understanding of how ideas about evolution developed over time.
- I can explain the terms adaptation, evolution and natural selection.

# Key Vocabulary



What is adaptation?

What is evolution?

Have your ideas changed? If so, how?

Who are the key scientists that came up with the theory of evolution?

## Evolution and Inheritance Key Vocabulary

Read the words and then write one or two sentences explaining what the word means.

Key Vocabulary	Meaning (Start of Unit)	Meaning (End of Unit)
Variation		
Parent		
Fossils		
Identical		
Evolution		
Offspring		
Adaptation		
Non-identical		
Environment		
Inheritance		

I believed that the Earth was formed during a wet phase and that the first land animals would have been born from some of their life cycles. I thought that the first human was a different type of animal.

I thought that the first animals were disjointed parts of the one original form which survived by joining together. Even though the ones that were created that way, I thought it was accidental.

I was a Taoist philosopher. We believed that plants and animals did change and that the species were not fixed. We also speculated about how the environment affected the attributes of different living things. In general, Taoists thought that all living things, the Earth and the heavens were in a state of constant transformation rather than fixed.

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Anaximander  
of Miletus  
(c.610 – 546 BC)



Empedocles  
(c.490 – 430 BC)



Epicurus  
(c.341 – 270 BC)



Zhang Zhou  
(c.369 – 286 BC)

Click a head to find out more about them!

I was a Catholic bishop and a theologian (some of the idea of God and the natural world was called 'De Genesi ad litteras'). My work was called 'The Meaning of Genesis'. Genesis is part of both the Bible and the Quran. I thought that Genesis should be taken literally. I thought that God created life but that life changed over time. I also thought that life on the fifth and sixth day, which originated later from rotting animals.

I noticed patterns in nature. I noticed that animals who were weaker than those by animals who were stronger. I noticed that animals struggled to survive and avoid being eaten. I noticed that animals were better able to survive in their environment.

I put forward a basic theory of evolution of species almost 600 years before Darwin. I noticed that similar elements were developed over time. I noticed that living things were connected to others in this way. I noticed that organisms were able to transform from those that lived in the past to those that lived in the present.

I argued that humans developed from the world of monkeys by a process that led to numerous species. I thought that the cleverness and perception of monkeys was transformed into the human ability to think and reflect. I believed that all animals and plants were connected to others in this way. Living things were able to transform from one thing to another.

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Augustine of Hippo  
(354 – 430)



Al-Jahiz  
(776 – 868)



Tusi  
(1332 – 1406)



Ibn Khaldūn  
(1332 – 1406)

Click a head to find out more about them!

I was a French man  
I thought that  
when living things  
result in new varieties  
well as lead to new

I believed that many of the species were actually just varieties of an animals which had been modified from the original animal due to environmental factors. For example, I believed that lions, tigers, leopards and house cats all had a common ancestor. I also thought that all the mammals had descended from as few as 38 original animal types. I studied and compared the skeletons of different animals, including humans and apes but did not believe that they did have a common ancestor.

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tion of species did occur  
word we used before it  
tion). I thought that living  
that enabled them to adapt  
ent. I did not have the  
t my idea. Also, I did not  
s shared a common ancestor.

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Pierre Louis  
Maupertuis  
(1698 – 1759)



Georges-Louis  
Leclerc  
(1707 – 1788)



Erasmus  
Darwin  
(1731 – 1802)



Lamarck  
(1774 – 1829)

Click a head to find out more about them!

I wrote about population (the number of people), not transmutation or evolution. However, my books were widely read and influenced scholars of other fields. This included the idea that if populations grew then they would struggle to survive as food would become scarcer. In this case, some would die of disease or hunger, which would lead to a decrease in the population. While I was talking about humans, this idea was applied to all living things by Darwin and Wallace.

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...nonymously (which means that no-one ...ok) called 'Vestiges of the Natural ...', in which I proposed that the Solar ... evolved, as well as living things on ... ginated fossils and believed that all ... ned off to become different species, ... While a lot of people debated my ... e many who disagreed with them.

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Thomas Robert  
Malthus  
(1766 – 1834)



Robert Edmond  
Grant  
(1731 – 1802)



Robert  
Chambers  
(1774 – 1829)

Click a head to find out more about them!

Class

# Theory of Evolution

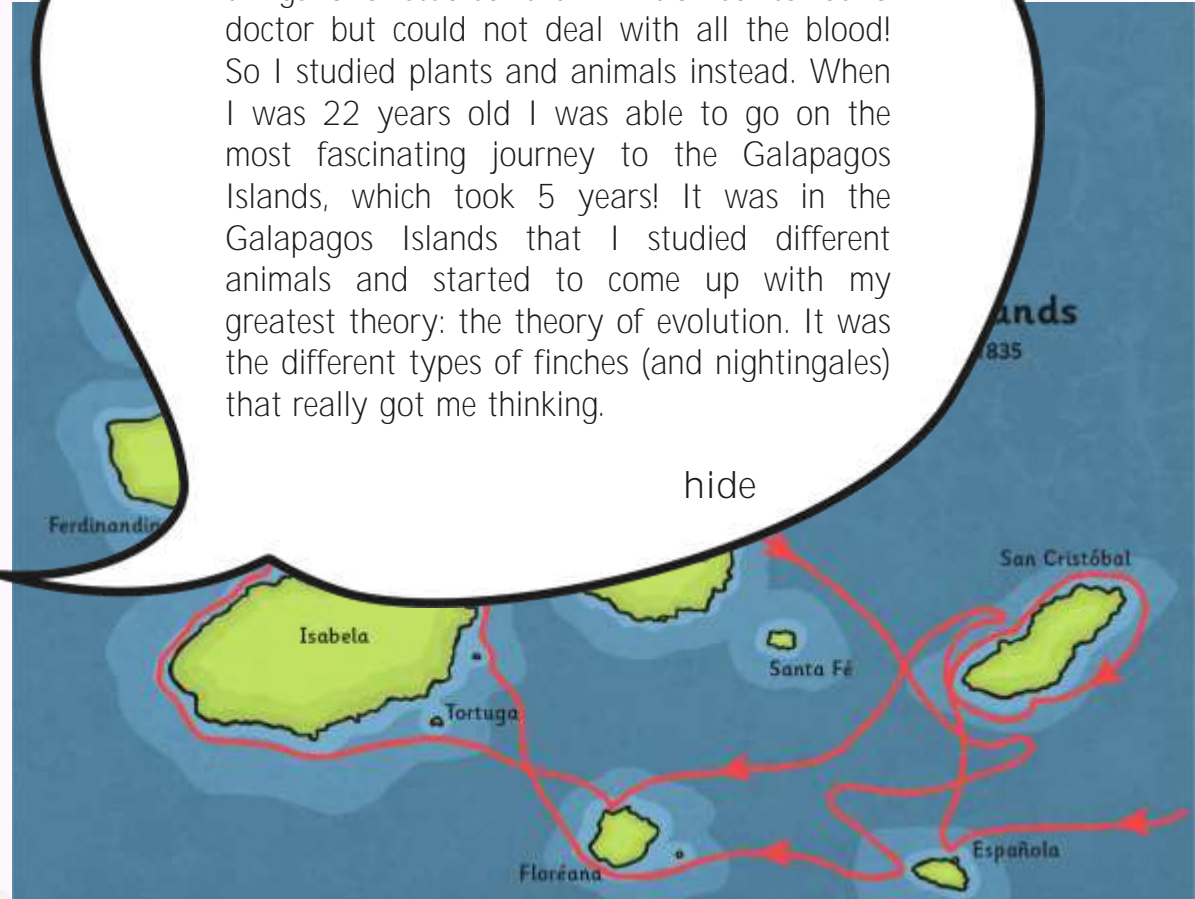
## Darwin



From a young age I was fascinated by living things and studied them. I trained to be a doctor but could not deal with all the blood! So I studied plants and animals instead. When I was 22 years old I was able to go on the most fascinating journey to the Galapagos Islands, which took 5 years! It was in the Galapagos Islands that I studied different animals and started to come up with my greatest theory: the theory of evolution. It was the different types of finches (and nightingales) that really got me thinking.



Charles Darwin  
(1809 – 1882)





# Theory of Evolution

## The Galapagos Finches



I observed that there were lots of different types of finches. People believed that these were different species of birds that happened to have some similarities.



However, I realised that these birds were varieties of the same species and were related.

# Theory of Evolution

## The Galapagos Finches



I thought that all the Galapagos finches had originated from one type of finch. The parents reproduced and created offspring. These offspring would have varied.

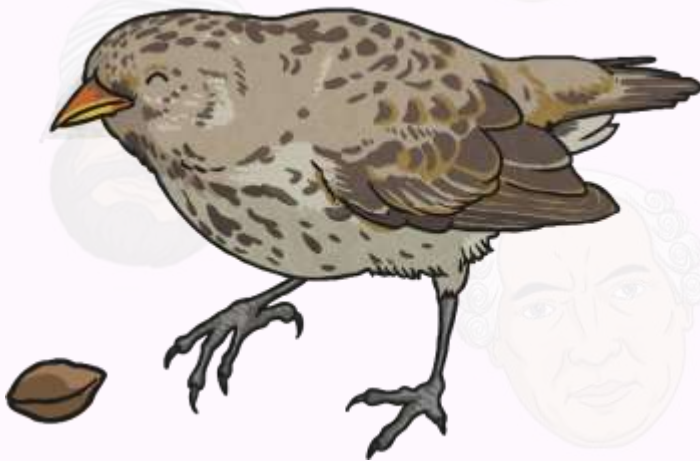


# Theory of Evolution

## The Galapagos Finches



In one part of the Galapagos Islands, bad weather affected the plants and so only those with larger seeds were left. Those finches who had slightly larger beaks were able to eat these seeds while those with smaller beaks could not.

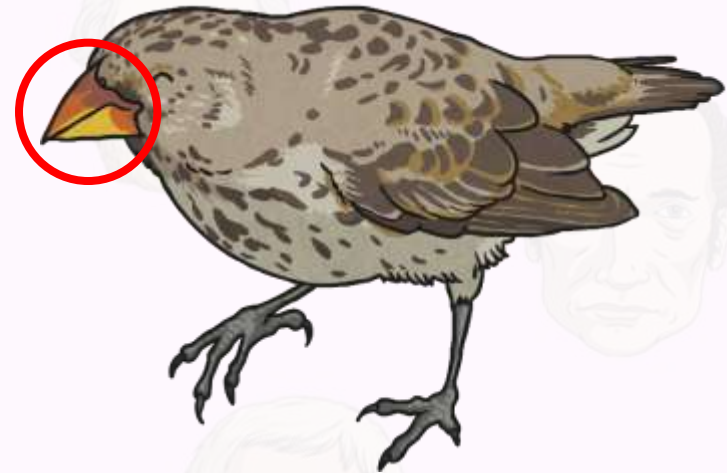
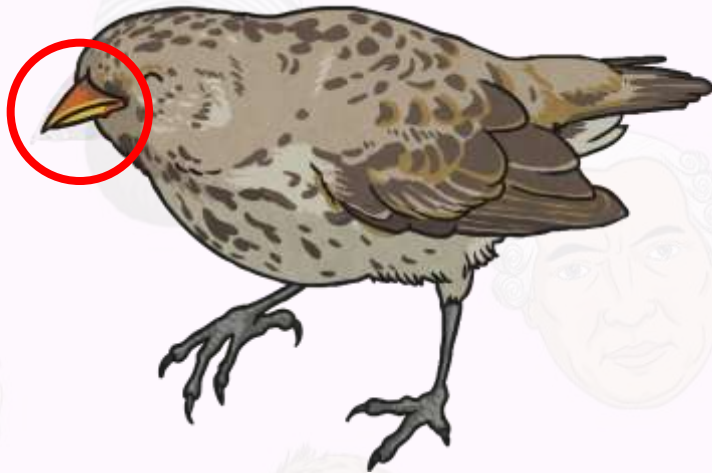


# Theory of Evolution

## The Galapagos Finches



Only the offspring with large beaks could break open and eat the larger seeds. Therefore, these offspring survived and the other, smaller beaked offspring died. 'Survival of the fittest' means those that are most suited to their environment as a result of their inherited or adaptive traits survive while others do not.

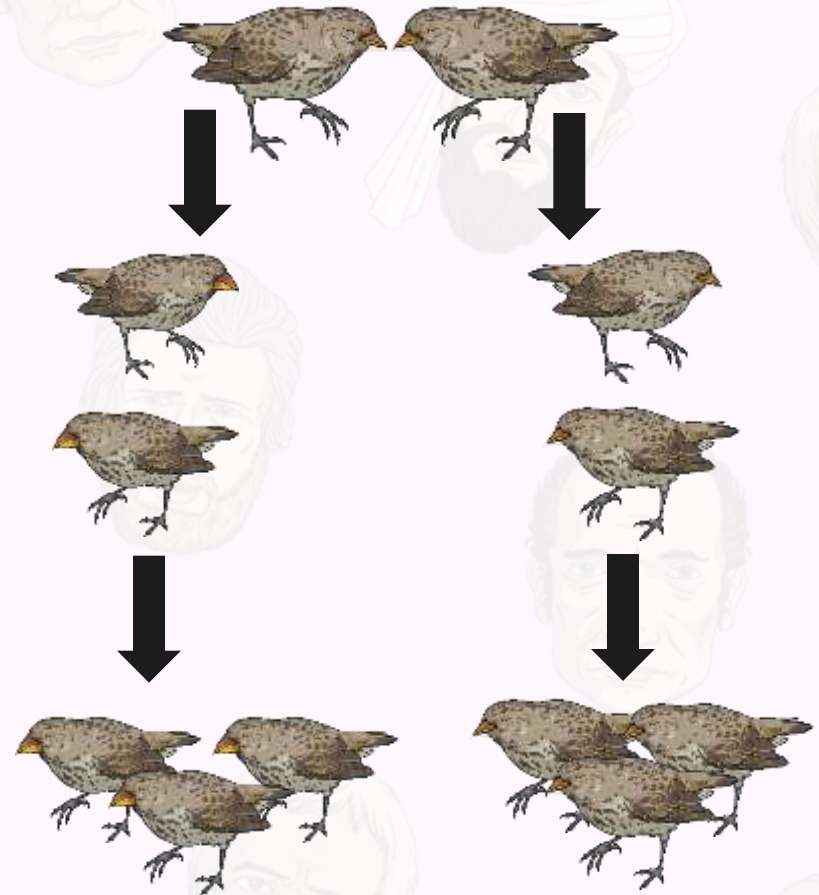


# Theory of Evolution

## The Galapagos Finches



The Galapagos finches with large beaks reproduced and had offspring. More of these offspring inherited large beaks and survived. In other parts of the Galapagos, smaller beaks ensured better survival than larger ones, larger eyes than smaller ones, etc. The adaptations caused by variation meant that over a long period of time the Galapagos finches evolved adaptive traits that caused differences between them.



# Theory of Evolution

## The Galapagos Finches



These offspring would also have differed due to inherited and environmental factors and so eventually over time stopped resembling their common finch ancestors.

Evolution is the process of adaptation over a long period of time.

This process, whereby certain inherited and adaptive traits allowed them to live and reproduce while others became extinct, is called natural selection.

### Finch Ancestors



Different varieties of finches who evolved from a common ancestor that exist today.



# Theory of Evolution

## Worries, Wallace

Knowing that Darwin was interested in ideas about transmutation, I sent him an article I had written in which I described natural selection and how it caused varieties of the same species. My evidence was from observations in South America and Asia. While our ideas were similar, Darwin emphasised competition for food more while I emphasised how environmental changes could lead to natural selection. However, I had not intended to publish my work straight away.

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I knew my ideas were controversial and I took a long time to mull them over. For 15 years I wrote about my journey on the HMS Beagle, what I had found and other books. While my friends knew I had my own ideas about transmutation, they did not realise the full extent. However, in 1856 everything changed. A certain Alfred Wallace published a paper called 'On the Law which has Regulated the Introduction of New Species'. My friend, Sir Charles Lyell, thought I should publish my own ideas as Wallace's were similar. At first I wasn't concerned but I had partly completed my book about evolution. In 1858, I was forced into action.

I had put off finishing my book and really struggled with it because I knew that I was opposing the idea that many religious people believed: that God had created all living things just as they were now. My grandfather's negative experience when he tested the idea of transmutation also made me question whether I wanted to publish my ideas.

When I received Wallace's paper, some of my friends said to publish straight away so that I would be known as the first person to propose natural selection, but I didn't think that was fair. So I decided that we would announce the theory and we should both be attributed with its discovery.

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Click a head to find out more

# Evolution



**Anaximander of Miletus (c. 610 – 546 BC)**  
**Greek Philosopher**  
 Thought first animals lived in water during a warm phase of the Earth's past.

**Georges-Louis Leclerc (1707 – 1788)**  
**French Philosopher**  
 Thought all the mammals had descended from as few as 38 original animal types.

**Alfred Wallace (1823 - 1913)**  
**British Naturalist and Explorer**  
 Thought that natural selection caused varieties of the same species based on evidence from observations in South America and Asia.  
 Emphasized how environmental changes could lead to natural selection (adaptive traits).

**twinkl plan!**

**Empedocles (c. 490 - 430 BC)**  
**Greek Philosopher**  
 Thought only some animals and plants survived, others died out.

**Tusi (1201 – 1274)**  
**Persian Scholar**  
 Argued that those organisms that could gain new features could gain an advantage over those that did not and

**Pierre Louis Maupertais (1698 - 1759):**  
**French Mathematician and Philosopher**  
 Thought modifications occur when living things reproduce.

**Zhang Zhou (c. 369 – 286 BC):**  
**Chinese Philosopher (Taoist)**  
 Taoists thought the environment affected the attributes of different living things.

**Empedocles (c. 490 – 430 BC):**  
**Greek Philosopher**  
 Believed some animals and plants joined in different combinations.

**Georges-Louis Leclerc (1707 – 1788):**  
**French Philosopher**  
 Stated that species were actually just varieties of animals that had been modified from the original animal due to environmental factors.

**Lamarck (1744 – 1829):**  
**French Naturalist**  
 Thought that transmutation (evolution) of species occurred due to inherited traits that helped them adapt to the environment.

**Inherited Traits**

**Adaptive Traits**

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# Aim



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