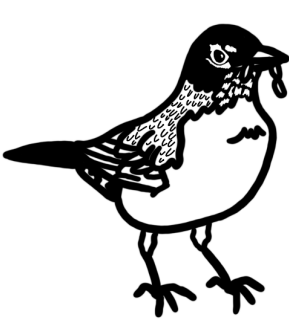


HAPPY DARWIN DAY!

Thinking like an
evolutionary biologist



by Maya Weissman

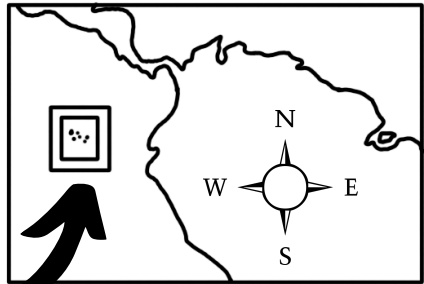
WHO WAS DARWIN?



Charles Darwin was an English naturalist who is considered to be the father of our modern understanding of evolution.

In 1831, he joined the ship the *Beagle*.

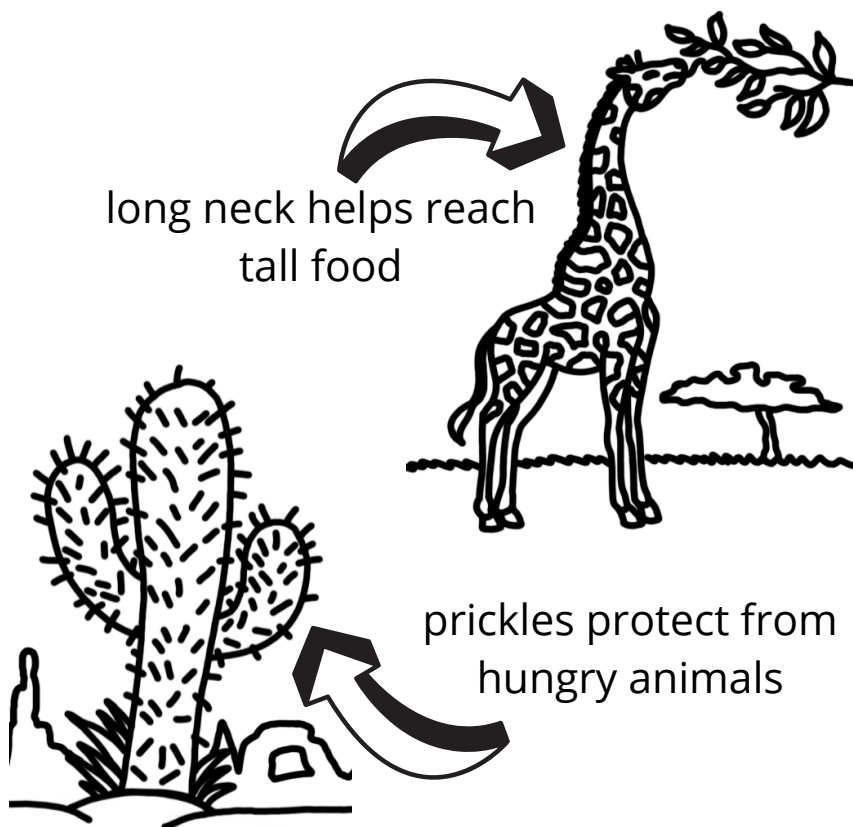
On this trip, he visited the **Galapagos Islands**.



Darwin noticed that the finches on each island had different shaped beaks **adapted** to eat the food unique to their island. This inspired him to write his book *On the Origin of Species*.

ADAPTATIONS

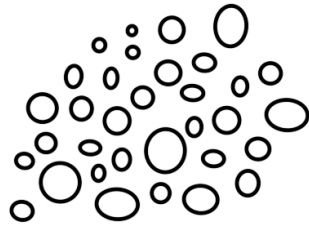
Scientists call plants, animals, and microbes **organisms**. Each one has many **traits**. Traits that help an organism survive better are **adaptations**.



Can you think of any other examples of adaptations? Write one here!

THINK LIKE DARWIN

Darwin's finches have **adapted** beaks that help them reach or access the food on their island. Can you match each beak with its food?



Tiny seeds and
fruits



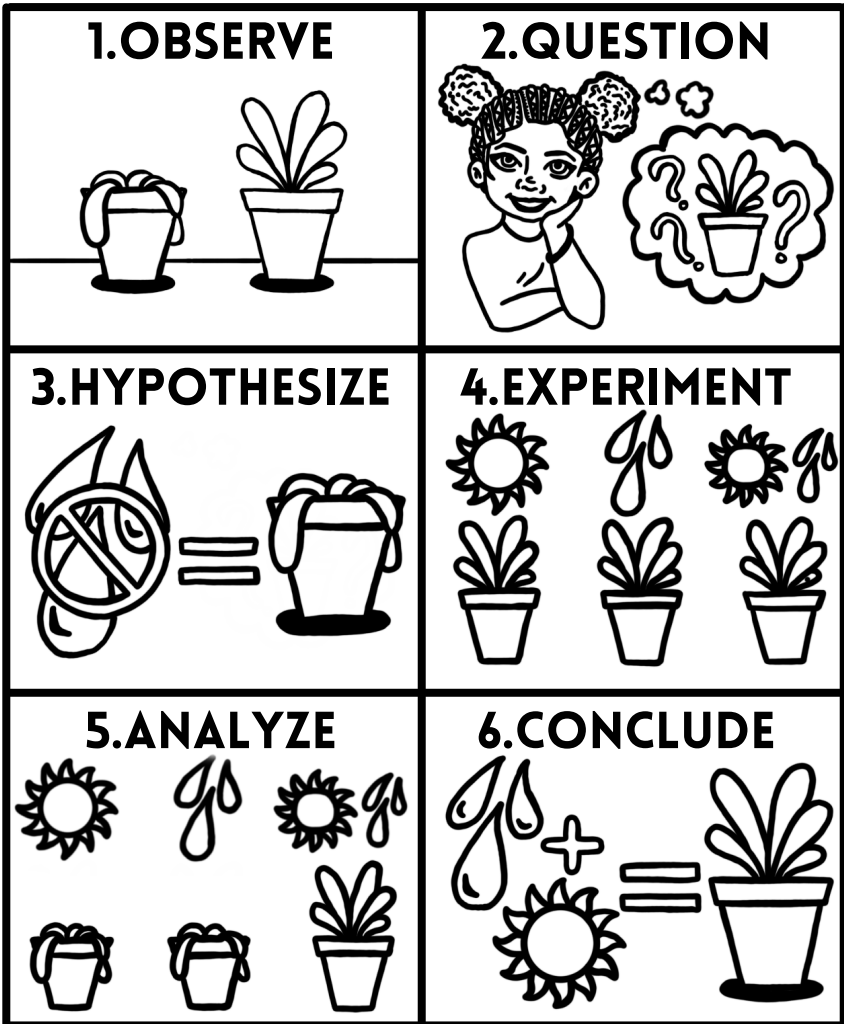
Big, hard to break
seeds



Long, narrow
cactus flowers

THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD

The Scientific Method is the way that scientists, like Darwin, study the world around them and learn new things.



Science is not about any one genius, but about working together to discover new things. Here are just a few of the many scientists who have helped us better understand evolution!

Gregory Mendel,
1822 - 1884

Discovered that pea plants **inherit** traits.



Rosalind Franklin,
1920 - 1958

Chemist who took the first photo of DNA.

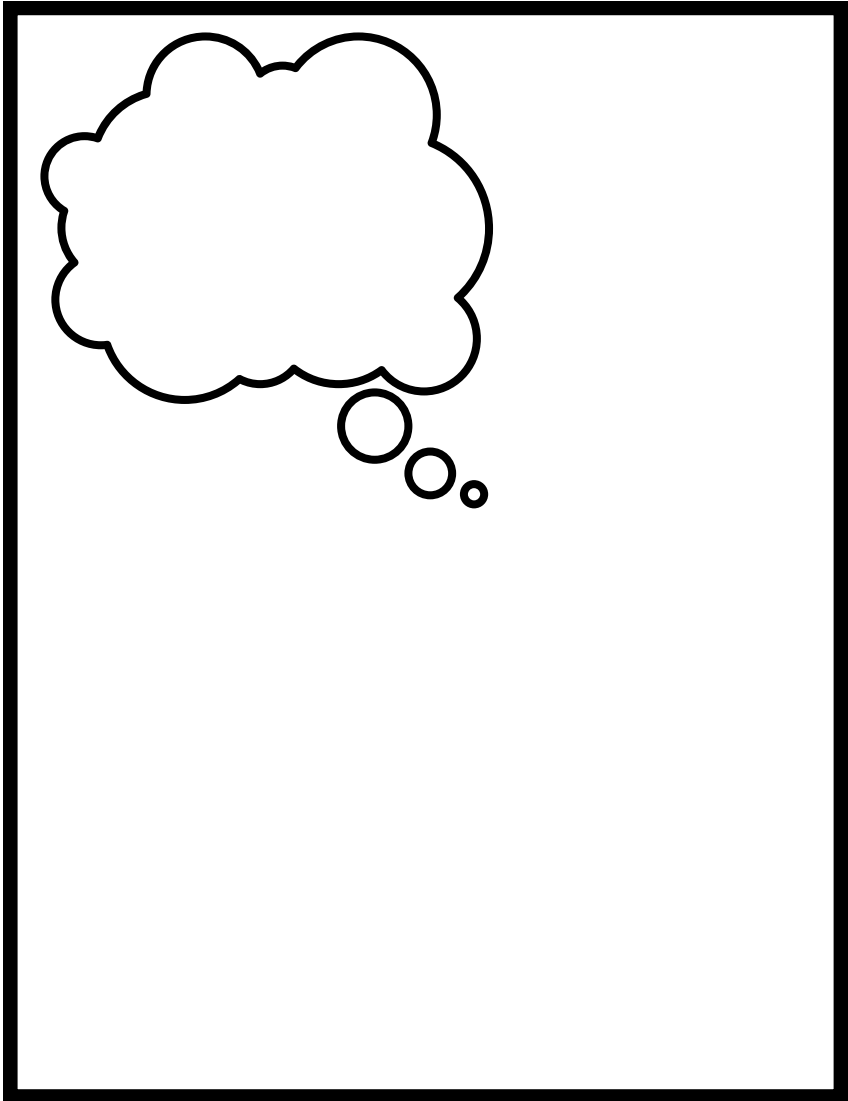


Motoo Kimura,
1924 - 1994

Developed math to explain how traits evolve.



Imagine that you study evolution. Draw yourself as an evolutionary biologist!



What **adaptions** or **organisms** will you study? Draw or write about them in your thought bubble!

WORD SEARCH

B N H O L W G P D F I N C H D
E S P E C I E S X N Z N B B W
A P S L G Y C O W Z C S J E X
G A A F O N D Y J N S T K A U
L N S C I E N T I S T H H K J
E P H P S M J F T L O L Y O U
E X P E R I M E N T S V P X Q
V A A D A P T A T I O N O L A
O N I L D X Q U I N M R T K D
L O S T N O F M S H X N H D A
U Y Y B X M V Z X F T M E X R
T B G A L A P A G O S Z S W W
I C V N U K F J B L A G I G I
O E K J Z J V B L G M T Z W N
N O R G A N I S M N C I E N R

ADAPTATION

FINCH

BEAGLE

GALAPAGOS

BEAK

HYPOTHESIZE

DARWIN

ORGANISM

EVOLUTION

SCIENTIST

EXPERIMENT

SPECIES