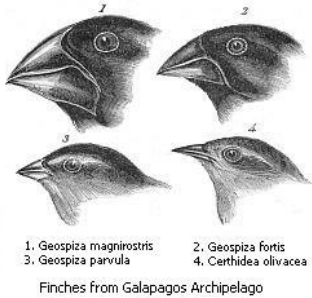


Writing about adaptations, natural selection and evolution

. Read this paragraph about finches, then write paragraphs about iguanas, larkeys, and giraffes. Use the underlined words and parts of sentences from the first paragraph in the other paragraphs that you write.

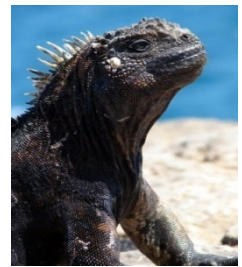


The original population of finches that arrived on the Galapagos islands had a variation in beak sizes. In their new habitats the birds encountered different-sized seeds that they had to eat to survive. Large beaked birds could eat larger seeds and small beaked birds could eat smaller seeds more easily. The selective pressure of the seed size had an effect on which birds survived. The fittest birds were the ones that had a beak size (adaptation) that corresponded with the size of the seeds in their habitat. They got to survive and pass on those traits. Over time, the birds on each island became so different from the others, they couldn't produce offspring

together - they had become different species. This process which allows the fittest to survive is called natural selection. Change over time is called evolution.



Now write a similar paragraph using the underlined words in the paragraph above to describe how land iguanas that came to live on the Galapagos Islands might have evolved to become marine (sea-going) iguanas. You only need to write about one trait/adaptation of the iguanas.



The population of iguanas that arrived on the islands had a variation in _____. In their new habitats, the _____ had to eat _____ to survive. The algae they had to eat was in the ocean. The selective pressure of the _____ had an effect on which iguanas survived. The _____ iguanas were the ones that had a _____ (adaptation) that allowed them to _____ in their new habitat. They were able to survive and pass on this _____ to their offspring. Over time, the iguanas on the islands became so different from the land iguanas who were their ancestors, they couldn't produce offspring together - they had become different species. This process which allows the fittest to survive is called _____. Change over time is called evolution.

Below, write a paragraph about mountain larkeys driven to the forest by a fire. Explain why and how they might evolve. Use the format and the all of the underlined words from the paragraphs on the other side of this sheet. The first sentence is started for you.

Some of the population of larkeys driven by fire to the forest environment had a variation...

Write a paragraph below using the underlined words from the other side of this sheet to explain how giraffes might have evolved to have long necks.