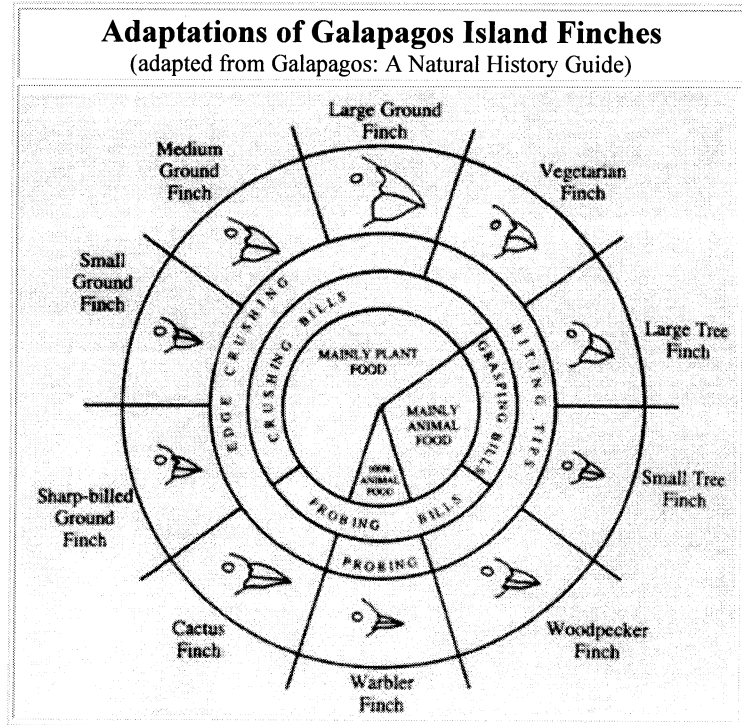


Finch Beaks

Read the following paragraph and use the diagram below to answer the questions which follow below on a separate sheet of paper.

The medium ground finch is found on several of the Galapagos Islands. This species of bird prefers to eat small seeds, which are easier to eat than large seeds. However, when food is scarce, such as during a drought, some of the small ground finches can eat larger seeds. The ability to eat larger seeds is inherited. The birds with thicker beaks crush seeds more easily. Medium ground finches are least likely to be found on islands with large producer populations, species of large ground finches, more variation in seed size, and abundant rainfall.



1. Describe changes that would occur in the ground finch population during a long period of drought when food is scarce.
2. Explain how this set of changes is an example of natural selection.
3. State one difference between the beaks of small ground finches and beaks of small tree finches.
4. Would you expect the small ground finches and small tree finches to compete for food on the island? Support your answer with evidence.
5. Explain how the island could support a large population of both large ground finches and small ground finches.
6. How is the beak of the cactus finch adapted to its feeding habits?
7. Which finch species is least likely to survive a severe drought that reduces the animal population on the island? Support your answer with an explanation.
8. Explain how the "Forks and Beans lab" completed in your class displays the Theory of Natural Selection. (or survival of the fittest)
9. Describe two factors that can limit the amount of competition between species in a given area.
10. Describe the most successful beak shape for eating small seeds.