

The ARKive Darwin education materials cover a number of science subjects, such as variation, classification and keys, using Darwin and the voyage of the Beagle as the exploratory vehicle.

Included within the package are: an ARKive themed classroom presentation, classroom activities and links to additional ARKive internet multi-media resources. All the resources provided can be used alongside your existing teaching material, individually or as a complete set.

In addition, the ARKive website contains a wealth of multi-media that teachers can tailor to the specific needs of their individual teaching group. The educational material ARKive has put together is intended to give an idea of how ARKive can be used to help teach a variety of subjects.

The components of the ARKive Darwin finches education materials for 11-14 year olds are detailed below:

- **Class presentation**
 - 11-14 year olds Classroom presentation – Darwin's Observations.ppt
 - MyARKive scrapbook of images: Darwin's observations: www.arkive.org/darwins-observations
- **Darwin's finches**
 - 11-14 year olds Activity - Darwin's finches - classroom materials.ppt
 - 11-14 year olds - Darwin's finches - handout.pdf
 - MyARKive scrapbook: Darwin's finches: <http://www.arkive.org/darwins-finches>
 - ARKive link to Galapagos giant tortoise: www.arkive.org/galapagos-giant-tortoise
 - 11-14 year olds Activity – Darwin's finches – teacher's notes: see below

11-14 year olds Activity – Darwin's finches – teacher's notes

Part 3 - Galapagos finches – a clue to the theory of evolution? - Answer

Common ancestor - the consensus amongst most scientists shows a bird with quite a large, blunt beak. Genetic or DNA studies may modify our views in the future.

One current view is that the Galapagos finches evolved from *Tiaris obscura* – the dull-coloured grassquit.

Sato, A., Tichy, H., O'hUigin, C., Grant, P.R., Grant, B.R. and Klein, J. (2001) On the origin of Darwin's finches. *Molecular Biology and Evolution* 18:299-311: <http://tinyurl.com/63hyzbs>

Part 4 – Answers

1. These tortoises illustrate the principal of adaptive radiation that Darwin coined after insights in the Galapagos; populations isolated on islands or on parts of larger islands have adapted to different conditions and now have distinct appearances. The species can be generally separated into those with 'domed' shells, which occur on the larger, wetter islands, and smaller tortoises with 'saddleback' carapaces that are found on smaller islands with dry vegetation. It is thought that the distinctive saddleback shell enables its bearer to reach taller vegetation; these tortoises also have longer limbs and necks.

2. All the tortoises are large, the biggest difference is the shape of the shell – allowing them to feed on different types of vegetation.

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