



**Clockwise from top-left:**

- Mole
- Przewalski's horse
- Little red flying fox
- Sumatran orang-utan
- Atlantic spotted dolphin

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## Part 1

In his book 'On the Origin of Species' Charles Darwin used the phrase 'Descent by Modification' instead of the word evolution to describe the appearance of a new species. He realised that although many groups of animals, for example, the vertebrates, all share the same basic body plan, that this plan has been modified as they became adapted to different ways of life. For Darwin this was clear evidence for evolutionary change.

*"What can be more curious than that the hand of man, formed for grasping, that of a mole for digging, the leg of a horse, the paddle of the porpoise, and the wing of a bat, should all be constructed on the same pattern, and should include the same bones, in the same relative positions?" - Charles Darwin*

Go to the ARKive scrapbook:

([www.arkive.org/evolution](http://www.arkive.org/evolution)) to watch videos of the species and use your observations to answer the questions below.

1. Describe the limbs of each of the species and explain how each animal uses them.
2. What other differences can you find between these mammals?
3. The mammals are one vertebrate group, list the other four and describe how their body plans differ. Suggest reasons for each of the differences.

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## Part 2

Some animals are not so easy to classify, their features seem to place them in more than one group.

Take a look at the species below on ARKive, go to the scrapbook ([www.arkive.org/evolution](http://www.arkive.org/evolution)) and watch the videos, look at the photographs and read the information on them.

4. Describe their features and suggest why these might make them more difficult to classify.

5. What do you think their evolutionary ancestors might have been?



Platypus



Pichi or dwarf armadillo

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