

Chapter 15 Darwin's Theory of Evolution

Section 15-1 The Puzzle of Life's Diversity (pages 369-372)



TEKS FOCUS: 3F History of biology and contributions of scientists; 7A Change in species—fossils; 7B Natural selection—diversity

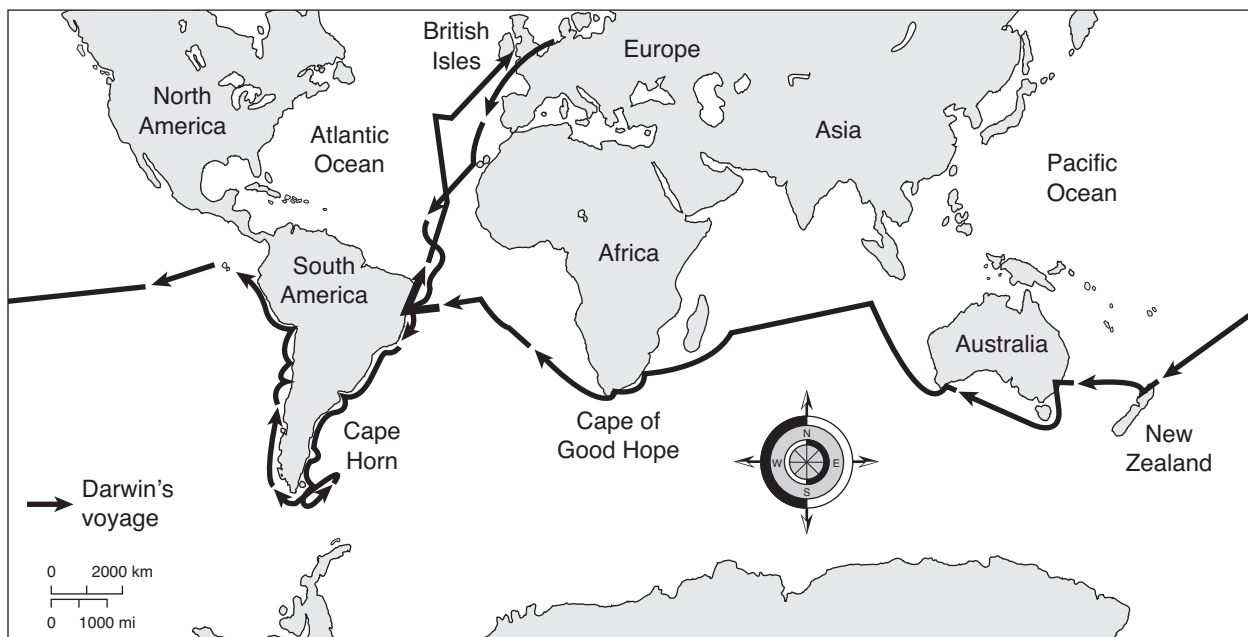
This section outlines Charles Darwin's contribution to science. It also describes the pattern of diversity he observed among organisms of the Galápagos Islands.

Introduction (page 369)

1. The process by which modern organisms have descended from ancient organisms is called _____.
2. A well-supported explanation of phenomena that have occurred in the natural world is a(an) _____.
3. Is the following sentence true or false? Charles Darwin contributed more to our understanding of evolution than anyone else. _____

Voyage of the *Beagle* (pages 369-370)

4. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about Charles Darwin.
 - a. He was born in 1809.
 - b. He was an English naturalist.
 - c. He was 42 when he began the voyage on the *Beagle*.
 - d. The voyage lasted 5 years and took him around the world.
5. Label the Galápagos Islands on the map below.



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6. Is the following sentence true or false? Darwin was looking for a scientific explanation for the diversity of life on Earth. _____

Darwin's Observations (pages 370–372)

7. Circle the letter of each observation that Darwin made.
- a. An enormous number of species inhabit Earth.
 - b. Many organisms seem to be poorly suited to their environment.
 - c. The same sorts of animals are always found in the same ecosystems in different parts of the world.
 - d. Some species that lived in the past no longer live on Earth.
8. The preserved remains of ancient organisms are called _____.
9. As Darwin studied fossils, what new questions arose? _____

10. Is the following sentence true or false? Of all the *Beagle's* ports of call, the one that influenced Darwin the most was the Galápagos Islands. _____
11. Circle the letter of each choice that is true about the Galápagos Islands.
- a. The islands are far apart.
 - b. The smallest, lowest islands are hot and wet.
 - c. The higher islands have more rainfall.
 - d. All the islands have the same amount of vegetation.
12. How did Darwin explain differences in shell shape of tortoises from Hood Island and Isabela Island? _____

13. Darwin observed that small brown birds on the Galápagos Islands differed in the shape of their _____.

The Journey Home (page 372)

14. What did Darwin think about on his journey home to England? _____

15. After he returned to England, what hypothesis did Darwin develop to explain his findings? _____

Reading Skill Practice

You can focus on the most important points in a section by turning the headings into questions and then trying to find the answers as you read. For each heading in Section 15–1, first write the heading as a how, what, or why question. Then, find and write the answer to your question. Do your work on a separate sheet of paper.