

## Darwin and Galapagos Island Notes

Natural Selection: Organisms that are best adapted to their environment will survive and reproduce. This is also known as natural selection.

Adaptation: when a structure or behavior of an organism changes to meet the demands of the environment.

*Structural Adaptations:* physical features

*Behavioral Adaptations:* actions of organisms

### Mutations:

Sometimes an offspring is born differently than others in his/her species. When a change in physical features happens that quickly, it is called a mutation. Examples:



When a mutation is HELPFUL, the trait can be passed down from generation to generation until it becomes an adaptation.

Variations: slight changes in a species are called variations. These are not necessarily mutations or adaptations. They are just slight differences in DNA. (ex: hair color, eye color)

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### Important Points to Remember:

1. Organisms who are best adapted to their environment will survive and reproduce - this is called natural selection.
2. If the organism lives to reproduce, the offspring will have characteristics similar to the parents.
3. If a species does not adapt to its changing environment, it will become extinct.
4. Slight differences in a species are variations.