

# Evolution Knowledge Mat

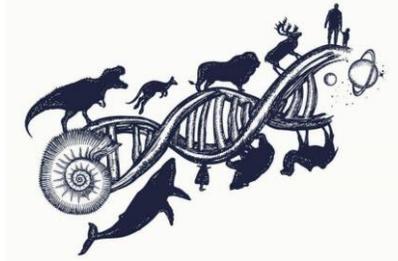
**Our exciting text is...**  
**Darwin's Dragons**

Syms Covington has landed the job of a lifetime – cabin boy and fiddler on Charles Darwin's Beagle – but when he is separated from the crew during a storm, his life takes a truly extraordinary turn. Shipwrecked on a Galapagos island, he makes a discovery that could change the world – and make his fortune.



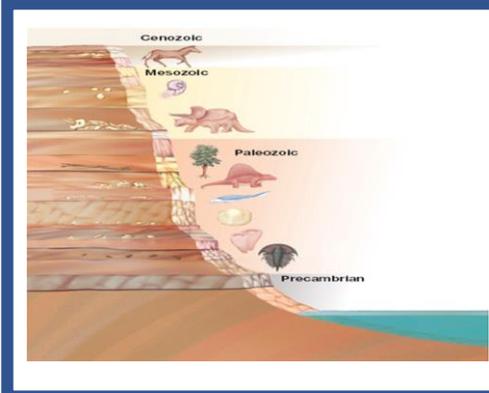
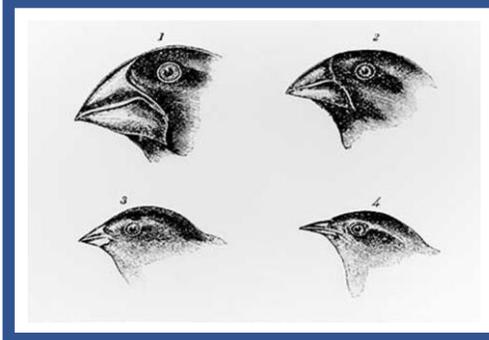
**Our enquiry question is...**  
**How and why have humans thrived as a species?**

**Our concept is...**  
**Perseverance**



## Vocabulary

inherit	receive something genetically from one's parents or relatives further back in the family tree
variation	a change or slight difference
acquired	learn or develop
characteristics	a feature or quality belonging typically to a person that identifies them
offspring	the person's child or children/ an animal's young
adapt	become adjusted to new conditions
environment	the surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal or plant lives or operates
mutation	the changing structure of a gene that results in a variation over subsequent generations
extinct	no longer in existence
evolution	the process of living things developing from earlier forms (adapting and mutating)



## Key Knowledge

Inheritance is something that we can inherit from our parents such as eye colour, hair colour or our height. This may come from either side of our parents.

Acquiring characteristics are things that we learn over time such as new skills. This could include being able to play a musical instrument or being able to play a sport.

Darwin's key findings:

- Individuals in a species show a wide range of variation
- The variation is because of differences in genes
- Individuals with characteristics most suited to the environment are more likely to survive and reproduce
- The genes that allowed the individuals to be successful are passed to the offspring in the next generation

Survival of the fittest explains how organisms that are better adapted to their environment are best suited to survive and successfully reproduce.

Fossils are the remains or imprints left by plants and animals that lived millions of years ago. The fossils may look the same as when the plant or animal was alive but have now changed to stone.

The same 'family' of animals can have different adaptations that allow them to live in very different environments.