

Galapagos' Biology

26 March 2009, Bonine 8

Questions to help you review the material and comprehend important points.

1. Where are the Galapagos islands, how old are they, how were they formed?
2. How does understanding plate tectonics and erosion contribute to understanding adaptive radiation in the Galapagos?
3. Why are some taxa better represented in the Galapagos than others?
4. What is an El Niño event? How does it affect marine and terrestrial environments in the Galapagos?
5. Why do bird beaks fluctuate in size across years on Daphne Major?
6. Why has natural selection favored the ability for marine iguanas to actually shrink the size of their skeleton and their body?
7. Why are male marine iguanas typically larger than females? Are all males large? Why or why not?
8. How long have humans been visiting or living in the Galapagos?
9. Provide two examples of threats from invasive species in the Galapagos.
10. Why are species in the Galapagos rather unafraid of people? Does this behavior have implications for survival of Galapagos' species?
11. How can penguins survive at the equator? Could global climate change affect the penguins in the Galapagos? How?
12. What is the biggest threat to biodiversity? What are two others?