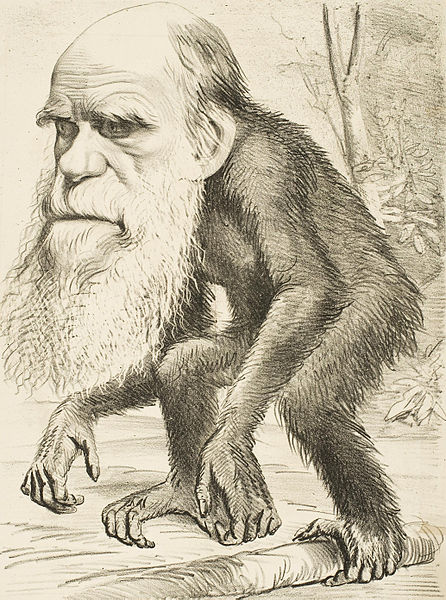
**NAME**

**Evolution**

**Sheet A**

Charles Darwin was born in 1809.

He originally trained as a doctor but was more interested in nature, so he was better known as a ‘naturalist’ (someone who studies animals and plants).

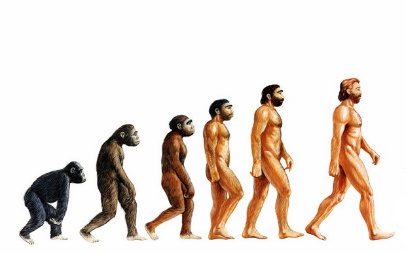
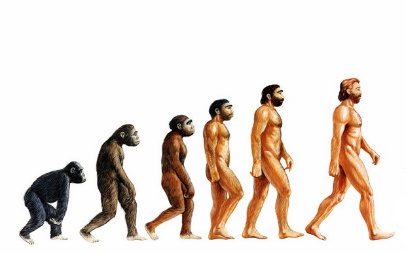
Darwin was a religious man.

In 1831 Darwin set off on a journey around the world which lasted 5 years.

This trip is commonly known as the ‘Voyage of the Beagle’ (the name of the ship which Darwin travelled on).

On his voyage, Darwin collected specimens (samples) of animals, plants and rocks from around the world and sent them back to England.

He also kept a journal of his observations. Darwin noticed that there were similarities between different species (group of animals and plants that are similar).

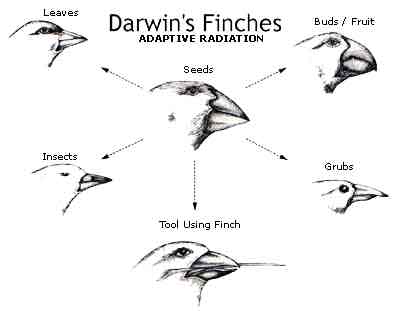
**NAME**

**Evolution**

**Sheet B**

His observations of finches on the Galapagos Islands (off the coast of South America) are probably the most famous example of this.

Darwin noticed that the beaks of finches on the different islands were slightly different and so were the environments in which each species lived.

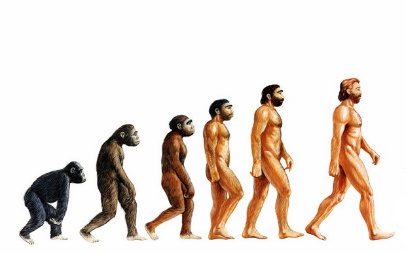
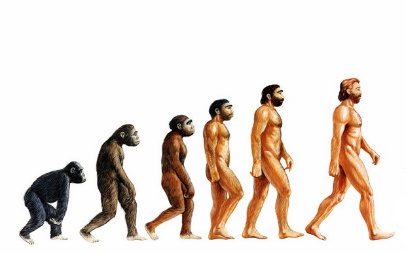


He thought that these finches had derived from a common ancestor which had migrated from the mainland of Chile, where Darwin had observed some similar finches.



Darwin noted many other examples like the finches and also made comparisons between living organisms and fossils, arguing that they too came from a common ancestor, despite now being extinct.

Darwin thought that organisms came from a common ancestor and gradually changed over time. This theory is now more commonly known as the theory of evolution.

**NAME**

**Evolution**

**Sheet C**

Darwin noticed that there was variation between individuals of the same species (e.g. variation in the beak size or shape of finches) and thought that individuals that were better suited to a particular environment had a greater chance of surviving.

Remember the example of the peppered moth?



These individuals were therefore more likely to survive and reproduce, producing offspring with similar characteristics to their parents.

Darwin called this theory ‘Natural Selection’. It is also sometimes called ‘Survival of the Fittest’.

Darwin’s theories were heavily criticised at the time, mainly because people tended to be very religious.