

The Beak of the Finch: Chapters 1-3

Answer each question in at least one paragraph (ca. 150-200 words). Refer to the syllabus (section “Written assignments”) for formatting instructions.

1. What makes Daphne Major and the Galapagos unique? Who are Peter and Rosemary Grant and why did they choose this place to find support for Darwin’s theory?
2. Describe the study system (Darwin’s finches).
3. How did Darwin end up going to the Galapagos Islands and what were his impressions? How did his stay on the islands change his ideas? What role did the finches play in this process?
4. Why did people think that evolution moved too slowly to ever be observed? What kinds of experiments did Darwin conduct to provide proof for his theory? Was he successful?
5. How did the finch study begin? What triggered the start of the long-term study?
6. In what situation could the tameness of the birds on the island become a problem? (This is a relevant concern for island-inhabiting species in general.)
7. Why do you think it took so many years for scientists to document evolution in action after Darwin’s *Origin of Species* was released?

Assigned 01/27
Due 02/04 5pm (submit electronically)