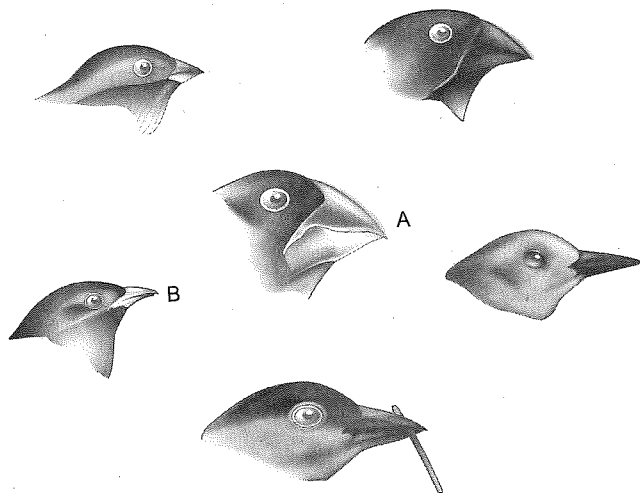


3 Master the Skill

DIRECTIONS: Study the information and illustration, read each question, and choose the **best** answer.

GALÁPAGOS ISLAND FINCHES

Charles Darwin left Britain for a three-year voyage around the world in 1831. The trip gave him the chance to observe and collect plants and animals from many different places. In late 1835, Darwin spent several weeks on the Galápagos Islands off the coast of South America. He collected several finches from the islands and brought the specimens back to London. Once home, Darwin studied the birds. He was amazed to find that although they were all finches from the same group of islands, they had beaks of different sizes and shapes. Darwin wrote, "One might really fancy that...one species had been taken and modified for different ends."



7. According to the passage, Darwin considered the possibility that a species had been modified for different purposes. What inference is Darwin making?
- A. Finches from different islands have different beak shapes.
 - B. Birds on the Galápagos Islands are different from birds in London.
 - C. Climate variations affect the shapes of bird beaks.
 - D. The different finches had come from the same ancestor.

8. Based on the passage and illustration, what inference can be made about Bird A and Bird B?
- A. The birds probably do not compete for food.
 - B. Bird B is an ancestor of Bird A.
 - C. Bird A is more likely to reproduce than Bird B.
 - D. Bird B's beak is smaller than Bird A's beak.

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage and question, and choose the **best** answer.

NATURAL SELECTION AND SKIN COLOR

Today, we protect our skin and obtain the vitamin D we need by using products such as sunscreen and multivitamin supplements. However, as humans evolved, these benefits of technology were not available. Instead, variations in skin color offered advantages and disadvantages that led to the predominance of certain skin colors in certain environments.

The earliest humans lived in a hot and sunny environment and had dark skin. Their dark skin benefited them because darker skin offers more protection from damage caused by the sun than lighter skin. As groups of humans migrated to colder, less sunny environments, lighter skin became more common in some populations. Lighter skin was a beneficial trait in those populations because it produces vitamin D more efficiently than darker skin.

9. The sun is a source of vitamin D for humans. What information from the passage supports the inference that individuals living in less sunny environments were unable to obtain adequate amounts of vitamin D from the sun?
- A. Lighter skin, which produces vitamin D more efficiently than darker skin, became more common in populations living in less sunny environments.
 - B. Regardless of skin color or environment, humans today can obtain adequate amounts of vitamin D by taking multivitamin supplements.
 - C. Groups of humans migrated from environments that were hot and sunny to environments that were colder and less sunny.
 - D. Darker skin produces vitamin D less efficiently than lighter skin but offers greater protection against damage from the sun.