

PowerNotes 10.2: Darwin’s Observations

Main Idea	Detail Notes
<p>I. Darwin observed variation among island species.</p>	<p>1. Variation is: The difference in the physical traits of an individual from those of other individuals in the group to which it belongs</p> <p>2. Examples include tortoises: -Saddle-backed tortoises, which have long necks & legs, live in areas with a lot of tall plants. Domed tortoises, with shorter necks & legs, live in wet areas with short plants</p> <p>3. and finches: Finches with strong, thick beaks live in areas with a lot of large, hard-shelled nuts; while finches with more delicate beaks are found where insects or fruits are widely available</p>
<p>II. Darwin realized species could adapt to their environment.</p>	<p>1. An adaptation is: A feature that allows an organism to better survive in its environment</p>
<p>III. Darwin observed fossil and geologic evidence of an ancient Earth.</p>	<p>1. Fossil evidence included: a) Glyptodon - a giant extinct armadillo that resembled living armadillos. b) Fossil shells of marine organisms high up in the mountains, showing great changes in the past</p> <p>2. Geologic evidence included: Land that had been underwater was moved above sea level due to an earthquake. This demonstrates that daily geologic processes can add up to a great change over a long period of time.</p>