

# Topic Fact Sheet - Galapagos

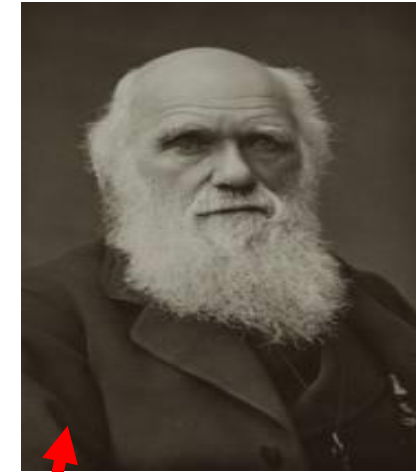
The **Galápagos Islands** (*Las Islas Galápagos*) are a group of islands in the Pacific Ocean, which now belong to Ecuador.

## Key Terms

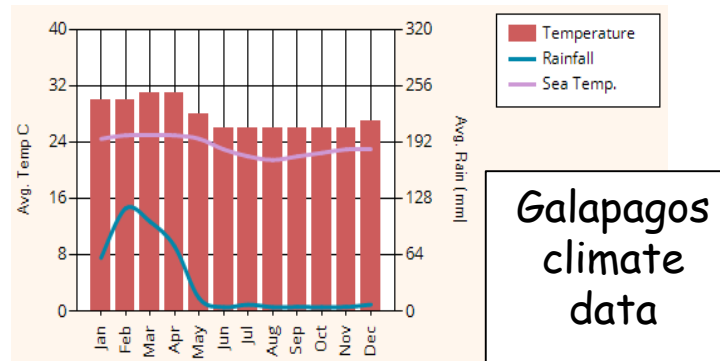
<b>archipelago</b>	A group or chain of small islands, such as the Galápagos Islands.
<b>Buccaneer</b>	A type of pirate, who originally used to sail the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean.
<b>diversity</b>	A range of different things.
<b>ecology</b>	The study of relationships between living things and their surroundings.
<b>naturalist</b>	An expert in the study of natural history
<b>Piracy</b>	Attacking and robbing ships at sea.
<b>Province</b>	A part of a country with a Government of its own.
<b>Sub-tropical climate</b>	Hot and humid summers and cold winters.
<b>territory</b>	An area (such as an island) under the rule of a country's government.
<b>Theory of evolution - 'Origin of Species'</b>	How living things have changed over time in order to survive in the environment that they live in.



Sir Richard Hawkins



Charles Darwin



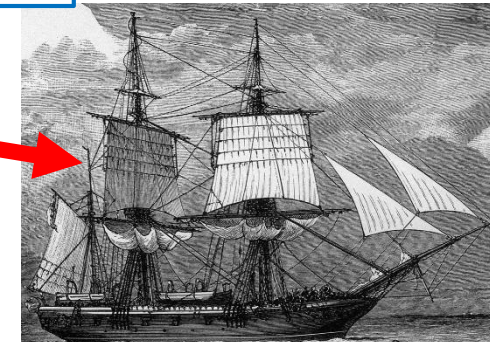
British Buccaneers such as Hawkins, and Henry Morgan sailed the Pacific for treasure ships to loot during the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Darwin was an English naturalist and visited the Galapagos in 1835, while on a round-the-world voyage on board the HMS Beagle.



HMS Beagle

The journey of HMS Beagle



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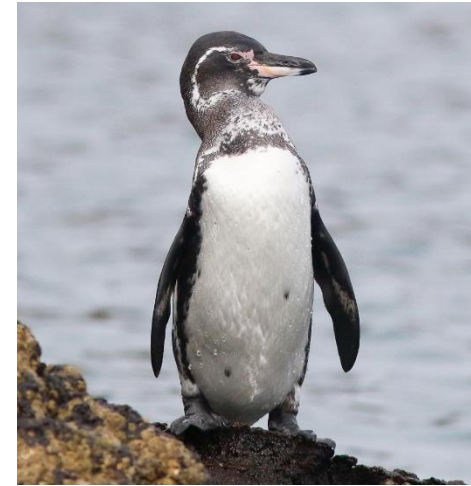
## Key Dates

1535	On March 10 <sup>th</sup> , Bishop of Panama (Fray Tomas de Berlanga) officially discovered the Galapagos Archipelago.
1570	Galapagos appeared on a world map, published by Abraham Ortelius, for the first time.
1790	Alessandro Malaspina led the first scientific expedition in the Galapagos.
1807 - 1809	Patrick Watkins, an Irish sailor, was the first person to live on Floreana Island.
1832	Galapagos Islands become a territory of Ecuador.
1835	Charles Darwin arrived at Galapagos on the HMS Beagle.
1861	Galapagos officially declared a province of Ecuador.
1939 - 1945	US forces built a base and an airstrip on Balta Island, during World War II.
1959	Galapagos National Park established and covered 97% of the total area.
1964	The official opening of the Charles Darwin Research Station in Galapagos took place on 12 <sup>th</sup> January.
1986	The Galapagos marine Reserve was created.

Darwin noticed that the wildlife on each island was different and had adapted to suit its environment. He later used the specimens collected to develop his theory of evolution.



**Marine Iguana**  
The world's only sea-swimming lizard, the Marine Iguana can only be found on the Galapagos Islands and is one of the few vegetarian lizard species.

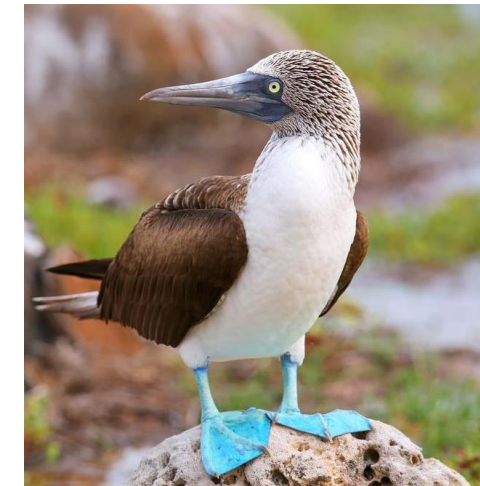


**Galapagos Penguin**  
This is the only penguin to live in the warm climate found at the Equator.

## GALAPAGOS WILDLIFE



**Giant Tortoise**  
They are the largest tortoises in the world and can grow to 1.2m long and 50cm tall.



**Blue-footed Booby**  
Named after the Spanish word for foolish (bobo), these birds appear clumsy on land.