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**Galapagos Finches: Famous Beaks**

<https://www.nsta.org/publications/press/extras/files/virus/Virus-Activity5.pdf>

Part One

1b. What are some ways that plants and animals from South America could have found their way to these rocky islands?



3.g How many different beak sizes did you find? Describe how you know.

3.h. What was the size in millimeters of the largest beak that you measured?

3.i. What was the size in millimeters of the smallest?

3.j. What is the difference in millimeters between the size of the largest and smallest beaks?

4. Do you think that tiny variations in beak size matter for survival? Why or why not?

Part Two

3.b. Predict which beak will be the better tool for gathering seeds.



3.b. Which beak gathered the most seeds?

4.c. Which beak gathered the most seeds

5.c. Was your prediction correct or not?

5.d. How does a change in environment (drought) affect which beak size gathers the most seeds?

6. Natural selection occurs when the environment favors or selects some variations over others. You have tested two variations of beaks, large and small. In the drought environment, which beak variation is favored? Why?

Part Three



1.b. During what month and year did the seed supply shrink to its lowest amount?

1.c. What month and year was the seed supply most abundant?



2.b. When was the finch population the lowest?

2.c. When was it the highest?

3. a. What happened to the finch population when the seed supply shrank to its lowest amount? How do you account for this?

3.b. When the seed supply increased, what happened to the finches? How do you account for this?

4. When the team returned to Daphne Major, they found only one in seven finches survived the drought. When they measured the survivors, they found most were finches with big beaks. Why do you think bigger beaked birds survived better than smaller beaked birds?

5. Beak size is a variation that is passed on from parents to offspring. When the new generation of young finches was measured in 1978, there were many more young birds with larger beaks. What happened?