



***The Origin of Species:  
The Making of a Theory***

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

This handout supplements the short film [The Origin of Species: The Making of a Theory](#).

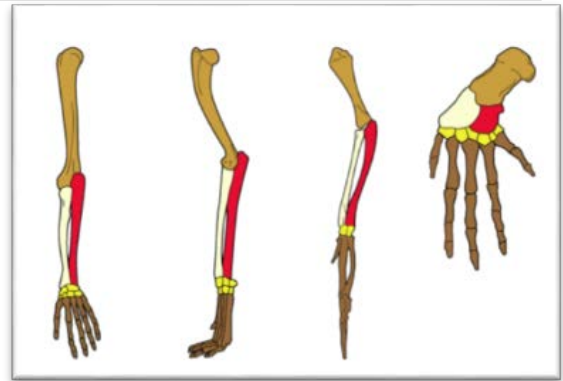
- One of Alfred Russel Wallace’s motivations to travel to South America and the Malay Archipelago collecting plants and animals was to sell his specimens to museums and collectors. What was Wallace’s other major motivation? \_\_\_\_\_
  - To be a companion to the ship’s captain.
  - To add more evidence to Charles Darwin’s natural selection theory.
  - To understand the origin of species.
  - To save enough money to buy his own ship.
- When Charles Darwin set sail on his five-year journey on the HMS *Beagle*, both he and most of his contemporary scientists thought that \_\_\_\_\_
  - each species was specially created by God in its present form and did not change over time.
  - each species was a product of natural laws and changeable over time.
  - each species had been selectively bred by humans after the invention of agriculture.
  - each species had evolved into its present form by way of genetic mutation.
- Which pair of characteristics (similarity and difference) are both correct comparisons of Darwin and Wallace? \_\_\_\_\_

	Similarity	Difference
a.	Both Darwin and Wallace were naturalists.	Darwin published his natural selection theory in an 1839 book, whereas Wallace published his natural selection theory in a scientific paper in 1859.
b.	Both Darwin’s and Wallace’s ideas about natural selection were revealed to the scientific community at the same time.	Darwin’s ideas about natural selection were inspired by what he observed on the Galápagos Islands, while Wallace’s ideas about natural selection were inspired by what he observed on the Malay Archipelago.
c.	Both Darwin and Wallace collected specimens on the Galápagos Islands.	Before each began collecting specimens around the Southern Hemisphere, Darwin thought species arose by way of natural causes, while Wallace thought species were specially created by God.
d.	Both Darwin and Wallace formulated the natural selection theory at the same time.	Wallace came from a wealthy, upper-class family, whereas Darwin grew up in a family that did not have much money.

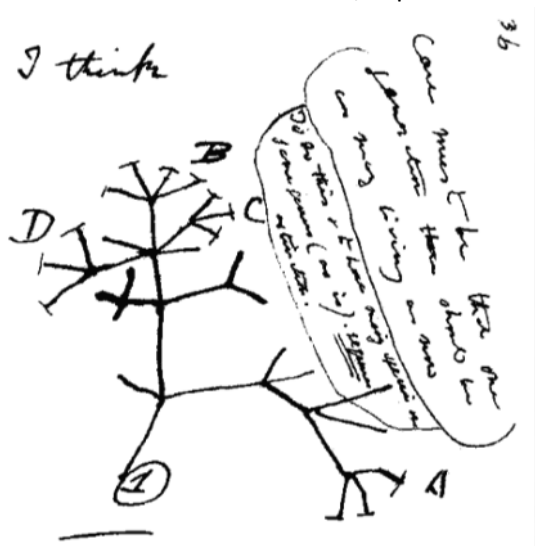
- Darwin and Wallace both gathered a large number of observations and facts on which they based their theories. Which of the following types of evidence was NOT part of the evidence they gathered? \_\_\_\_\_
  - fossil evidence
  - anatomical evidence
  - geographical distribution
  - genetic evidence

*The Origin of Species: The Making of a Theory*

5. The diagrams to the right illustrate the bones in the forelimbs of four different organisms. Although these limbs all look different, they share some common patterns. These common patterns suggest that \_\_\_\_\_
- These organisms are members of the same species.
  - The organisms existed at about the same point in time.
  - These organisms share a common ancestor.
  - These organisms have exactly the same genes.



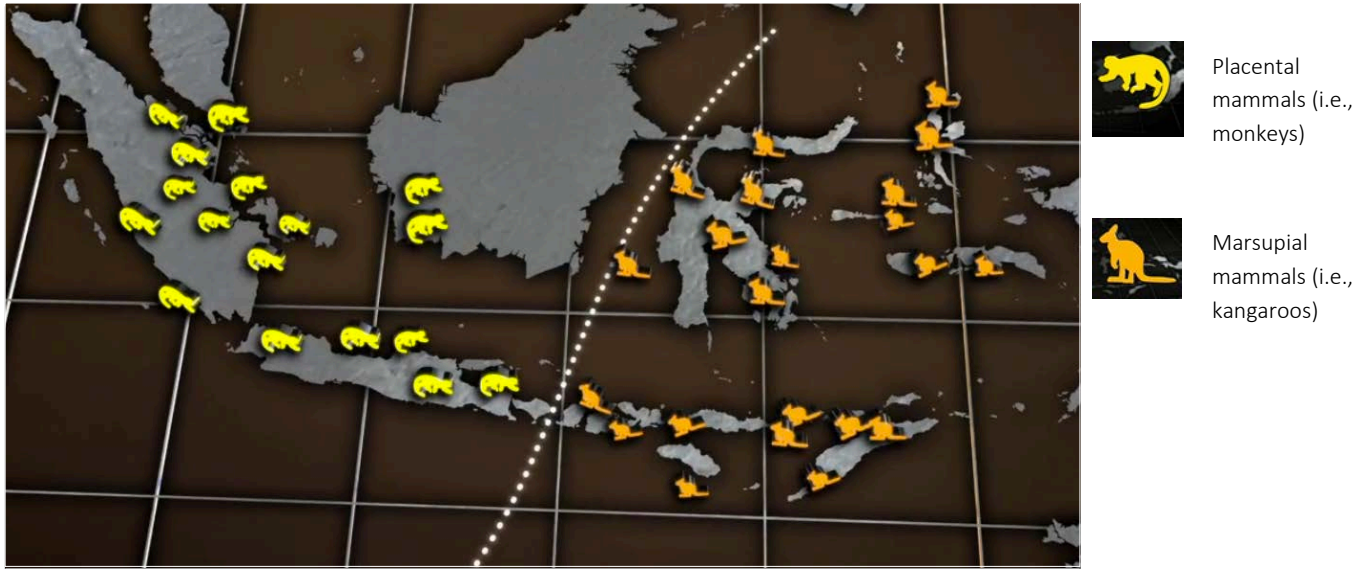
6. The image below is the famous “I think” sketch that appears in one of Darwin’s notebooks.
- In one or two sentences, explain what this sketch represents.



- Which observations from the list below support the ideas presented in Darwin’s sketch? List all the statements that apply. \_\_\_\_\_
  - Tortoises from different islands of the Galápagos have different shells.
  - Fossils of extinct animals resemble animals living today.
  - Animals that are extinct were much larger than animals living today.
  - The Galápagos Islands have only a few species of animals living on them.
  - Mockingbirds on different islands of the Galápagos have different markings.
- Select one of the observations from question 6b above and explain in one or two sentences how it supports the ideas presented in Darwin’s sketch.

7. Which observation led Wallace to conclude that all species are connected in a tree of life? \_\_\_\_\_
- Around the globe, the more similar two species are, the closer to each other they tend to live.
  - Different species migrated from Australia to the islands of the Malay Archipelago.
  - Both the butterflies and the birds he studied had wings.
  - Darwin had published the same ideas in *On the Origin of Species*.

8. Study the figure below showing the distribution of animals in the Malay Archipelago.



a. Explain how the distribution of animals supported Wallace's evolution theory.

b. From a geological perspective, how did Wallace explain why placental mammals were found west of the line, and marsupial mammals were found east of the line?

9. The image to the right shows the bones found within the flippers of manatees. Similar bones are found in the flippers of whales. What did Wallace conclude from observing these seemingly useless structures and others like them?



10. Which observations led Wallace to understand how species change over time? List all the statements that apply. \_\_\_\_\_

- i. The same species are found in different parts of the world.
- ii. The traits in a population vary from one individual to the next.
- iii. The characteristics of individuals change when their environment changes.
- iv. Populations tend to produce more offspring in each generation than will survive.
- v. Individuals with traits that give them a slight advantage over other individuals in a population will survive, and over time individuals with those traits will outnumber other individuals.