

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Darwin News letter or News Report



### TASK:

Imagine that it is 2059—the 200th anniversary of the publication of Darwin’s *On the Origin of Species*. You are a reporter for a science magazine or television show that is publishing a special issue about evolutionary biology. Your assignment is to write newsletter or script for the show about Darwin, his travels, and his scientific theory of evolution. Include details about the Galápagos finches and how Darwin first got the idea for his theory, and explain the steps in the process of natural selection. Don’t forget to give your article/show an eye-catching headline!

### TOOLS:

- You may use a Word Template for the newsletter (no Publisher!) - must include images and text
- If writing a television episode you must hand in a written script however if you would like to use a program such as Xtranormal to animate have fun!

Benchmark/ESLR	PROFICIENT	
Students know both genetic variation and environmental factors are causes of evolution and diversity of organisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify and explain how random variations in species can be preserved through natural selection.</li> <li>▪ Describe how animal and plant structures adapt to environmental change.</li> <li>▪ Give examples demonstrating how genetic variation and environmental factors lead to evolution.</li> </ul>	
Students know the reasoning used by Charles Darwin in reaching his conclusion that natural selection is the mechanism of evolution and the evidence that supports this theory.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Describe the four parts of Darwin’s of natural selection.</li> <li>▪ Identify and explain at least 4 pieces of evidence that supports the theory of evolution.</li> <li>▪ Explain how Darwin’s observations in the Galapagos islands contribute to his theory of evolution</li> <li>▪ Explain how evolution and natural selection are related.</li> </ul>	
Students know that extinction of a species occurs when the environment changes and that the adaptive characteristics of a species are insufficient for its survival.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Describe how extinction occurs using a specific example</li> <li>▪ Explain how random mutations can lead to changes in a population.</li> <li>▪ Student can explain how not having effective adaptations or sufficient genetic variation may lead to extinction.</li> </ul>	
Use a variety of print and electronic resources to collect information and evidence as part of a research project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independently search for and <i>evaluate</i> resources from the texts and web.</li> <li>• Sources are cited appropriately</li> </ul>	
ESLR: Critical thinking	Product is unique and it is evident that thought was applied into how to incorporate evolution concepts within the product.	
ESLR: Personal Management	Consistently demonstrates good work skills by independently completing work on time, staying on-task and being organized.	
ESLR: Communicate effectively	All writing on product is clear and easy to understand. Minimal spelling or grammar errors.	