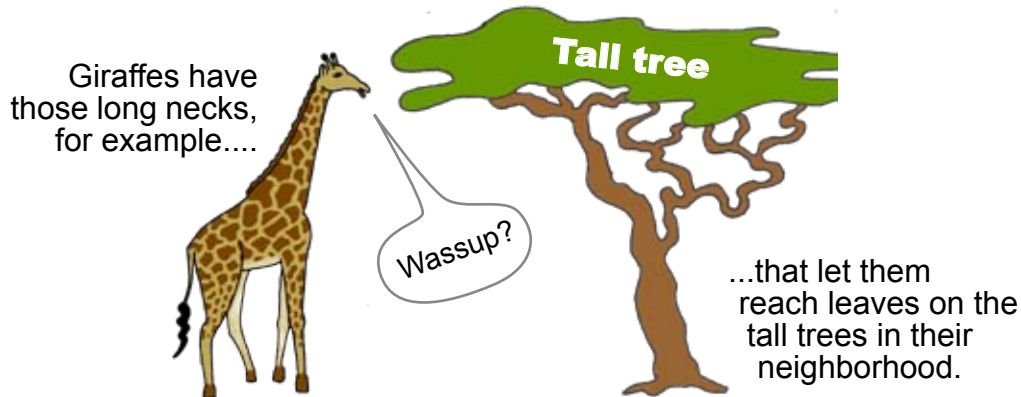




## Hey kids!

Have you ever noticed that animals fit in their environments really well?



How do animals fit so well? Because they evolve!

Evolving is changing slowly over a long long time. When an animal's environment changes, then that animal's children and grandchildren can change along with it.

This happens because of "natural selection," one of life's great and beautiful forces.

Here's a real-life example:

1. Some peppered moths in England were living happily on some trees. Their wings had perfect camouflage with the tree bark.



Hee hee!  
The birds can't see us to eat us.

2. But then some really thick pollution turned the trees black. Their camouflage was ruined, and the moths with the lightest colors got eaten.

Oh no!  
The birds can easily see us now.



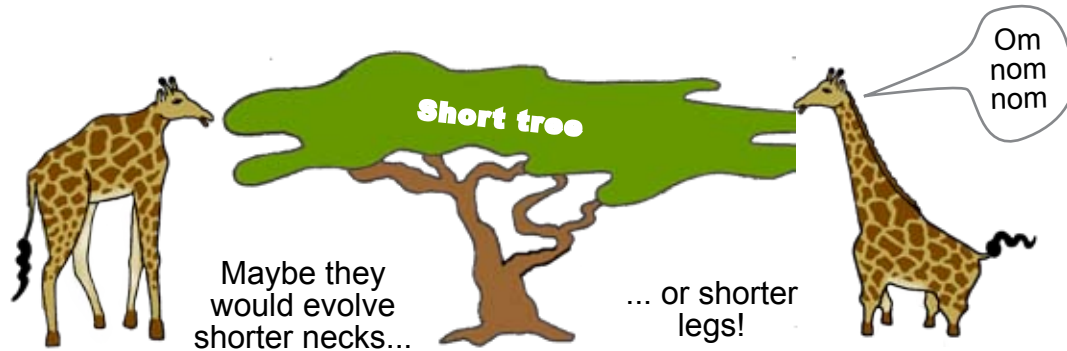
3. The moths that happened to have darker wing colors survived better. After a while, these moths' children and grandchildren evolved dark wings that matched the new bark.



Check us out!  
Brand new camouflage, dudes.

## Now for something freaky...

Imagine some giraffes got stranded on an island far away, with a different environment. On this island, all the trees are short. What would happen to the giraffes? Well, over a long, long, loooooong time, giraffes might evolve to fit their new world, like this:



Here are some more animals that fit their environments really well. What if some of them got stuck on islands with different environments? How do you think they might evolve to fit in their new worlds?

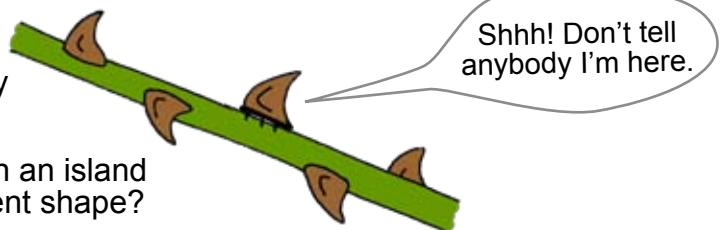
Polar bears have white fur that matches snow.

What if they were stuck on an island where snow was green?



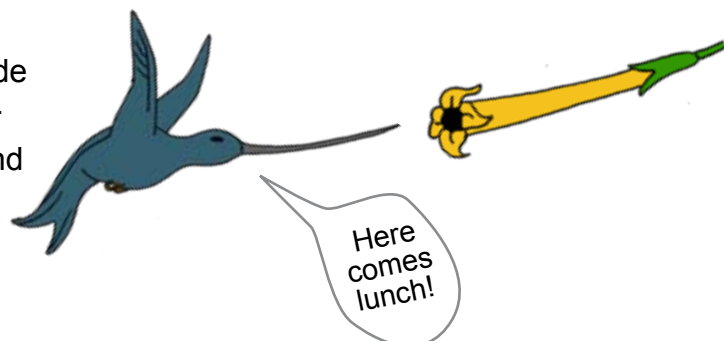
Treehopper insects look just like the thorns of the bushes they live on.

What if these bugs were stuck on an island where bush thorns were a different shape?



Some hummingbirds have super-long beaks to fit inside the flowers they drink from.

What if they were on an island where flowers were a different shape?



## Now amaze us with your artistic powers!

First, pick any animal that fits well into its environment. If you need ideas, check out a nature book.

Please don't choose the polar bear, treehopper insect, or hummingbird -- that's too easy for you!  
Also not allowed: pets, farm animals or imaginary creatures.

My animal is: \_\_\_\_\_

Now imagine that a group of your animals is stranded on an island with a different environment. What is their new island like? Is the food different? Are the plants or lands different colors or shapes? Your imaginary island can be silly or strange, funny or normal.

On my island: \_\_\_\_\_

Now imagine that millions of years pass. How would the animal evolve to fit the environment on the island? Draw us a picture of your animal after it has evolved, and include the new environment if you can. Write a note on your picture describing how this new animal fits into its world. Remember that there is no "right" answer, just your imagination!

If you want more room, use another sheet of paper for your drawing and write your name on it.

My name: \_\_\_\_\_

My age: \_\_\_\_\_

My grownup's name: \_\_\_\_\_

My grownup's email: \_\_\_\_\_

Grownup name and email required.



**Charlie's Playhouse**  
**Evolution & Art Contest 2010**  
Ages 10-12

**Last, send us your entry by November 15th.**

We can't wait to see it! Here's how to get it to us.

You can scan your entry and email it to [charlie@charliesplayhouse.com](mailto:charlie@charliesplayhouse.com).

Any document format is fine. Please scan in color so we can see the full beauty.

Or mail your entry to:

Charlie's Playhouse  
11 S. Angell Street, #360  
Providence, RI 02906

Or fax your entry to (866) 549-4635.

Color is lost in faxes, so this is our least favorite option. But if it's the only way, we'll take it.

Please remember that your grownup's name and email must be on your entry page.

We'll name the winners on Monday, December 6th.

Thanks so much for entering! You are awesome.



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