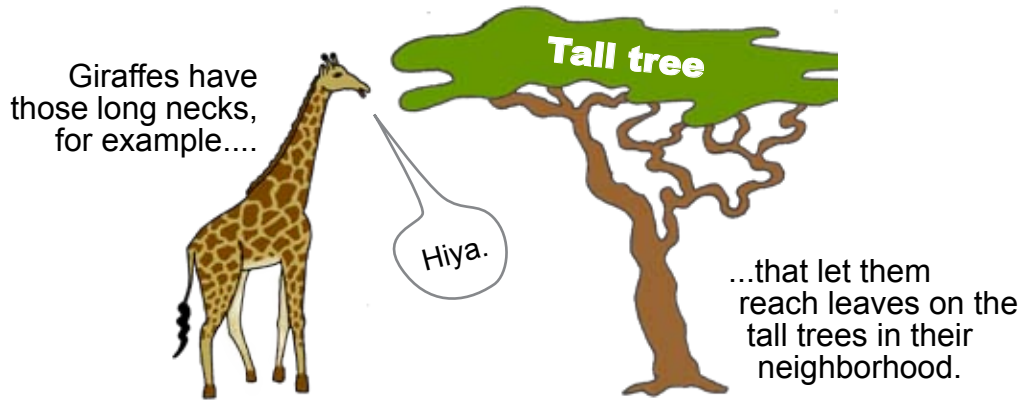




Charlie's Playhouse
Evolution & Art Contest 2010
Ages 7-9

Hey kids! Read this with a grownup!

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.

Here's a real-life example:

- 1.** Some moths in England were living happily on some trees. Their wings perfectly matched 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.

Oh no!
The birds can easily see us now.



- 3.** After a while, the moths' children and grandchildren evolved dark wings to match the new bark.



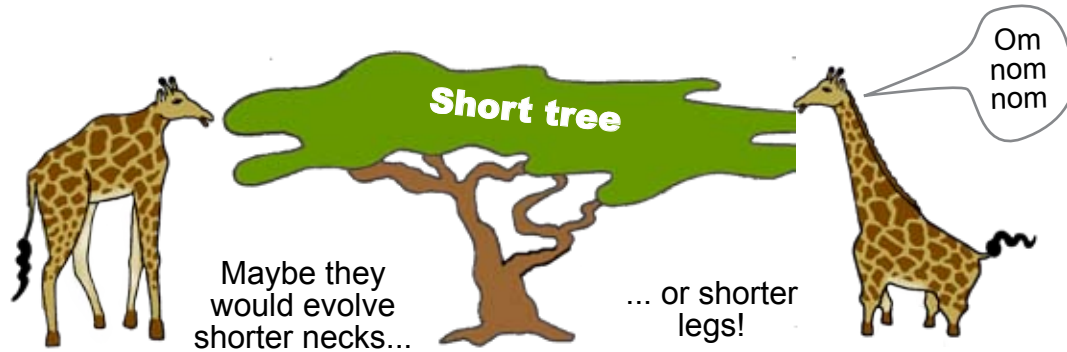
Check me out!
Grandma never had black wings like this.

Now let's imagine...

Imagine some giraffes got stranded on an island far away, where the environment is different.

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.

Let's imagine some of them got stuck on islands with different environments.

How do you think they might evolve to fit in their new worlds?

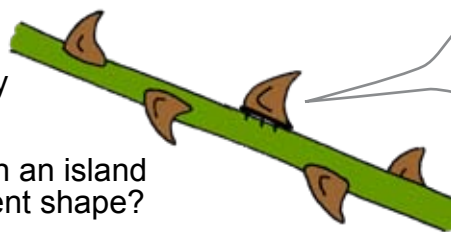
Polar bears have white fur that matches snow.

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



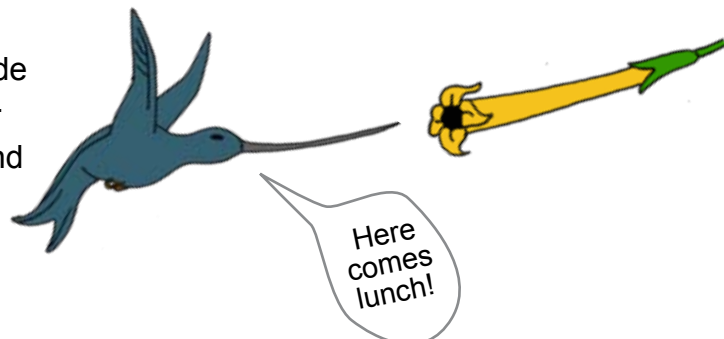
Treehopper insects look just like the thorns of the bushes they live on.

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?



Your contest entry!

Here's the fun part. Pick any animal that fits in its environment, like the polar bear, treehopper insect, hummingbird or other animal you choose. Please don't pick 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. Can you imagine what their new island is 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 its new environment on the island? Draw us a nice big colorful picture of your animal after it evolves. Write a note on your picture describing how the animal fits its new 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.



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**Grownups, please send us your child's entry
by November 15th.**

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

You can scan the entry and email it to charlie@charliesplayhouse.com.

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

Or mail it to:

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

Or fax it 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 your name and email must be on your child's entry page.

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

Thanks so much for entering!



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