

# Charles Darwin and an Introduction to the Theory of Evolution

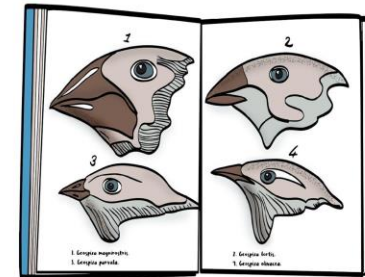
## Interactive Lesson

PRINT and DIGITAL

### Darwin's Finches

Darwin also studied finches on the Galapagos Islands.

- This is a famous study in the development of his theory.
- He found 15 different species of finches.
- The **beaks of the finches were different shapes.**
- The beaks matched the type of food available on the island.



© Bright in the Middle

# Compatible with Google Slides and PPT

## Charles Darwin

- naturalist that lived in the 1800s
- came up with an idea that would completely change the way many things are thought of



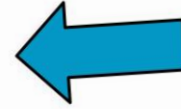
**A key is also included!**

In the box below, explain why you think these tortoises had different characteristics.

Type here.

# Drag and Drop

Drag the arrow to the  
correct answer.



Charles Darwin lived in the  
1900s.

True

False

Drag the circle to the correct response.

Which of the following  
best describes natural  
selection?

- a process by which living things develop new traits over time
- a process by which living things change quickly when responding to the environment
- a process by which living things are in charge of choosing their own traits
- a process by which certain traits become more or less common in a population over time

# Type in the Text Box

## Agree or Disagree?

Directions: Write agree or disagree in the blanks.

1) The Theory of Evolution is a theory.

Type here.

2) Humans

3) Species  
environ

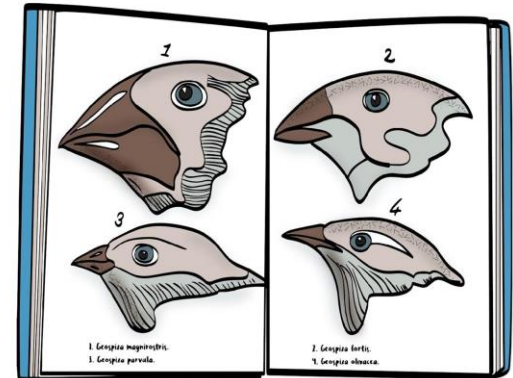
What is your best guess? In the text boxes below, type in what type of food you think was available for each finch to eat.

1. Type here.

2. Type here.

3. Type here.

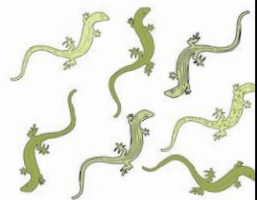
4. Type here.



and  
more!

## Main Points of Darwin's Theory of Evolution by Natural Selection

- Living things are different shapes and sizes.
- Some are better adapted to their environment.
- The traits that make them better adapted become more common over time.
- This is called natural selection.

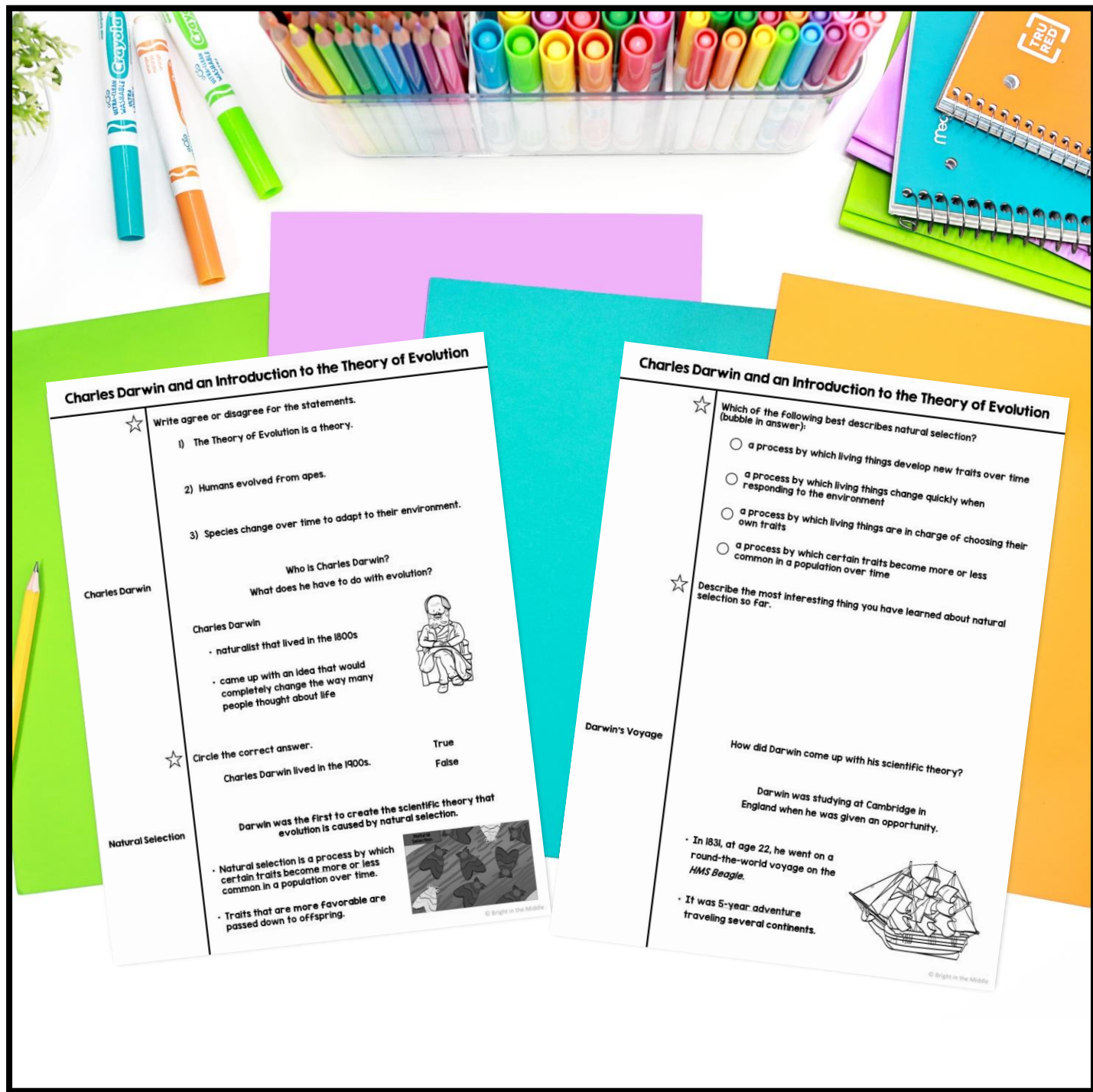


Click [here](#) to learn more about  
natural selection.

In the text box below, describe the most interesting thing you  
have learned about natural selection so far.

Type here.

**A paper version is also included with interactive activities embedded.**



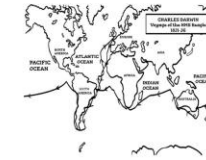
Guided  
Cornell  
notes are  
included as  
well!

### Charles Darwin and an Introduction to the Theory of Evolution

☆ What was the name of the ship that Darwin sailed on in his famous voyage?  
(bubble in answer):

- HMS Endeavour
- HMS Legal
- HMS Beagle
- HMS Evolution

During his \_\_\_\_\_ Charles Darwin visited several continents. Most of the trip was spent sailing around South America.

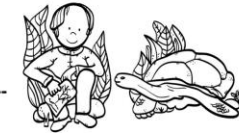


He studied many plants and animals during this time.

Galapagos  
Tortoises

Darwin studied these \_\_\_\_\_ tortoises that lived on the islands.

- He \_\_\_\_\_ that they had unique characteristics on each island.
- These included \_\_\_\_\_ shell shapes and different neck lengths.



After examination, Darwin noticed:

Tortoises from wetter environments (vegetation abundant) had:



- \_\_\_\_\_ necks
- dome shell

Tortoises from \_\_\_\_\_ environments had:



- longer \_\_\_\_\_
- saddle-shaped shell

# Ways to Use Digital Interactive Lessons

Science digital interactive lessons are a great way to teach or review science content with your students for many reasons.

They are fun. They are engaging. Another reason, which I think is the most important, is that they help decrease the cognitive load. The way that digital interactive lessons are set up is first, a little bit of content, and then practice with that content, and repeat the process.

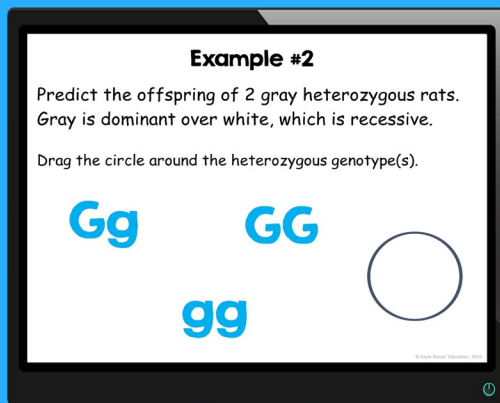
Students can digest small chunks of information a little at a time, apply that information, and then learn more! This will help keep their attention.

So, now, what are some ways that you can use them in your middle school science classroom?



# Individual Learning

One way that interactive lessons can be used in the classroom is just for individual learning. These are digital lessons, so students can pull up the lesson on their computer, either via Google Classroom, Microsoft Teams, PowerPoint, or whatever you use in your classroom.



Students read through the lessons themselves and **work through the practice** at their own pace.

The benefits of doing this are that students can work at their own pace and you, as the teacher, can walk around the classroom as they are learning to answer any questions that they have. In addition, you can see what that particular student is learning. As you walk around the room and view their work, you can use it as a formative assessment to see if they are understanding the material.

You can also bump it up a notch. Since students will be working using the computer, you can embed related YouTube videos in the lesson for extra enrichment!

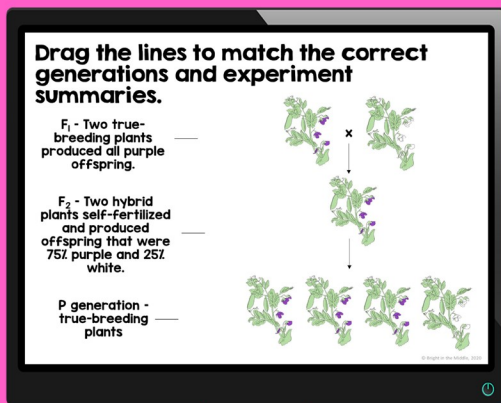
**Digital Science  
INTERACTIVE  
Lessons  
for**

**INDIVIDUAL LEARNING**



# Distance Learning

Digital interactive science lessons are a great tool to use for individual learning at a distance for the middle school science classroom.



**Digital Science**  
**INTERACTIVE**  
**Lessons**  
*for*

**DISTANCE LEARNING**

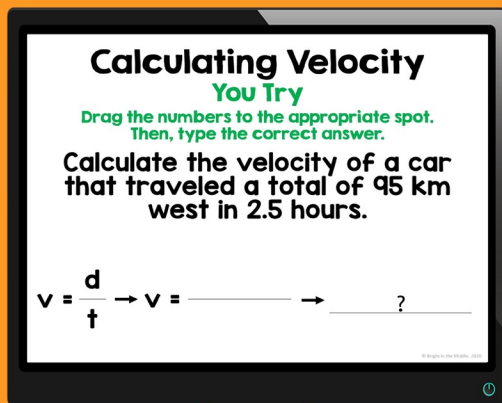
Students can read through the material, and after digesting chunks at a time, they can apply the information with embedded practice slides.

After completing the lessons, students can submit their work to their teacher.



# Small Groups/ Partners

This works similarly to having students working as individuals except that students have the opportunity to work with one another. I think that this an awesome approach to differentiated learning in the classroom.



In small groups, or in partners, students are able to read the lesson together, discuss each practice slide, and apply the information together.

I prefer this method in many ways because I believe in the power of cooperative learning. As a teacher, you still have the opportunity to walk around and help the individual students as needed, but students also have each other for support.

**Digital Science**  
**INTERACTIVE**  
**Lessons**  
*for*

**SMALL GROUPS/  
PARTNERS**



# Direct Instruction

As mentioned, digital interactive lessons are set up as a lesson with embedded practice to help decrease the cognitive load. If teachers choose to, they can pull up the lesson and teach it to their students and still take pieces of content and digest them bit by bit.



For example, when teaching about **pedigree charts**, the teacher can first discuss what a square and a circle represent in a pedigree chart.

**Digital Science**  
**INTERACTIVE**  
**Lessons**  
*for*

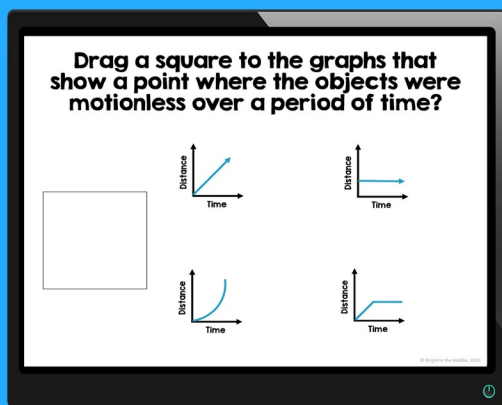
**DIRECT INSTRUCTION**

After students digest this material, the teacher can ask students to discuss how they will remember this information and then apply the information in practice.



# Science Centers

Digital interactive science lessons can be used in one of two ways for science centers. First, science centers on a particular topic. For example, say you are teaching distance-time graphs, and you are ready for students to complete science centers on this topic. You can have a center for a [digital interactive lesson](#) (make groups in Google Classroom, or another platform), [task cards](#), [story match](#), and a reading passage.



**Digital Science  
INTERACTIVE  
Lessons**  
*for*

**SCIENCE CENTERS**

Another way that you can use interactive science lessons for science centers is only using digital interactive lessons. Time to review for a [genetics](#) test? You can have stations set up where students will move around the room.

They can work through individual lessons such as Gregor Mendel and an Introduction to Genetics, Asexual and Sexual Reproduction, Mitosis and the Cell Cycle, Meiosis, Punnett Squares, Pedigree Charts, and Variation of Traits and Genetics Disorders. This route may take more than one day. It just depends on how long your classes are and how much time you can devote to review. I personally like the first approach to using digital interactive lessons as a science center.



# For ELL Students

With technology, there are so many awesome opportunities for students that do not speak English as their primary language to learn science content in schools that speak predominantly English. That goes vice versa as well. If you are trying to learn in any language you are unfamiliar with, technology is here to help!



There are many options that students can use to learn science material. As a teacher that only speaks English, you can imagine how difficult it is to teach a student that speaks another language. I'm sure there are other teachers out there with the same dilemma.

**Digital Science**  
**INTERACTIVE**  
**Lessons**  
*for*

**ELL STUDENTS**

With technology, I have been able to give my students the science lesson and have them use Google translate in order to understand what the lesson is saying. Now, I'm working on creating digital science lessons in Spanish, so that one step is taken out.



# Enrichment/ Tutoring

I know that many schools set up a time during the day just for enrichment/tutoring.



**Digital Science**  
**INTERACTIVE**  
**Lessons**  
*for*

**ENRICHMENT/  
TUTORING**

Many schools only set up this time for reading/math, but some do science too! Especially those that test in science. Interactive lessons are a great way to review standards-based science material and practice!

