

Evolution and Ecology



Think of an animal that is interesting
to you

- List/describe its traits



What is evolution?

- It's the idea that living things (animals) can change over time.

How is that possible?

- All animals have natural variation
- Genetics of a population can change over time



Charles Darwin

- Noticed variation in animals
- Came up with an idea to explain how animals can change



small ground finch
Geospiza fuliginosa



medium ground finch
Geospiza fortis



large ground finch
Geospiza magnirostris



cactus finch
Geospiza scandens



large cactus finch
(Genovesa)
Geospiza conirostris



large cactus finch
(Española)
Geospiza conirostris



sharp-beaked ground finch
Geospiza difficillis



small tree finch
Camarhynchus parvulus



large tree finch
Camarhynchus psittacula



woodpecker finch
Cactospiza pallidus



vegetarian finch
Platyspiza crassirostris



warbler finch
Certhidea olivacea



Charles Darwin and natural selection

- Natural selection- animals that have useful traits for their environment will survive and reproduce better than those without those traits.
- Useful traits will become more frequent as time goes on.



What causes an animal to change?

- The environment is always changing
 - Animals must be adapted to their environment
 - Genetics change as the environment changes



What is an animal species?

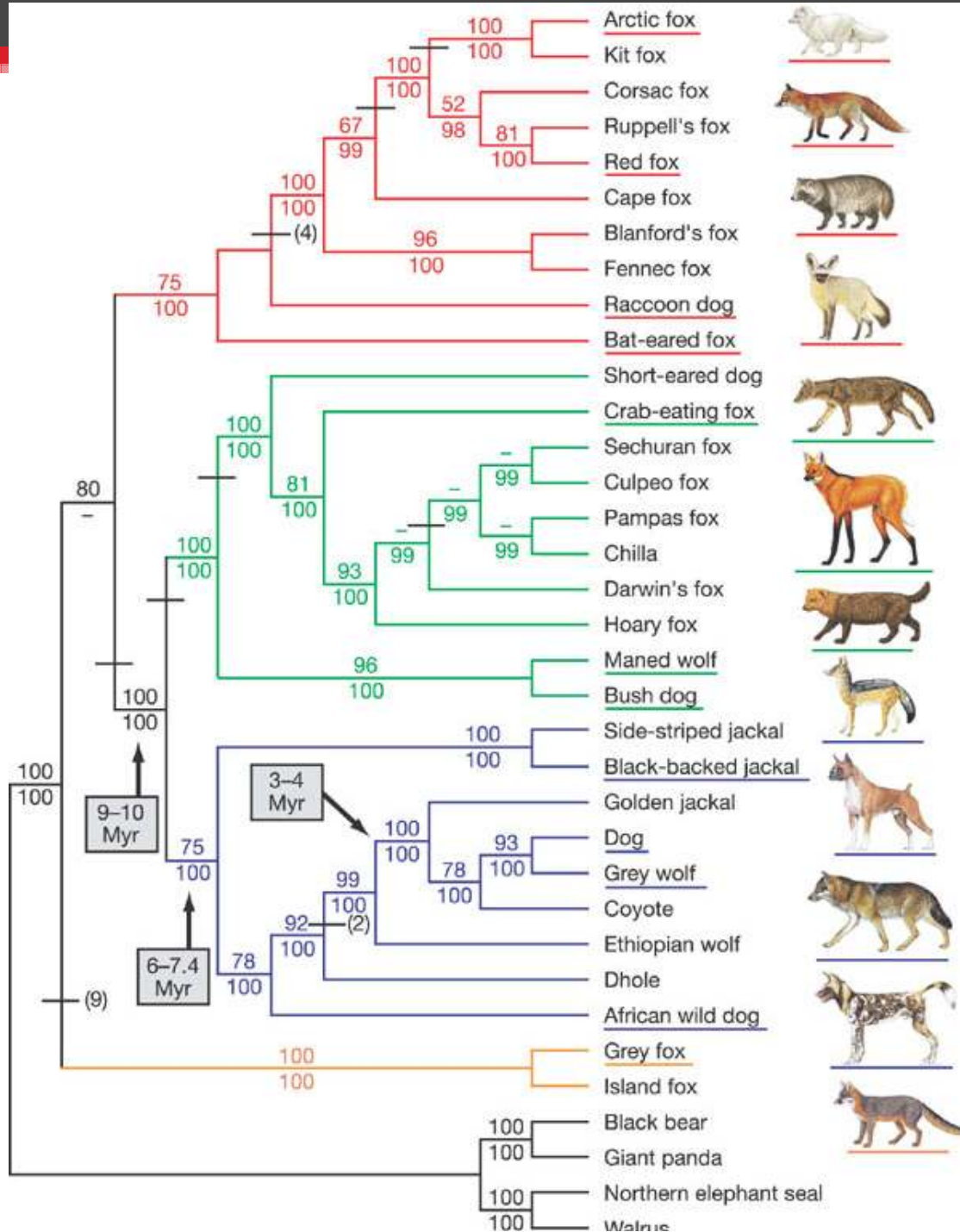
- A group of populations that can successfully exchange genes through breeding
 - Produces offspring that can also reproduce





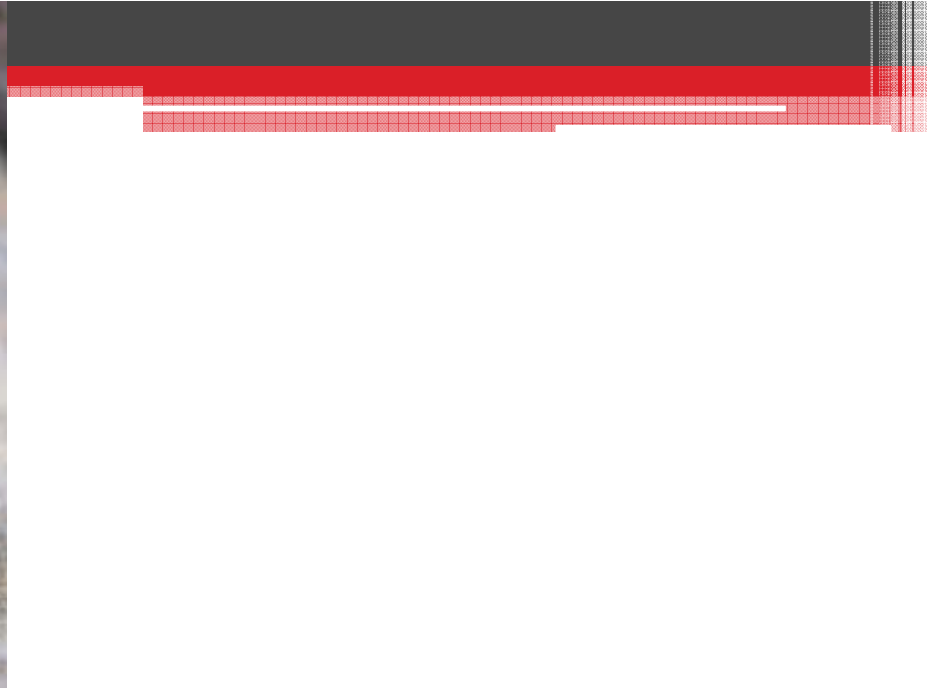
Why are there so many variations of animals?

- Each animal species develops in response to the environment that it lives in.



Cool examples of evolution













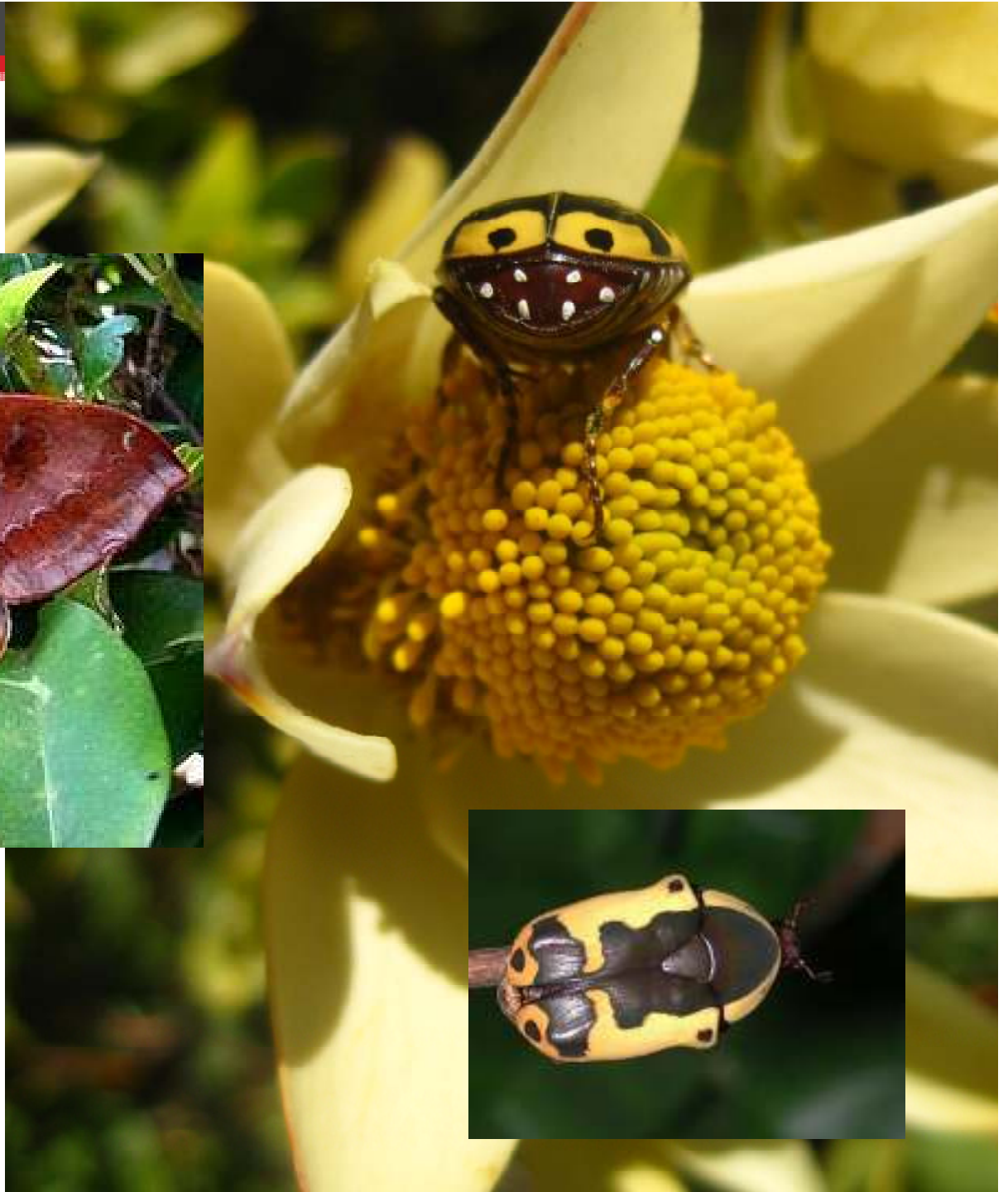




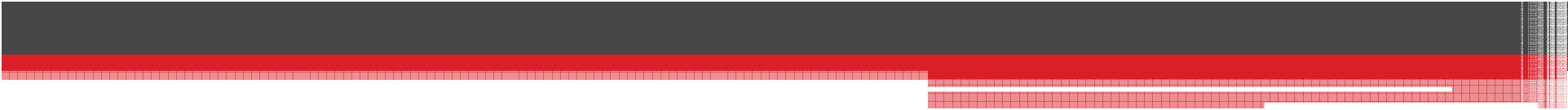
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- Animals change and so do their environments
 - Write about an animal