

**BACCALAURÉATS GÉNÉRAL ET TECHNOLOGIQUE**  
**SESSION 2013**

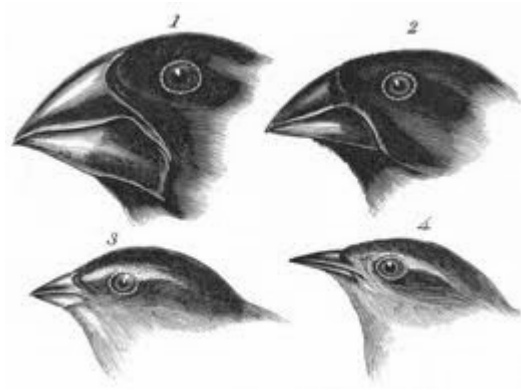
**ÉPREUVE SPÉCIFIQUE MENTION « SECTION EUROPEENNE OU DE LANGUE ORIENTALE »**  
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**An example of natural selection: Galapagos Finches**



There are 13 types of Galapagos finches, also known as Darwin's Finches, and they share the same habits and characteristics except for one: All 13 have different beaks. The differences in their beaks might be the most important aspect of their survival. Two documented examples of that survival occurred in the late 1970s and mid 1980s. First, when a large drought affected the island in 1977, seeds became scarce. Finches with the largest, toughest beaks were able to eat larger seeds that weren't typically part of their diet. As a result, they survived. Finches with smaller beaks were unable to crack the tough seeds and many died. Through the process of natural selection, the large beak birds reproduced and thrived, while the other type dwindled in number. However, adaptation can go both ways, as was seen during rainy weather in 1984 and 1985. The heavy rains created more of the small, soft seeds and few of the large ones. This time, more birds with the smaller beaks survived and produced more offspring.

*By Diana Bocco*

<http://dsc.discovery.com/tv-shows/curiosity/topics/10-examples-natural-selection.htm>

**Sum up this article and explain the main ideas using your scientific knowledge.**