

# Islands of the World



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**WORLD Islands**

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Vocabulary

Great Britain  
Madagascar  
Greenland  
Cuba  
Newfoundland  
South Island  
Iceland  
Sri Lanka  
Sicily  
Galapagos  
Islands

Volcanoes  
Lava  
Molten Rock  
Magma  
Earth's Crust

How were the Galapagos Islands formed?

The islands were formed through the layering and lifting of repeated volcanic action. ... Isabela was formed when six volcanoes joined above sea level. Geologically, the Galapagos Islands are quite young, probably no more than five million years old.

**Physical Geography of the Galapagos islands**

- Most of the Galapagos Islands are either side of the Equator. The Equator runs through the northern edge of the largest island: Isabela.
- The other major islands include Fernandina, Santiago, Santa Cruz and San Cristóbal.
- Because of their proximity to the Equator, the islands have a largely tropical climate, with a rainy season from January to May.
- The islands are volcanic (volcanoes that rise from the sea) and there are still some active volcanoes today (the last eruption was on Isabela in 2008).
- It is a dynamic region constantly changing with volcanic eruptions, new lava fields forming and islands eroding and expanding.
- The highest point is the Volcán Wolf (also known as Mount Whiston) on Isabela Island, which reaches a height of 1,707metres.

Craters  
Cliffs  
Larva  
Shield Volcanos  
Mountains  
Cartography

Why are the Galapagos Islands so important for Conservationists?

The Galapagos Islands are an archipelago of volcanic islands in the Pacific Ocean. They now belong to the country of Ecuador.

- The islands lay around 1000km west of the coast of Ecuador, which is in South America.
- There are 127 islands, which lay either side of the Equator. 12 are large islands, and 4 are inhabited by people. The total human population is 25,000.
- The islands are famous for their unique geography, including many native plant and animal species that are found nowhere else on Earth. Charles Darwin's observations and collections on the island helped him to form his theory of Evolution.

Owing to it's a vast number of different habitat types, the Galapagos Islands are famed for the large number of endemic species of plants and animals. From 1835, Charles Darwin used observations of these species to form his Theory of Evolution.

Galapagos Tortoise		-The Galapagos tortoise is the largest living species of tortoise, weighing up to 417kg (around 6 times the average man!) Their huge size is attributed to 'island gigantism.' They have lifespans of over 100 years.
Marine Iguana		- The marine iguana is also endemic to the Galapagos Islands. It is the only marine lizard species in the world. Unlike land lizards, marine iguanas have blunt snouts that help them to feed on algae underwater.
Prickly Pear Cactus		- Also known as the Opuntia Cactus, this is the most numerous endemic plant in the archipelago. The fruits, seeds and pads are a major part of the diet of tortoises, iguanas, mockingbirds and finches.
Darwin's Finches		- These finches are named after Charles Darwin, who noted how their beaks had evolved differently depending on their hunting and feeding needs. Apart from one type (the Cocos finch) they are all endemic to Galapagos.

**Islands of The United Kingdom**

## Vocabulary

Pacific Ocean  
Ecuador  
Endangered  
Species  
Extinction  
Species  
Pollution  
Invasive  
species  
Flora  
Fauna

England  
Northern  
Ireland  
Scotland  
Wales  
Bermuda  
Cayman Islands  
Falkland Islands  
External  
Territories

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