



Life On The Islands



There is no place else on Earth with the peculiar variety of life found in the Galápagos Islands. It's hard for foreign species to travel to these remote islands. Most of the lizards and insects and about half the birds and plants on the islands are found only in the Galápagos.



Use the chart below and this week's TFK® to answer the questions.

ANIMAL	FACT	FOOD	THREAT
GALÁPAGOS LAND IGUANA	Cousins of the seagoing iguanas, Galápagos land iguanas are found only on the Galápagos Islands.	Plants	Dogs and pollution, both introduced by humans
GALÁPAGOS PENGUIN	The Galápagos penguin is the only species of penguin that lives in the northern hemisphere, above the equator.	Fish	Pollution
GALÁPAGOS FINCH	There are 13 distinct kinds of Galápagos finches. Each type of bird has a differently shaped beak.	Insects	Pollution
GIANT TORTOISE	Huge, four-foot-long tortoises are a common sight on the islands.	Plants	Goats, burros and rats, pollution and illegal hunting—all introduced by humans

1. What might be some logical ways to protect tortoise nests?

2. Why do you suppose 13 types of finches with different beaks developed on the islands?

3. What is the most common threat to the animals described in the chart?

4. What are some types of pollution that could threaten the animals?

5. List three examples from this week's TFK® of Galápagos animals affected by the oil spill.
