



INTRODUCTORY SESSION

What do we know about the Galapagos?

A brief introduction to the Galapagos islands and why they are so special.

LEARNING TARGETS

Locate the Galapagos islands on a world map and understand how they were formed.

WORDS TO REMEMBER

equator, archipelago, formation, hot spot, plate boundary, Nazca plate, volcano.

WHAT YOU NEED

- Let's talk and Let's zoom in prompts
- Hot spots and volcanoes information sheet

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Let's talk



Use the [question prompt](#) to begin the discussion about the location of the Galapagos islands. The two maps show different representations of the world which is useful for students to see.

Let's zoom in

Now use the map of the Galapagos archipelago to locate the different islands and their names. Which islands do they think are the oldest/youngest?

Moving on

To find out more about how the islands were formed share the information sheet about ['Hot spots and volcanoes.'](#)

Did you know?

Q: Do you know why they are called the Galapagos?

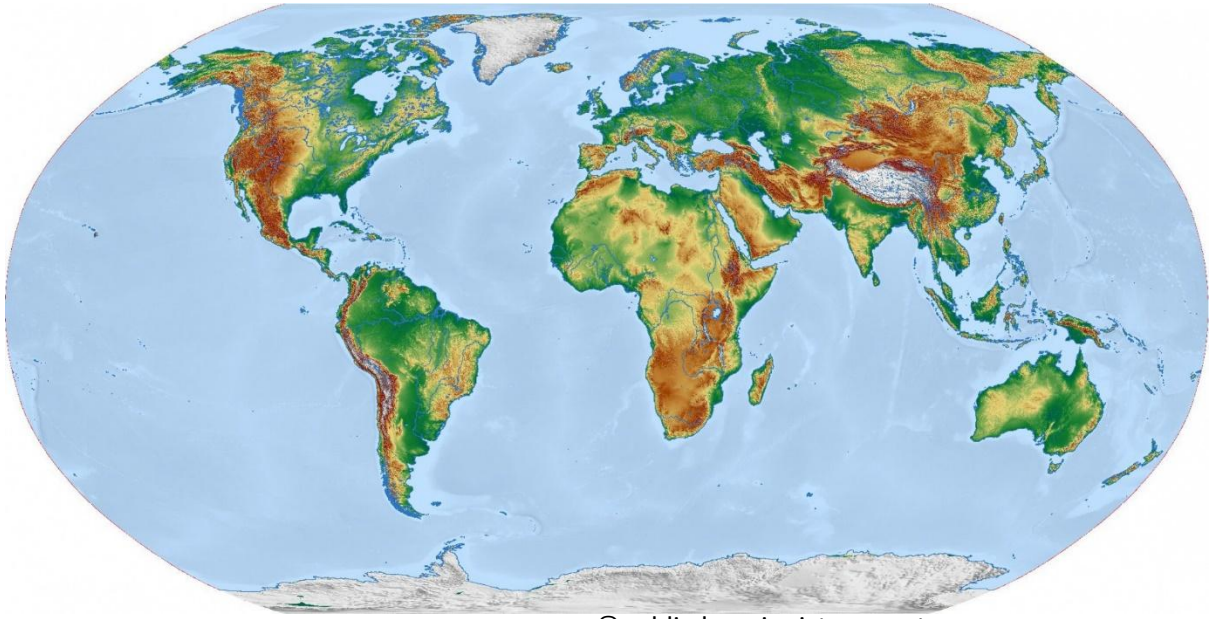
It is thought Spanish sailors who discovered the archipelago named it 'galápagos,' the old Spanish word for tortoise, still used now.

Share anything students may know about the islands or the tortoises that inhabit them.

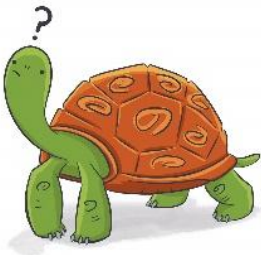
Keep going

Students could demonstrate the formation of the islands with drawings or models.

Let's talk: Where are the Galapagos Islands?



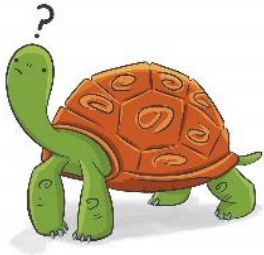
©publicdomainpictures.net



Look at this map of the world. Can you find:

- *The continent of South America
- *Where the equator is
- *Ecuador
- *The Galapagos Islands.

Let's zoom in



Look at the map of the Galapagos archipelago. An **archipelago** is a group or chain of islands.

Which is the smallest/largest island?

