

ISLAND HABITATS

ACTIVITY 3

As you saw in the film **Galapagos: Nature's Wonderland**, there are many different habitats on the Galapagos Islands. Read about the habitat on Fernandina, the youngest island, with your teacher. Then use what you learn to decide which Galapagos animals you might see living there.

cold waters of the Cromwell Current bring in nutrients from across the Pacific Ocean.

Which of these animals could live on Fernandina? Read the description of each animal with your teacher. Think about what the animal eats. Could it find that food on Fernandina? Could it make a home on Fernandina's rocky slopes and shores?

FERNANDINA

Lava still flows on Fernandina. Its volcano is active, and the whole island is mostly a bare rocky mountain sloping down to the sea. But the waters around Fernandina are full of fish and other sea life. That's because it sits at the western end of the Galapagos, where the



Write an F in the answer space if you think the animal belongs in the habitat on Fernandina. Write an X if you think it belongs in a different habitat. Be ready to explain your answers in class.

	<p>Marine Iguana This diving lizard lives on algae and seaweed, and needs to sun itself to stay warm.</p>	
	<p>Galapagos Penguin The only penguin found near the Equator, it needs cold water to stay cool and lots of fish to eat.</p>	
	<p>Amblypygid Related to spiders, this subterranean creature feels for its prey with long front legs that have become its main sensory organs.</p>	
	<p>Galapagos Cormorant After living so long on a coastline where it can always dive for fish, this bird's wings have become too small for it to fly.</p>	
	<p>Galapagos Tortoise This giant land turtle eats shrubs or cactus, and can drink gallons of fresh water.</p>	

Fernandina is only one of many habitats found in the Galapagos Islands, each one home to a variety of plants and animals adapted to living there. This wide variety of habitats has made the Galapagos a model of *biodiversity* — a perfect example of how adaptation produces many different kinds of plants and animals within a habitat, and more different kinds for each different habitat. Can you think of examples of biodiversity in the habitats of your region?