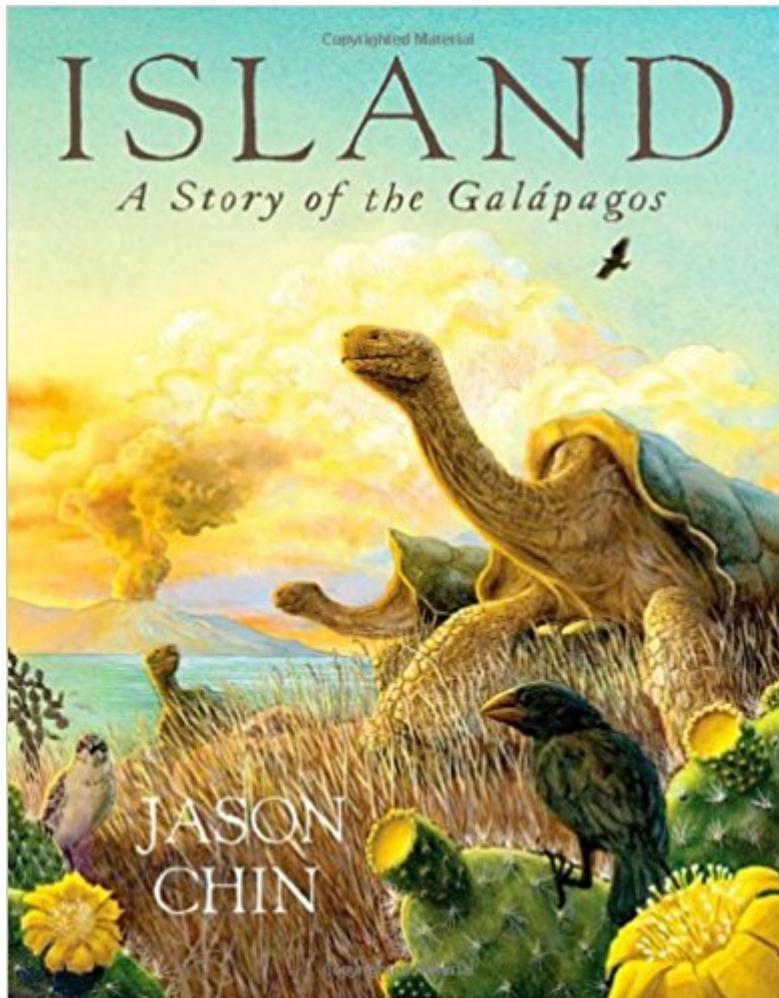




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Island: A Story Of The Galápagos



Synopsis

Charles Darwin first visited the Galápagos Islands almost 200 years ago, only to discover a land filled with plants and animals that could not be found anywhere else on earth. How did they come to inhabit the island? How long will they remain? Thoroughly researched and filled with intricate and beautiful paintings, this extraordinary book by Award-winning author and artist Jason Chin is an epic saga of the life of an island—born of fire, rising to greatness, its decline, and finally the emergence of life on new islands. Chin's approach makes this book a must-have common core tool for teachers and librarians introducing scientific principals to young students. Island is one of Kirkus Reviews' Best Children's Books of 2012

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 900L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 31 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #82,354 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #42 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Oceans & Seas #48 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Water #66 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Environment & Ecology

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

Customer Reviews

Combining geology, biology, and history, this is a story spanning six million years. A fictional Galápagos island makes its first appearance as a volcanic mountain erupting above sea level. After more than a million years, the eruptions dwindle. The island supports many plants and animals, and some develop into unique species. Finally, the island slowly shrinks and sinks beneath the water. In a brief, highly visual epilogue, Darwin (identified only in the appended historical notes) visits the Galápagos Islands in 1835. Back matter includes three separate pages of information

(â œCharles Darwin and the GalÃ¡pagos,â • â œThe GalÃ¡pagos Islands,â • and â œEndemic Species of the GalÃ¡pagosâ •) but no source bibliography. Handsome full-page paintings, horizontal scenes, and many panels of small, square pictures illustrate the gradual changes in island life and in the animals physical features (finchesâ  beaks, tortoisesâ  shells) that enable them to survive. While the use of large-print sentences and small, sequential pictures is wonderfully helpful in illustrating concepts such as the islandâ s changing size and shape, the bookâ s combination of a relatively short text and a large, complex subject leaves some points unexplained or open to misinterpretation. Still, this is an ambitious introduction with noteworthy illustrations of land and animals in motion. Grades 2-4. --Carolyn Phelan

â œHandsome and succinct...â • â •The Wall Street Journalâ œChin's remarkable introduction to the GalÃ¡pagos is not just a story. It's a biography. It begins with an island's "birth" six million years ago. "A volcano has been growing under the ocean for millions of years," Chin writes. "With this eruption it rises above the water for the first time, and a new island is born." In full-page watercolor paintings and small-size panel illustrations, Chin shows how the tremendous explosion leaves a mass of lava, which hardens and grows into an island. Any reader who has ever made a homemade "volcano" out of baking soda will be hooked. Writing scientific narrative nonfiction for young children is challenge enough, but creating engaging picture books for older children about the natural world isn't easy either. How to pull in the "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" reader? Credit to Jason Chin, who succeeded at both in "Coral Reefs" (2011) and "Redwoods" (2009). He does so again in his latest, "Island: A Story of the GalÃ¡pagos." Chin, as author-illustrator, melds geology with evolution, showing how the land and its inhabitants interact and shape one another in a natural-world interplay. We see how a few intrepid immigrant animals arrive, colonize and transform themselves to accommodate the particular features of their new home. The island grows and changes too as new eruptions lead to the appearance of other nearby islands, while eruptions on the original island grow infrequent, and then cease. ...a remarkable work and an asset for educators...â • â •Publishers Weekly, starredâ œChin's gorgeous illustrations include sweeping double-page spreads of the island and its inhabitantsâ |â • â •Horn Book Magazine, starredâ œAnother superb contribution to scientific literature by Chin.â • â •Kirkus, starredâ œ...this fine introduction to [the GalÃ¡pagos] will surely stimulate readers' interest.â • â •School Library Journal, starredâ œThe art is masterful in its combination of realism and artistic flow; the layout complements sweeping full-page, full-bleed landscapes with carefully controlled panel sequences that provide additional focus on a process or creature, so the evolution of larger finches' beaks, for instance, is clearly demonstrated and explained.â • â •BCCB, starred

review

Absolutely stunning work of non-fiction! The book focuses on the story of an island from the eruption of volcanoes to animal and plant inhabitants to evolution and to its sinking back into the sea. Each step in the 6 million year processes is accompanied by breath taking detailed illustrations that will fascinate young readers while they watch the island and animals change. This is a great piece to introduce evolution to a young audience and it ends perfectly segueing into Charles Darwin.

We live in the Galapagos part time due to my husband's work and this is the ONLY book that I have found that tells the story of these amazing islands to children in a language that is fun and easy for them to understand. We love reading this book at home over and over again. It brings the magic of the islands home when we are so far away. Your kids will love it!

I recently got back from Galapagos and got this book for my 8 year old grandson. He loved it. It was a bit dis-jointed for my taste, but he loved it. And since this is a kids book, that's all that mattered. Hence the rating.

I read this book to my second graders. The information was presented in a way they could understand. We had a Galapagos Island project to complete.

Beautiful and accurately informative book for kids. We bought it for our 6-year old before we traveled to the Galapagos.

A new favorite with the grandson (age 6).

Good photos and easy to read

Beautifully illustrated!

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