

<b>CHAPTER 4</b>	<b>Thought Lab 4.2: Analyzing Changes in Beak Depth Answer Key</b>	<b>BLM 4.1.3A</b>
<b>ANSWER KEY</b>		

### **Answers to Analysis Questions**

1. The average beak depth is less in times of greater precipitation, such as 1984.
2. The limiting factor of food changed during dry years and wetter years. In wetter years, it can be surmised that the shorter beak length had an advantage in collecting food and aiding in survival. It was because of this, the selective pressure, that the individuals with these traits would breed more often and more successfully. This in turn would direct evolutionary change over time. If the conditions had persisted to be either dry or wet, we would have seen a shift in the beak size of the population that could have possibly led to speciation later on.
3. The possible adaptation would help the individual finch survive during drought years. However, this physical change through exercise will not affect the bird's genes and therefore will not be passed on to offspring.