



DECEMBER 2016

**Are you  
adaptable  
to change?**

**What  
it's like  
to be a  
Mutant!**

**Celebrity  
Mutations**

Can you match  
them up?

**Meagan  
Fox**  
Alien  
Mutant?

# MUTANT

Created by: Christine Auger

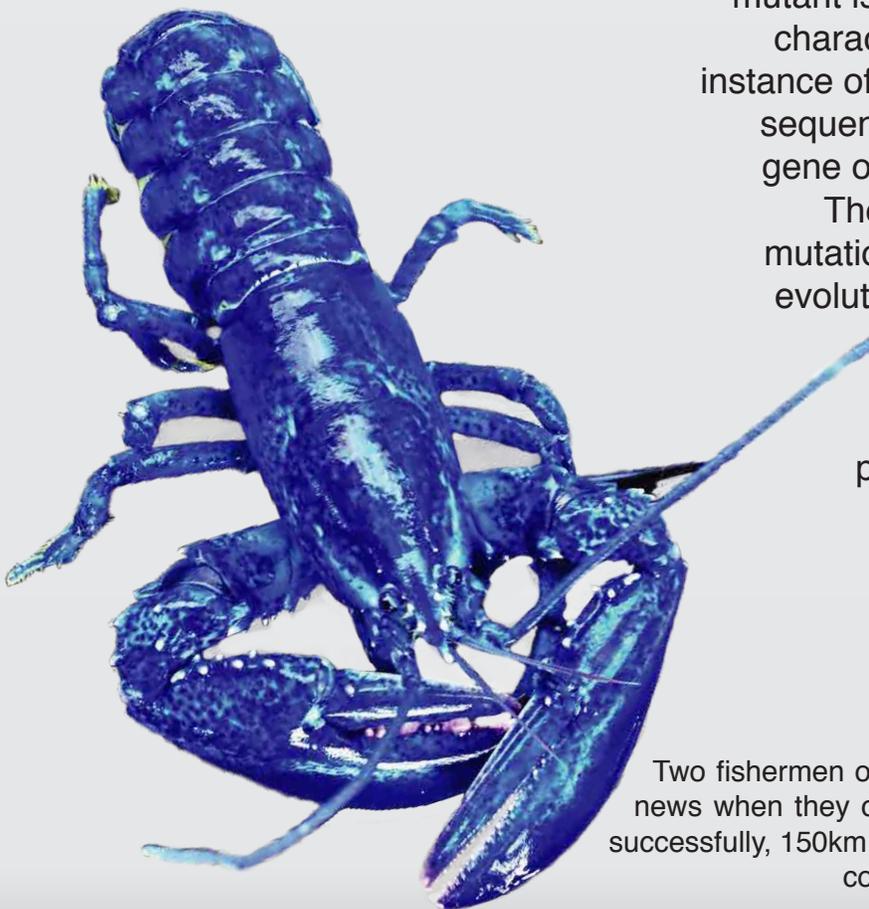


# MUTATION

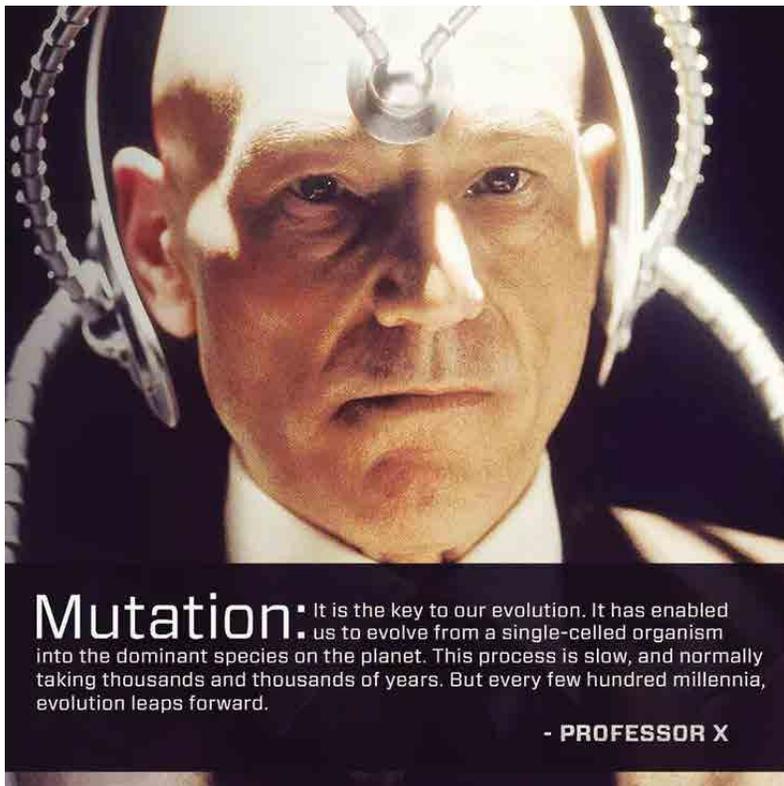
“In biology and especially genetics, a mutant is an organism or a new genetic character arising or resulting from an instance of mutation, which is a base-pair sequence change within the DNA of a gene or chromosome of an organism.

The natural occurrence of genetic mutations is integral to the process of evolution. The study of mutants is an integral part of biology; by understanding the effect that a mutation in a gene has, it is possible to establish the normal function of that gene”

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mutant#cite\\_note-2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mutant#cite_note-2)



Two fishermen off the coast of Nova Scotia made the news when they caught not one, but two blue lobsters successfully, 150km apart from each other. It's traditionally considered to be a sign of good fortune.



# What it's like to be a Mutant!

By: Christine Auger

I've never really considered the fact that I might be a mutant. I was taught at an early age that it's ok to be different, no two people are alike, due to genetics, but me a mutant?

When you hear the word mutant, what thoughts go through your mind? Freak, monster, sub-human, or maybe even deviant. We tend to think of X-men or the classic circus freak show, with the bearded lady and the sword swallower, but are all mutations physical, or can there be a mutation in our minds?

I don't have blue skin, or excessive hair on my body. I'm unable to read minds, control the weather, or move objects just by thinking about it. No webbed feet, tail, or conjoined twin attached to me. So why would my

college professor ask me to write an article on what it's like to be a mutant?

When I asked my professor why he thought I was a mutant he explained to me that I go "against the grain" of what society sees as normal. He made a reference to a video we had watched on an octopus that got out of the ocean and moved across the land.

Octopus live from 6 months to 5 years depending on the species. They have 8 arms, 3 hearts, 2 gills, a brain and a nervous system. What's interesting is there are no internal or external skeleton system.

What makes these creatures amazing is their ability to adapt. They have numerous strategies for

defending themselves against predators. These strategies include the expulsion of ink, use of camouflage, show eyespots when threatened (or what I call the evil eye of nature), and it's like they have a jet pack attached to them when they are afraid and need to hide in a hurry.

According to Charles Darwin "It is not the strongest nor most intelligent species that survives, but the one most adaptable to change."

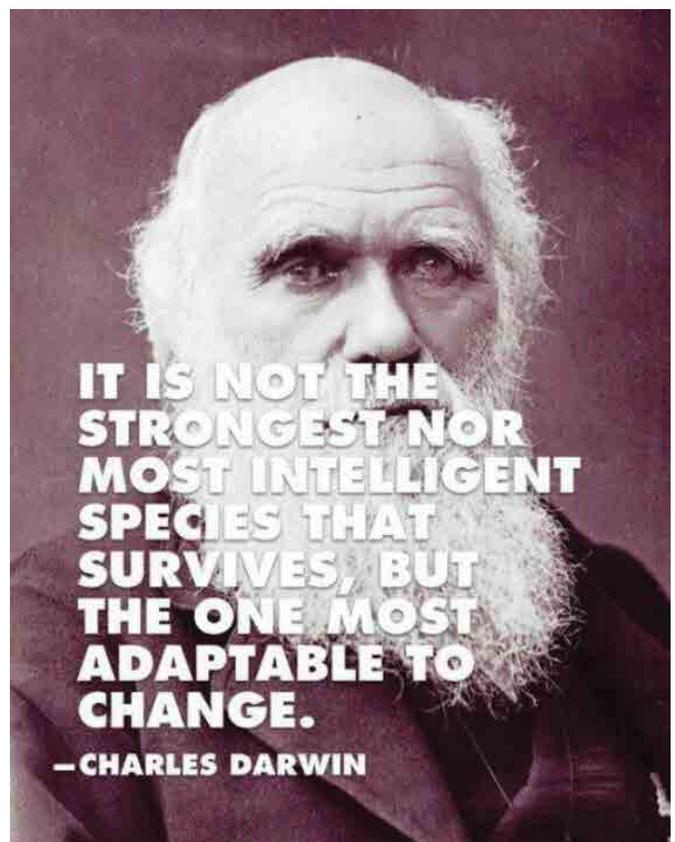
At the age of 6, I had a fear of death, and would often wake up with nightmares. The nightmare consisted of the earth opening up revealing hot lava and a monster coming out of the lava and taking me away from my family.

Growing up I had a nagging feeling inside me, a reoccurring thought. Life is short, you're probably going to die by the age of 30. Experience as much as you can.

When I was 16 years old, I planned my first pregnancy. Yes I said planned. I wanted to have a baby. Most 16 year olds are trying to finish high school and are starting to look at college and university options, not me. I wanted to have a baby, I wanted to feel unconditional love and the only way I felt I could accomplish this was through a child.

I didn't really think about how that decision would change the course of my life. I had no idea how I was going to pay for diapers, or care for a child but I knew this was something that was important to me and a life experience that I wanted to have before I died.

Two months before my 18th birthday, in November 1993, I gave birth to a beautiful baby girl and named her Kaylee. Christmas break was part of my unpaid maternity leave, and five weeks after giving birth I returned to school. I knew that if I was going to give this child any sort of life, that I needed to get my high school diploma so that I could get a job.



*Story continues after Mutant Celebrity Quiz*

# 6 Celebrity Mutants

Harry Styles  
Singer/Songwriter  
Group: "One Direction"  
MY MUTATION IS: A



## Can you match them up?

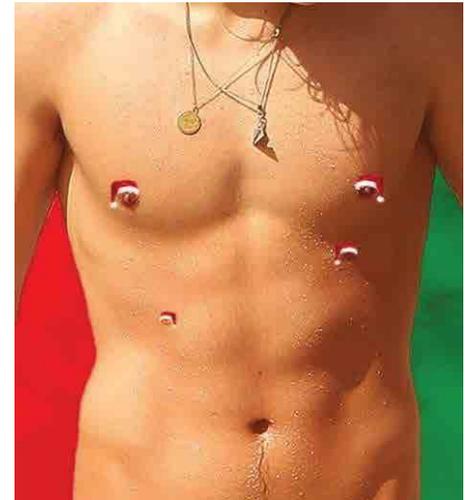
Each of these celebrities has experienced a genitic mutation. Can you guess their mutation? Use each number 1-6 once.

Kermit has the answers.



Andy Garcia  
Actor/Director  
Movie: "Ocean's Eleven"  
MY MUTATION IS: \_\_\_\_\_

# 1.



A. Extra Nipples



B. Clubbed Thumbs



C. Tail



D. Webbed feet



Common Mutant  
Characteristics include:

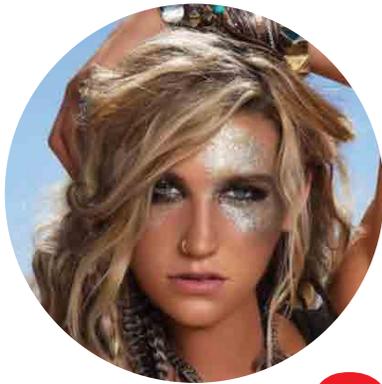
Freckles, red hair, cleft chin,  
colour blindness, blue and  
green eyes.

Heterochromia is when the  
iris has two entirely different  
colors in the same area.



Richard Marin  
Comedian/Actor/Activist  
Movie: "Cheech & Chong"  
MY MUTATION IS: \_\_\_\_\_

# 2.



3.

Ke\$ha  
Pop Singer/Songwriter  
Song: "Tik Tok"  
MY MUTATION IS: \_\_\_\_\_



4.

Carrie Underwood  
Country Singer/Songwriter  
Song: "Before He Cheats"  
MY MUTATION IS: \_\_\_\_\_



E. Conjoined Twin



F. Cleft Lip

5.

Ashton Kutcher  
Actor/Model  
T.V. Show: "That 70's Show"  
MY MUTATION IS: \_\_\_\_\_



6.

Megan Fox  
Actress  
Movie: "Transformers"  
MY MUTATION IS: \_\_\_\_\_



It was difficult going back to school, most nights my sleep was interrupted with crying, Kaylee was colic from being lactose intolerant. Shawn (Kaylee's father) would put her in her car seat and we would drive around with her until she feel asleep.

Often we took turns staying up with her, so the other one could get a bit of sleep before our 9:00 am class. For me the hardest part, wasn't the lack of sleep, it was leaving her with a babysitter so I could attend school.

In August of 1995 after graduation, Shawn and I moved into our first apartment. He had a job at the local hardware store, and we were able to qualify for social assistance.

After 6 months of living in an apartment, Shawn was laid off from his employer. What were we going to do? Neither of us had a job, and we were barely getting by living off of Kraft dinner, and garlic sausage.

Both of us went in search of a job, and lucky for Kaylee we both found one. The company that hired me was a finance company that specialized in high-risk lending, meaning the people had previously been bankrupt, or that they owed more money then they made. They were charged a 29% interest rate on a loan.

The company closed a year later, leaving me with financial experience, that started my business knowledge base.

At 19, I became pregnant with my second child. This one was not planned, and I was scared. At that time, terminating the pregnancy was an option I seriously considered, for about a week. We could hardly afford the first child we had. What kind of life could we possibly give this child?

I did what any hormonal 19 year old mother-to-be would do, I got married. It was what my mother did when she became pregnant with me at the age of 17. 6 weeks after telling my mother I was pregnant, Shawn and I were married.

With another child on the way, space was becoming an issue in our small apartment. We borrowed some money from Shawn's parents and used it to put



a down payment on our first home. We purchased a 1976 Mobile home it was 14'x 68'.

One thing that was great about the community that I lived in was the fact that there were more jobs than there were people. Employers had a hard time filling position and were left with really one option, which was to train. Over the next few years I had several job titles they included:

- Business Manager (Car Dealership)
- Head CSR (Bank)
- Admitting Clerk (Health Care)
- Administrative Assistant (Health Care)
- Payroll Clerk (Government)
- Accounting Clerk (Government)
- Grant Coordinator (Non-Profit Organization)
- Business Owner (Advertising)

From mutual funds, investments, day to day banking options, interest rate negotiation, business contracts, sales, marketing, customer service, budgeting and more. Each position provided me with training, and I was a sponge soaking up as much of the information as I possibly could.

For me, life is about being adaptable it's the ability to see opportunity where others see failure, being resourceful enough to use the things that are available, and always being on the look out for ways to improve.

My eyes are hazel, and I have freckles on my nose. My mother and youngest daughter have clubbed thumbs. I live in the information age. My name is Christine Auger, I am a 39 year old Contemporary Web Design student at Durham College, and I am proud to say I am a mutant.



Answers to Quiz  
1.E 2.F 3.C 4.A 5.D 6.B