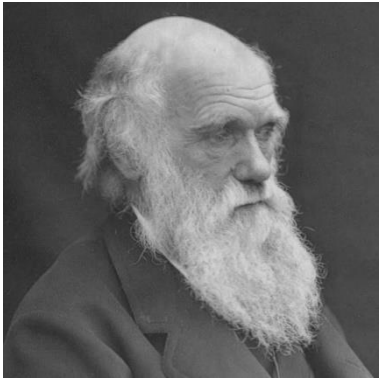


Key Knowledge:

Overview	Charles Darwin (1878)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charles Darwin (1809-1882) was an English naturalist and biologist. He is best known for his work on the theory of evolution- explaining how living things change over a long time and become the way that they are. His most famous book of research- 'The Origin of the Species'- gave evidence about the evolution that has taken place and a theory about how evolution works. The theory that Darwin developed is called natural selection. Darwin has been described as one of the most influential humans in history. After his death he was honoured with a burial in Westminster Abbey. 	

Key times in Charles Darwin's life:

<p>Early life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charles Darwin was born on the 12th February 1809 in Shrewsbury, England. Darwin was the fifth of six children and his father was a doctor. 	<p>Personal life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charles Darwin married his cousin Emma Wedgewood on 29th January 1839. Together they had 10 children, 7 of whom survived until adulthood. It is reported that he made a list of 'pros and cons' of marriage!
<p>The Beagle Voyage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 1831, Darwin spent 5 years on a Royal Navy exploring ship, called the HMS Beagle. He made notes and collected plants and animals found during the voyage. He found many fossils of extinct animals, and was the first naturalist to visit the Galapagos Islands. He began to form ideas about evolution. When he returned, he published <i>The Voyage of the Beagle</i>, which became very famous. 	<p>The Origin of the Species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darwin's theory of evolution '<i>The Origin of the Species</i>' was published in 1859. The theory of evolution says that all species on earth came from a common ancestor, and slowly changed over many hundreds of years, Darwin suggested that the way things change over time is through natural selection- the survival of those that best-fit their environment. These animals that are better adapted to their environment have the best chance of breeding and sharing their genes into the next generation. In this way, the species slowly adapts to better fit its habitat.

Key Vocabulary:

Adaption	A characteristic of a living thing that makes it suited to its environment.
Ancestry	The line of relatives from which someone is descended.
Artificial selection	A process where humans select which species to breed, based upon a desirable trait.
DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid)	A unique code in an organism's cells that contains the instructions for how that organism will look and function.
Evolution	The process by which living things gradually change over time.
Extinct	An animal or plant species that has died out and is no longer present in the world population, such as Dinosaurs.
Fossil	The remains of a once-living organism preserved as a rock.
Inheritance	The process of passing on characteristics, such as eye colour, from parents to their offspring
Naturalist	A person who studies the natural world .
Natural selection	The process where organisms that are most suited to their environment are more likely to reproduce, and in doing so, pass on these adaptations to the next generation.
Natural world	The animals and plants that exist in nature and are not made or caused by people.
Species	A group of organisms that have common characteristics and can breed.
Variation	Natural differences between living things in a species .

Timeline of Charles Darwin's life:

12 th February 1809- Charles Robert Darwin born in Shrewsbury	1825- Attended University of Edinburgh Medical school but failed to become a doctor. He hated the sight of blood!	1826-1827- Begins to form his own ideas and writing papers on animal life.	1831- Sets sail on HMS Beagle and begins to travel to South America.	1835- Visits the Galapagos Islands and studies the plants and animals.	1836- Returns to England on HMS Beagle.	29 th January 1839- Charles Darwin marries Emma Wedgwood.	1842- Darwin moves to Kent out carry out further observations and experiments.	1859- His work 'The Origin of the Species' is published.	1864- Charles Darwin is awarded the Copley Medal, the highest scientific award of the Royal Society of London.	19 th April 1882- Charles Darwin dies of heart failure aged 73. He was later buried in Westminster Abbey
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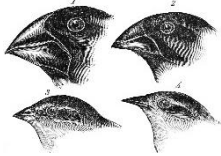
Important questions and answers.

Why is his visit to the Galapagos Islands famous?



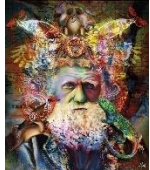
- The Galapagos Islands are a series of islands in the Pacific Ocean off South America. Darwin noticed how the finches (birds) there differed from island to island.
- Darwin found that the birds were able to quickly evolve in this closed off environment.

Why did his theory get criticised?



- Britain was a strongly Christian country in the Victorian times in which Darwin lived.
- Some of Darwin's work was seen to go against the teachings of the Bible (particularly ideas like the creation story in the Book of Genesis) and so religious members of the community were against it.
- After sometime, Darwin's theory eventually achieved approval from most people in the scientific community.

How is Darwin remembered today?



- Darwin's work has become the foundation of our understanding of the natural world in which we live.
- Many newer studies build on Darwin's work.
- Islands, natural parks, buildings, roads, schools and animals have been named after Charles Darwin.
- The finches that he studied on the Galapagos Islands are now known as 'Darwin's Finches.'

Interesting facts about Charles Darwin.

- Darwin was an adventurous eater and liked to eat exotic animals.
- He suffered from a mysterious illness for most of his life and had blisters, headaches and insomnia.
- In his spare time, he enjoyed playing backgammon.
- Darwin was born on the same day in the same year as US president Abraham Lincoln.
- Charles Darwin did most of his work forming his theory of evolution long before sharing it. He had been a Christian and was worried about the impact of his ideas.
- 125 years after Darwin's death, the Church of England apologised for its treatment of him.

Historical Skills and Enquiry:

- Examine a variety of sources and use these to make inferences about the past - in particular about Charles Darwin.
- Describe how Darwin's theories and discoveries has had an impact on modern society.
- Locate the countries that Charles Darwin explored and visited.
- Use appropriate vocabulary to communicate about Charles Darwin and his theories.



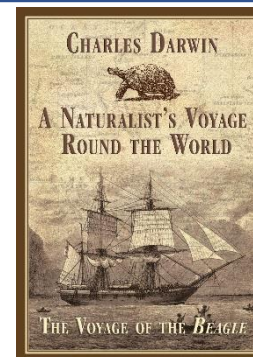
Charles Darwin aged 31



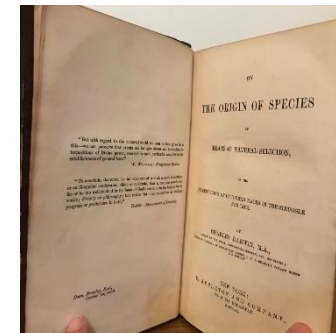
Emma Wedgwood- Charles Darwin's wife.



HMS Beagle



The Voyage of the Beagle book.



The Origin of Species book



Charles Darwin's grave in Westminster Abbey