

Darwin's Delights



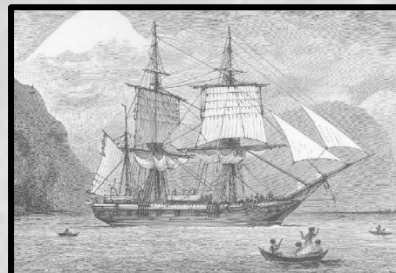
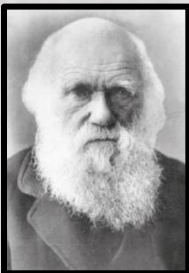
We're off on an exciting expedition with Charles Darwin and his crew on HMS Beagle. Can you trace his route across the vast ocean? Stop at the magical Galápagos Islands to see the amazing species that helped Charles Darwin to develop his theory of evolution by natural selection. Do you know what's so special about a lava lizard, or why the blue-footed booby has blue feet? See how animals adapt to their environments over time and meet some of the world's greatest explorers and naturalists. Imagine how humans will evolve in millions of years. It's a scary thought. Ready to trace the origin of species? Let's set sail.

Help your child prepare for their topic!

Why not collect samples of plant life from your garden and see if you can identify them? You could make detailed sketches of the plants you find, just like Darwin. Alternatively, visit a museum that has fossils on display. What can you learn about the animals from which they were formed?

Charles Darwin

Charles Darwin (1809-882) was an expert in natural history who put forward a theory of evolution by natural selection. He went on a famous voyage in 1831 on a ship called HMS Beagle and visited many places around the world, collecting animal and plant samples. The observations he made led him to his theory of evolution. When it was published, some people were very shocked that he was suggesting animals and humans shared a common ancestry.

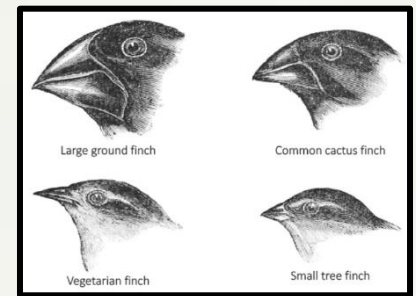


Galápagos Islands

The volcanic Galápagos Islands lie 1,000km off the west coast of Ecuador in South America. There are 13 main islands, with several smaller islands and rocks. Darwin noticed that many species of animal, including land and marine iguanas, the blue-footed booby and the flightless cormorant, were only found on these islands. Darwin also noticed several different species of finch that all lived on the islands. Each had developed a different type of beak that best suited their diet.

Theory of Natural Selection


After studying the animals from the Galápagos Islands, Darwin came up with the idea that animals evolve due to having the characteristics that make them best suited to their environment. He called this **Natural Selection**. His idea was that in any environment, living things from the same species show natural differences in their characteristics, with the ones best suited to their environment most likely to survive.



Did you know!

Darwin gave up on wanting to be a doctor as he couldn't stand the sight of blood.

Writing	Diary Entries; Subjunctive Form, Descriptive Language, Relative Clauses, Semi-Colons to join clauses Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar review sessions.	
Reading	A review of Philip Pullman's "His Dark Materials" with specific focus on inference skills.	
Maths	EM Set: Algebra; Fractions, Area Perimeter and Volume; Ratio; Statistics; 2D and 3D shapes	Revision of all arithmetic skills.
	AC / AP Sets: Statistics; Area, Perimeter and Volume; 2D and 3D shape	
Science	Scientists classify living organisms into broad groups according to their characteristics. Vertebrates are an example of a classification group. There are a number of ranks, or levels, within the biological classification system. The first rank is called a kingdom, the second a phylum, then class, order, family, genus and species.	
	An adaptation is a physical or behavioural trait that allows a living thing to survive and fill an ecological niche. Adaptations evolve by natural selection. Favourable traits help an organism survive and pass on their genes to subsequent generations.	
	Animals that sexually reproduce generate new offspring of the same kind by combining the genetic material of two individuals. Each offspring inherits two of every gene, one from the female parent and one from the male parent.	
	A method is a set of clear instructions for how to carry out a scientific investigation, including what equipment to use and observations to make. A variable is something that can be changed during a fair test. A prediction is a statement about what might happen in an investigation based on some prior knowledge or understanding.	
Geography	Invisible lines of latitude run horizontally around the Earth and show the northerly or southerly position of a geographical area. Invisible lines of longitude run vertically from the North to the South Pole and show the westerly or easterly position of a geographical area.	
	Satellite images are photographs of Earth taken by imaging satellites.	
	Climate is the long-term pattern of weather conditions found in a particular place. Climates can be compared by looking at factors including maximum and minimum levels of precipitation and average monthly temperatures.	
History	Significant people, events, discoveries or inventions can affect many people over time. Examples include the invasion of a country; transfer of power; improvements in healthcare; advancements in technologies or exploration.	
Art	Printmakers create artwork by transferring paint, ink or other art materials from one surface to another.	
	Line is the most basic element of drawing and can be used to create outlines, contour lines to make images three-dimensional and for shading in the form of cross-hatching. Tone is the relative lightness and darkness of a colour. Different types of perspective include one-point perspective (one vanishing point on the horizon line), two-point perspective (two vanishing points on the horizon line) and three-point perspective (two vanishing points on the horizon line and one below the ground, which is usually used for images of tall buildings seen from above).	
	Environmental art addresses social and political issues relating to natural and urban environments.	
PSHE	What affects mental health and ways to take care of it/ Managing change.	
	Human reproduction, conception and birth. (alongside science).	



	Keeping personal information safe.
Music	World Unite: Exploring rhythm and melody in singing, movement and dance using beat, syncopation, pitch and harmony.
MFL	Research based project: French tourist guide.
PE	Might Movers (Boxercise): aerobic warm-ups, fluency of moves, exercise impact.
	Multi-Skills (Invaders): ball-handling skills, spatial awareness, footwork, catching and tagging.