

Chapter 1: Introduction

Charles Darwin, 1809–1882



The next time you see a ten pound note, turn it over and take a closer look at the picture on the back. The Victorian gentleman with the bushy eyebrows and long, white beard is Charles Darwin. The ship sailing into the distance is HMS Beagle. When he was in his twenties Darwin sailed around the world on the Beagle and the experiences he had then helped to make him one of Britain's finest scientists. Those experiences also led him to a new way of thinking that people are still talking about 200 years

later.

Charles Darwin was a **Naturalist** - (he studied nature), he was an **Explorer** and a **Collector** - he collected examples of many of the things that he found as he travelled around the world, and a **Discoverer** - he found out things about nature that nobody had known before!

He also wrote many books. His first book was about rocks and his last book was all about worms! He also wrote about insect eating plants.

TASK 1: Can you match the pictures to the words?

You can cut and stick.

Then complete the Learning Quiz.

1831-36 Voyage of
HMS Beagle
Darwin aged was
22-27

He sailed around the
world. The voyage
lasted 5 years!



He was always asking
questions. He wrote
about what he saw, from
amazing bloodsucking
bats to puzzling fossils
and erupting volcanoes.
He read a lot of books
about rocks and learned
to stuff animals and
birds, which was very
fashionable at the time.

Charles Darwin
Naturalist
Collector
Discoverer



He discovered the
giant tortoise.
He collected many
specimens. Animals
had to be preserved
or processed, wrapped
or bottled, skinned or
dried.



Darwin lived in a cabin
on the Beagle. He
would have to sling his
hammock over the
table and sleep with
his nose almost
against the ceiling.

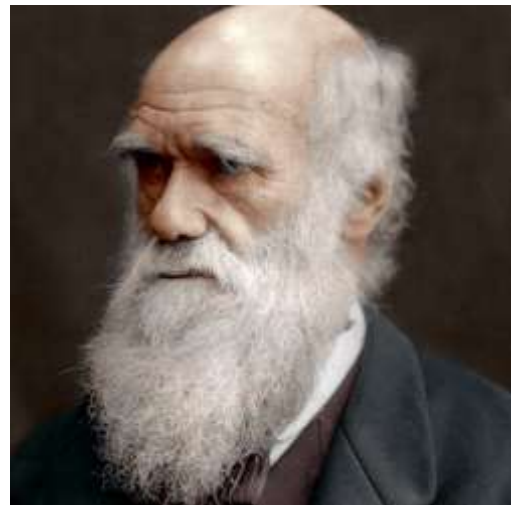
The ship sailed to the
Galapagos islands.
Wherever the ship
stopped, he had to
find things like plants,
animals, birds, rocks
and fossils.



Learning Check Quiz

1. Was Charles Darwin a) Victorian, b) Elizabethan
2. Was he a) a cartoonist, b) a naturalist
3. Was his last book about a) butterflies, b) worms
4. Was his boat called a) Beagle, b) Seagull
5. Did he sail to the a) Happagos Islands or b) Galapagos Islands
6. Did he discover the a) giant tortoise, b) giant snail
7. When the ship stopped did he find:-
 - a) a café and an ice-cream
 - b) plants, fossils birds and animals.
8. Was he on his journey for a) 6 years or b) 5 years?

In 1864 Darwin was awarded the Copley Medal by the Royal Society. That's a bit like an athlete winning an Olympic gold medal, or maybe gold medals in several Olympic Games!



Darwin was a kind, patient and polite person. He always remembered to thank people for their help — particularly the plant, animal and fossil experts, who became his friends. So, he would have fitted in well at Queensgate!

Click on the link below to continue the journey and learn more about Charles Darwin...

<file:///E:/Topic/Beards%20and%20Brains/Darwin-Storybook.pdf>