

Darwin the Discoverer

1831–36

☀ Voyage of the Beagle

☀ Darwin aged 22-27



Robert FitzRoy, the captain of HMS Beagle, was looking for someone to keep him company on the voyage, and also to be the ship's naturalist.

That person would have to explore, collect and record specimens of rocks, plants, and animals. Charles Darwin joined the ship! He would be at sea for 5 years...

The first few weeks at sea were not easy. Darwin was very seasick and it took him a while to work out how to get in and out of his hammock. But he didn't regret being on board or stop feeling excited.

He got on well with the two other young men who shared his tiny cabin, and with FitzRoy, who was quite grumpy.

He had his precious books on a shelf. Soon he was writing to his sister Caroline that the two metre by two metre space he had to work in was particularly 'comfortable for all sorts of work, everything is close to hand.'

The Beagle spent four years along the coast of South America, going round Cape Horn and up to the Galápagos Islands.

Then they sailed across the Pacific to New Zealand, Australia, the Cocos Islands and, returning home, stopped at South Africa.

Wherever the ship stopped Darwin went exploring. He couldn't wait to be off the ship and to be outdoors 'with the sky for a roof and the ground for a table.' And everything he saw amazed, delighted and intrigued him. In Cambridge he had been obsessed with collecting beetles. In Brazil he was in 'a delirium of delight' because 'whichever way a beetlehunter looks, fresh treasures meet his eyes.' Of another glorious day he wrote, 'I returned to the shore, treading on volcanic rocks, hearing the notes of unknown birds and seeing new insects fluttering about still newer flowers like giving a blind man eyes.'

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

Darwin Quick quiz

1. How did Darwin feel when he was out at sea?
2. What type of person was Fitzroy?
3. How big was Darwin's cabin?
4. What famous islands did Darwin visit?
5. What insect did Darwin love to collect?
6. How long as Darwin at sea?

Task 1

Look at the work sheet below. Draw and label all the items that Darwin had in his cabin.

Measure out the size of Darwin's cabin- 2 metres by 2 metres... Imagine having that much space as a cabin!

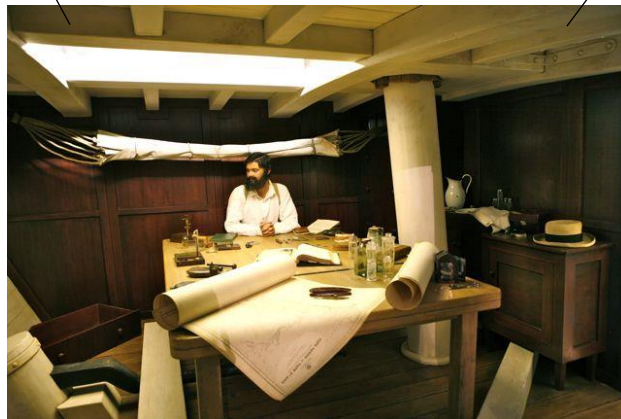
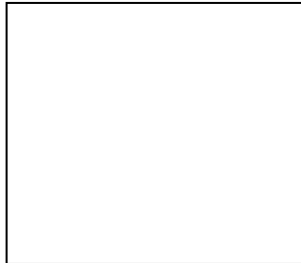
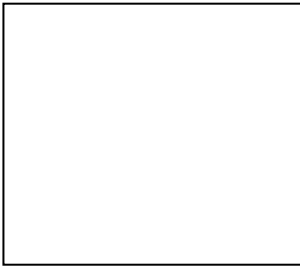
Creative task

Make or draw a picture of the ship HMS Beagle. What can you find around the house to make a ship?

Can you make a ship you can sit in?!

I know what Darwin took on his exploration.

He had all the equipment he had brought — **pistols, rifle, telescope, compass, microscope, notebooks, collecting jars** — safely stowed; he had his precious books on a shelf.



Darwin was away for _____
years.



He was the ships
n _____ .

He loved to find
b _____ when he
was in
in B _____ .