

Darwin's Delight

Let's discover what makes you... you! And, where you come from!

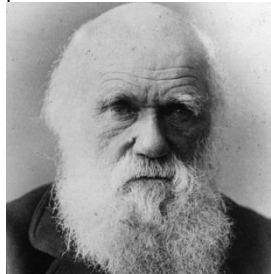
We're off on an exciting expedition with Charles Darwin across the vast oceans of Earth to discover the theory of evolution by natural selection. Darwin defined evolution as 'descent with modification,' the idea that species change over time, give rise to new species and share a common ancestor. Natural selection causes populations to become adapted to their environments over time. The strongest, he believed, adapted to change and survived. Remember to love being you... Why? Because there is only one of you: you're one of a kind!

Key facts

- The genome is the list of instructions, encoded in DNA, needed to make a human.
- Human eyes can be brown, blue, green or hazel. Genetics controls what eye colour a baby will inherit. Some people are born with eyes that are different colours, a condition known as heterochromia.
- Charles Darwin attended Edinburgh University, hoping to become a doctor like his father. He soon gave up on this idea because he couldn't stand the sight of blood.
- Palaeontologists (scientists who study fossils) sometimes find fossil faeces, which are called coprolites.
- The term psychology comes from the Greek word 'psyche' meaning 'breath, spirit, soul' and the word 'logia' meaning 'study'.
- DNA is a code divided into sections called genes, which carry all the information that creates our bodies, including the colour of our hair and eyes.
- Each cell in your body contains 234 chromosomes. In each pair, one chromosome is inherited from your mother and one from your father.

Charles Darwin

Charles Darwin was born in England on the 12th of February 1809, he died on the 19th of April 1882. He is most famous for his work on natural selection, the idea that all species of life have evolved over time from common ancestors. This process involves favourable traits becoming more common in successive generations of living things while at the same time unfavourable traits become less common. Not only did Darwin develop the idea of natural selection, he also presented compelling evidence from his detailed research which included a five year voyage on the HMS Beagle. On this voyage, Darwin visited ecologically diverse regions such as Brazil, Chile, Australia, the Falkland Islands and the Galapagos Islands.



Key Vocabulary

Continents	Any of the world's main continuous expanses of land. (Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America, Australia, Antarctica).
Physical Characteristics:	Physical characteristics are defining traits or features.
Human Characteristics:	Places are jointly characterized by their physical and human properties
Geographical:	Based on or derived from the physical features of an area.
Region:	An area, especially part of a country or the world having definable characteristics but not always fixed boundaries.
Environmental:	Relating to the natural world and the impact of human activity on its condition.
Landmarks:	An object or feature of a landscape or town that is easily seen and recognized from a distance, especially one that enables someone to establish their location.
Latitude:	The angular distance of a place north or south of the earth's equator, or of the equator of a celestial object, usually expressed in degrees and minutes.
Longitude:	The angular distance of a place east or west of the Greenwich meridian, or west of the standard meridian of a celestial object, usually expressed in degrees and minutes.
Evolution:	The process by which different kinds of living organism are believed to have developed from earlier forms during the history of the earth.
Forensic:	Relating to or denoting the application of scientific methods and techniques to the investigation of crime.
Fossil:	The remains or impression of a prehistoric plant or animal embedded in rock and preserved in petrified form