

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Charles Darwin

Before reading

1 Guess

How much do you know about Charles Darwin? Three of these sentences are true. Which are they?

- 1 Charles Darwin was a German scientist.
- 2 He went on a long expedition to Africa.
- 3 He made some important discoveries on the Galapagos Islands.
- 4 He wrote a famous book about the beginnings of life.
- 5 Everybody agreed with Darwin's ideas.
- 6 He married his cousin, Emma, and had ten children.

Correct the false sentences.

While reading

2 Comprehension

Read to the section break on page 41. Choose the correct word to complete these sentences.

- 1 Darwin's grandfather was a famous
 a *doctor.* b *botanist.* c *engineer.*
- 2 His father wanted him to become a
 a *teacher.* b *doctor.* c *sea captain.*
- 3 The Plinian Society was the name of a
 a *club.* b *theatre.* c *restaurant.*
- 4 At Cambridge, Darwin enjoyed collecting
 a *birds.* b *snakes.* c *beetles.*
- 5 Captain FitzRoy's ship was called *HMS*
 a *Eagle.* b *Beagle.* c *Bellgate.*
- 6 Captain FitzRoy was looking for someone to be his
 a *doctor.* b *teacher.* c *friend.*

3 Comprehension

Read to the section break on page 42. Match the events with the dates.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1 February 1834 | a The <i>Beagle</i> sails across the Pacific Ocean. |
| 2 August 1834 | b The <i>Beagle</i> arrives back home. |
| 3 September 1835 | c Darwin has his 25 th birthday. |
| 4 October 1835 | d The <i>Beagle</i> arrives at the Galapagos Islands. |
| 5 December 1835 | e Darwin becomes very ill. |
| 6 October 1836 | f The <i>Beagle</i> arrives in New Zealand. |

4 Comprehension and writing

Read to the end of the story. Rewrite these sentences with the correct information.

- 1 Darwin believed that during evolution, only the weakest animals and birds survive.

- 2 Darwin's ideas were the same as the teachings of the Bible.

- 3 Darwin worked on his idea for the next 10 years.

- 4 He married Emma Wedgwood in 1849.

- 5 In 1859, over two thousand copies of Darwin's book were published.

- 6 On 19th April 1882, he died alone in hospital.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Charles Darwin

After reading

5 Language

Find the words from the box in the wordsearch. The words go from left to right, and top to bottom. Draw lines through the words as you find them.

beetles	botanist	fossils	HMS
inspired	medal	naturalist	seasick
species	specimens	tortoises	tragically

N	A	T	U	R	A	L	I	S	T
B	O	O	H	N	T	H	E	P	R
O	O	R	M	E	D	A	L	E	A
T	R	T	S	I	G	I	N	C	G
A	F	O	S	S	I	L	S	I	I
N	O	I	F	S	P	E	C	M	C
I	N	S	P	I	R	E	D	E	A
S	B	E	E	T	L	E	S	N	L
T	I	S	P	E	C	I	E	S	L
E	S	E	A	S	I	C	K	S	Y

Now write down all the letters in the puzzle that you have not used. There are 20 letters. Start with the first line and continue across each line to the end. The letters make the first five words of the title of Darwin's most famous book. Write it on the line below.

6 Follow-up activity

Write your own sentences using each word from the crossword so that the word's meaning is clear. Your sentences can be about the story but you mustn't copy sentences from the story.

7 Playing detective

When *HMS Beagle* left England on 27th December 1831, Darwin said, 'I didn't know that it would be five long years before I saw my home and family again.'

Do an online search. Find out as much as you can about the *Beagle*, and make a timeline of its voyage. You can use the websites listed in the 'Further Research' document. Include information about:

- places (countries, islands, cities) that the *Beagle* visited
- the date it arrived and left each place
- what Darwin did in each place

8 Research and speaking

Do an online search and find out information about the Galapagos Islands. Give a presentation to the class. Include information about:

- where the islands are
- the number of islands
- population
- climate
- wildlife, including Galapagos tortoises
- interesting things for visitors to see and do on the islands

ANSWER KEY (STUDENT ACTIVITIES)

Charles Darwin

1 Guess

True sentences:

- 3 He made some important discoveries on the Galapagos Islands.
- 4 He wrote a famous book about the beginnings of life.
- 6 He married his cousin, Emma, and had ten children.

False sentences:

- 1 Charles Darwin was a German scientist.
Charles Darwin was an English scientist.
- 2 He went on a long expedition to Africa.
He went on a long expedition to South America.
- 5 Everybody agreed with Darwin's ideas.
Not everybody agreed with Darwin's ideas or Some people disagreed with Darwin's ideas.

2 Comprehension

- 1 b
- 2 b
- 3 a
- 4 c
- 5 b
- 6 c

3 Comprehension

- 1 c
- 2 e
- 3 d
- 4 a
- 5 f
- 6 b

4 Comprehension and writing

- 1 Darwin believed that during evolution, only the strongest animals and birds survive.
- 2 Darwin's ideas were different from the teachings of the Bible.
- 3 Darwin worked on his idea for the next 20 years.
- 4 He married Emma Wedgwood in 1839.
- 5 In 1859, 1,250 copies of Darwin's book were published.
- 6 On 19th April 1882, he died at home with his wife and children around him.

5 Language

N	A	T	U	R	A	L	I	S	
B	O	O	H	N	T	H	E	P	R
O	O	R	M	E	D	A	I	E	A
T	R	T	S	I	G	I	N	C	G
A	F	O	S	S	I	L	S	I	I
N	O	I	F	S	P	E	C	M	C
N	S	P	I	R	E	D	E	A	
S	B	E	E	T	L	E	S	N	L
V	I	S	P	E	C	I	E	S	L
E	S	E	A	S	I	C	K	S	V

First five words of title of Darwin's famous book: *On the Origin of Species*

6 Follow-up activity

Answers will vary.

7 Playing detective

Answers will vary according to how detailed students' research is. For example:

19th July 1835. The *Beagle* arrives in Lima, Peru.
7th September 1835. The *Beagle* leaves Lima and sails to the Galapagos Islands.

14th September 1835. The *Beagle* arrives at the Galapagos Islands. Darwin studies birds and animals. He makes important discoveries about a species of small bird on the islands, and tortoises.

8 Research and speaking

Answers will vary.