

Charles Darwin (1809 – 1882)

Charles Darwin was an English scientist/naturalist who is famous for developing **the Theory of Evolution by Natural Selection**. He believed that all life on Earth evolved from a common ancestor whose offspring varied slightly from the previous generation.

In 1831, Charles Darwin boarded a Royal Navy ship (H.M.S. Beagle) and began a five year voyage around the world collecting samples of plants, animals and rocks from the various locations he visited.



During the voyage, Darwin visited the Galapagos Islands and discovered several species of finches (small birds) which varied from island to island. This discovery and analysis of the samples he collected on his voyage helped him to develop the Theory of Evolution.

Darwin suggested that living things changed over time by **Natural Selection**: a natural process in which the animals and plants best suited to their environment will survive and reproduce and those less suited will be weaker and die out.

In 1859, Darwin published his ideas in a book, 'On the Origin of Species'.

"A man who dares to waste one hour of time has not discovered the value of life."

Charles Darwin

David Attenborough:

- Sir David Attenborough is an English broadcaster and naturalist and is well known for his documentaries.
- He is often referred to as a 'national treasure' in Britain - this means that he is extremely popular with the British public. In 1985, he received a knighthood and became Sir David Attenborough.
- He has won many awards for his wildlife documentaries.
- From an early age, David had an interest in natural history. As a young boy, he had a large collection of fossils and stones.
- Sir David Attenborough supports many charities including the WWF, which is the world's largest conservation organisation.
- Sir David has also written many books about natural history.
- Some of his most famous documentaries include Planet Earth, Blue Planet and The Life of Birds.
- He wrote a series of books called 'Zoo Quest', which were about the animals he encountered on his expeditions around the world.

