

History Subject Knowledge Bank

Year 1: Charles Darwin

<u>Vocabulary</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Evidence	Information about the past
Source	Where information from the past comes from
Timeline	Putting events in order depending on when they happened.
Past	Has happened
Compare	What is the same and what is different
Week/years ago	A period of time in the past
Old/older/oldest	Belonging to the past
Here/now/then	Words about the past
Artefacts	An object from the past

Who was Charles Darwin?

- Charles Darwin was born in 1809.
- He was an English scientist.
- He is most well-known for his Theory of Evolution.
- In 1831 he was invited to journey on HMS Beagle to be the ship's naturalist.
- He published many important papers, the most famous being 'The Origin of Species by means of Natural Selection' in 1859.

Where did Charles Darwin go?

- The Beagle set sail in 1831.
- Living conditions on the ship were hard.
- There was not a lot of room on board as the ship held 75 people and it was always very dusty.
- Darwin was often seasick and also caught a fever but he was glad he had made the decision to go on the trip.
- The Beagle's voyage lasted for 5 years. They travelled to South America and reached the Galapagos islands. When he went ashore Darwin found plants and animals that nobody had ever seen before.

What did Charles Darwin find out?

- Darwin wrote down all of his findings and sent home information to England all about the things he had found.
- When he returned home in 1836, he continued studying plants and animals.
- In 1859 Charles Darwin wrote a famous book all about the things he had found on his travels.
- After 20 years of studying, he had an idea that the plants and creatures he had collected hadn't always been the same as they were when we found them.
- He thought that, millions of years ago, living things had all started off in the same way and had gradually, very, very slowly, changed. In this way lots of different animals and plants had developed. This idea is called 'evolution'.

What happened next?

- Darwin didn't publish his findings straight away because he knew that they may upset many people.
- When 'The Origin of Species' was published in 1859, it was a massive talking point because it challenged the truth of the creation story found in the Bible.
- Today, Darwin's theory of **Natural Selection** has been accepted (by most people) as scientific fact. More than 120 species have been named after Darwin.
- He died on 19th April 1882 but people are still talking about his ideas and findings.