Overview of Workshops

This booklet gives an outline of the educational workshops the Darwin Correspondence Project will be offering to tie in with the Darwin in Conversation exhibition at Cambridge University Library.

As part of the workshops students will also be able to explore the exhibition and see many of the letters and notebooks Darwin used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Stage</th>
<th>Workshop Title</th>
<th>Curriculum links</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KS2</td>
<td>Darwin’s Experiments</td>
<td>Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KS2</td>
<td>Darwin’s Big Adventure</td>
<td>History, English, Geography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KS2</td>
<td>Who was Charles Darwin?</td>
<td>History, English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KS3</td>
<td>Dangerous Darwin</td>
<td>History, Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KS3, KS4</td>
<td>Darwin’s Theories</td>
<td>Science</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Workshops can be booked online: [www.darwinproject.ac.uk/learning-resources/school-visits](http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/learning-resources/school-visits)

Email lw442@cam.ac.uk for further information
Darwin’s Experiments

In this workshop students will get to learn about the types of experiments Darwin carried out and look at the evidence he used to put together his ideas on evolution

Learning Outcomes

• List some key aspects about Darwin and his life
• Explain in simple terms the meaning of ‘characteristics’, ‘adaptation’, ‘inheritance’ and ‘evolution’
• Take part in practical hands-on activities, just like Darwin

Curriculum links: Science

Darwin’s Big Adventure

Students will get the chance to learn about Darwin’s epic voyage

Learning Outcomes

• Describe Darwin’s experience of the voyage and why it was important
• Explain the route that Darwin took on the voyage and name some places that he visited
• Describe some of the amazing animals that Darwin found on the voyage and create their own

Curriculum links: History, English, Geography, Science
Find out more about the Victorian naturalist Charles Darwin in this workshop where students will look at different historical sources to find out about his life and work.

**Learning Outcomes**

- List some key moments in Darwin’s life
- Describe key ideas about his work and the way that he worked
- Sort and prioritise information about Darwin
- Describe why he is considered a significant person

**Curriculum links: History, English**

This workshop introduces students to some of the controversies surrounding Darwin’s ideas as seen from images, letters and other publications at the time.

**Learning Outcomes**

- Assess the contribution letters made to interpreting historical events
- Compare and evaluate the usefulness of different historical sources
- Draft their own versions of an historical event for print or social media

**Curriculum Links: History**
### Darwin’s Theories

Students will get to carry out practical science activities, make observations and gain an understanding of evolution through Darwin’s letters.

### Learning Outcomes

- Compare the evolutionary theories of Darwin, Lamarck and Wallace
- Describe some of the evidence for Darwin’s theory of evolution
- Describe the process of natural selection as a mechanism for evolution

### Curriculum Links: Biology
Frequently Asked Questions

How do I book my school onto an event?
Please complete the booking form at the following link www.darwinproject.ac.uk/learning-resources/school-visits

How many spaces can my school book?
There are approximately 30-40 spaces for each workshop. Please confirm the number of students and staff on the booking form. We ask for schools to ensure a ratio of 1 adult to 10 children.

What is the cost?
There is no charge for schools to attend Darwin workshops.

Can you organise travel to Cambridge?
We are unable to organise travel but if you would like to bring your own minibus we will be able to provide parking on site for the duration of your visit with us. Please note there is no space for coaches to enter the car park. Students can be dropped off on Queen’s Road, a short walk from the library.

Can we have lunch at the library?
There are picnic tables within the library grounds where your students may be able to eat their packed lunches if the weather allows. We have toilets and hand washing facilities within the exhibition space.

Do you have risk assessments for school visits?
Yes, risk assessments will be emailed to you upon confirmation of your booking and are available on our website.

What should students wear?
We normally recommend students wear their school uniforms to trips but it is at the school’s discretion. Some of the activities will involve using scientific equipment so students should wear enclosed shoes and tie long hair back.

What do students need to bring on the day?
We will provide all resources needed to take part in the workshops.

Can you accommodate students or staff with access requirements?
We will always strive to host visits from anyone who wishes to come and visit us whether they have an access requirement or not. Please let us know on the booking form if you have any specific access requirements for your group so that adjustments can be made to ensure you all have an enjoyable visit. Step-free access and an accessible toilet are available for school visits.

For information on access to the library have a look at the Access Able guide here www.accessable.co.uk/university-of-cambridge/sidgwick-site/access-guides/university-library
Frequently Asked Questions

What should I do if my school needs to cancel?
If your school are no longer able to attend the event please let us know as soon as possible. If there is enough notice we might be able to reallocate the spaces to other schools.

How do I arrange more general visits to Cambridge or invite someone to speak in school?
Cambridge has an Area Links Scheme which ensures every county in the UK is matched with a Cambridge College to help with outreach and widening participation work. To check who your link College is please visit [www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/colleges/area-links](http://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/colleges/area-links).

Who will be running the workshops?
Your visit will be hosted by a member of the learning team and other support staff.

Can I bring a mixed age group?
Yes we can tailor a session to meet your needs if you would like to bring a group of different ages or abilities. Please contact us to discuss.

Are there any follow up activities we can use to continue our learning at school?
Yes, there are lots of educational resources available on our website which we would love you to use. Speak to us if you would like some suggestions of suitable activities after your visit.

What is the Darwin Correspondence Project?
The Darwin Correspondence Project, based at Cambridge University Library, is publishing, in print and online, all of Darwin’s known correspondence (around 15,000 letters). The archive houses the largest single collection of Darwin’s letters, manuscripts, and his own library of books and journals. Many items from the archive will be on display in our free exhibition, Darwin in Conversation, running from 9th July - 3rd December 2022.

What is Cambridge University Library and who is allowed in?
Everyone is welcome to Cambridge University Library. Our exhibitions are free and open to all and anyone with a research interest is welcome to become a reader of the University Library. Founded 600 years ago, it started out as a few volumes on a handful of subjects kept in wooden chests. Over the last 600 years, the acquisitions, donations and our legal deposit status – which means we receive a print or electronic copy of every publication in the UK or Ireland – we have amassed a collection of over 8 million books, manuscripts and maps from around the globe.

All images courtesy of Cambridge University Library
Contact Details for Darwin schools workshops at the Cambridge University Library

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