Detecting Darwin
Activity 4: Darwin’s biography

http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/learning/7-11/detecting-darwin

Suggested preparation

Presentation: Detecting Charles Darwin
http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/learning/7-11/detecting-darwin

Film: What was Darwin like and why is he important?
Professor Jim Secord, Director of the Darwin Correspondence Project explains
http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/learning/7-11/detecting-darwin

Detecting Darwin Activity 2: Piecing things together

How long will activity take?
- 30 mins

What do I need?
- Paper and pens
- Evidence of Darwin’s life

What would you write about in Charles Darwin’s biography?

What do I do?

1. Imagine you have to write the story of Darwin’s life as a book (Darwin’s biography). Look through the evidence of Darwin’s life to remind yourself about him.

2. Discuss what kinds of facts you would include and what you would leave out.

3. Write a list of the main chapters of your book and include any pictures that you would like to use.
Oh a ship is a true penemonium, & the cawkers who are anything glorious that gives my stomach so much uneasiness.

This morning a glorious fresh trade wind is driving us along; I call one would feel it stewed in very warm melted butter.

Dawkins diary: 13 February 1832

This has been the first day that the heat has annoyed us, & in
Bahia or St Salvador, Brazil
Feb. 1832

My dear Father

We sailed as you know on the 27th. of December & have been fortunate enough to have had from that time to the present a fair & moderate breeze: In the Bay of Biscay there was a long & continued swell & the misery I endured from sea-sickness is far far beyond what I ever guessed at...

From Teneriffe to St. Jago, the voyage was extremely pleasant.— I had a net astern the vessel, which caught great numbers of curious animals, & fully occupied my time in my cabin, & on deck the weather was so delightful, & clear, that the sky & water together made a picture.

I already have got to look at going to sea as a regular quiet place, like going back to home after staying away from it.— In short I find a ship a very comfortable house, with everything you want, & if it was not for sea-sickness the whole world would be sailors...

Believe me, my dear Father
Your most affectionate son

Charles Darwin
H.M.S. BEAGLE
MIDDLE SECTION FORE AND AFT
1832

1. Mr. Darwin’s Seat in Captain’s Cabin
2. Mr. Darwin’s Seat in Poop Cabin with Cot slung behind him
3. Mr. Darwin’s Chest of Drawers
4. Bookcase
5. Captain’s Skylight
6. Poop Ladders
7. Signal Flag Lockers
8. After Companion
9. Gangways
10. Brass nine pounders, Captain’s private property
11. Six pounders
12. Hammock Nettings
13. Patent Windlass

The Poop Cabin
1. Bookcase
2. My Bunk
3. Chest of Drawers
4. My Cabinet
5. My seat
6. Microscope

Azimuth Compass
Jolly Boat
Captain’s Room
Captain’s Cabin
Bread Room
Gunner’s Store

Image courtesy of Simon Keynes
Darwin Correspondence Project/Cambridge University Library (CC BY-ND 2.0)
The Beagle Voyage

Stop: 1

Plymouth

Cape Verde

Ascension Island

Straits of Magellan

Galapagos Islands

Valparaiso

Callao

Montevideo

Chiloe

Río de Janeiro

Falkland Islands

Cape of Good Hope

King George Sound

Hobart

Sydney
Stop: 1
Some things that Darwin collected
The Wedgwood and Darwin Families

Robert Waring Darwin 1766–1848
- Marianne 1798–1858
- Susan Elizabeth 1803–66
- Erasmus Alvey 1804–81

Susannah Wedgwood 1765–1817

Josiah Wedgwood II 1769–1843
- Caroline Sarah 1800–88
- Josiah III (Jos) 1795–1880

Elizabeth (Bessy) Allen 1764–1846
- Sarah Elizabeth (Elizabeth) 1793–1880
- Mary Anne 1796–8
- Charlotte 1797–1862
- Henry Allen (Harry) 1799–1885
- Francis (Frank) 1800–88
- Hensleigh 1803–91
- Frances (Fanny) 1806–32

Charles Robert 1809–82
- Emma 1808–96

- William Erasmus 1839–1914
- Anne Elizabeth 1841–51
- Mary Eleanor Sept.–Oct. 1842
- Henrietta Emma (Etty) 1843–1927
- George Howard 1845–1912
- Elizabeth (Bessy) 1847–1926
- Francis (Frank) 1848–1925
- Leonard 1850–1943
- Horace 1851–1928
- Charles Waring 1856–8
Joseph Hooker

Joseph Hooker was a botanist, plant hunter and he became director of the Botanical Gardens at Kew. He went on many expeditions including to the Himalayas and even a trip to Antarctica – looking for plants!

When Darwin returned from his round the world voyage he sent some of the plants that he had brought back to Joseph Hooker to help him indentify them.

They became lifelong friends. Darwin exchanged 1,400 letters with Joseph Hooker. They helped each other carry out research by sending letters about experiments that they had done and new information that they had found.

They shared personal stories and sadness too, as both men experienced the death of a young daughter.
My dear Darwin,

...— All I can wish you is, that you may experience as great content in the marriage state as I have done myself—& all the advice, which I need not give you, is, to remember that as you take your wife for better for worse, be careful to value the better & care nothing for the worse— Of course it is impossible for a lover to suppose for an instant that there can be any worse in the matter, but it is the prudent part of a husband, to provide that there shall be none—...

But I am afraid you will think I am writing a sermon— Only take it in good part, & believe that I most heartily wish you all joy & prosperity— Is there a chance of your coming here this Xmas Mrs H is anxious to know & bids me ask you—

Yrs ever affectly
J. S. Henslow
My dear Darwin,

This day 15 yrs ago I entered on that State which, by discovery on my part, I thought, I should enjoy for a considerable time. I have been writing in this letter for nearly two months, and I am now just about to close the business of your happiness. From having added one more pecuniary benefit to the many you have received before — all I can wish you is, that you may experience as much contentment in the marriage as I have done myself — all the rest of which omissions I hope to make up in time by taking good care. And I am sure you will think I am not a very lucky man — only that I am in good health, and believe I must have been all my life as prosperous as possible. — Is there a chance of your coming here this year? 

Yours ever,

J. S. Henslow
My dear Hooker

Your drawing is quite beautiful; I cannot thank you enough, & I feel, as I before said guilty—your good nature is as wonderful as mesmerism.— I have been reading heaps of papers on Cirripedia, & your drawing is clearer than almost any of them.

The more I read, the more singular does our little fellow appear, & as you say, looking at its natural size, a microscope is a most wonderful instrument. How different would the drawing have been, if I had employed an artist! not to mention the invaluable assistance of having my loose observations confirmed, & the several points observed only by you.— I shall of course state this in the beginning of my paper, & when I have not seen the thing, give it on your authority...

Ever yours
My dear Hooker,
C. Darwin
Dear Hooker,

Your drawing isn't beautiful; I cannot thank you enough. I feel, as I before said, pity - your constriction is as wonderful as mesmerism - I have been reading more papers on conversational data. Your drawing is done very well about any of them. The more I read, the more simple does one little fellow appear, as you say; looking at it in relative size a man, wonderful instrument, how different what new invention. If I had only an extra book I could reach it in the middle of putting it, I have been here, I have been away. The more I see the more I begin to see how close it is to nature, how close it is to the likeness of a. I hope I can take this - it is beginning to look better. It was when I was not clear that thing, I was...
This is the Question

Marry

Children—(if it Please God) — Constant companion, (& friend in old age) who will feel interested in one, — object to be beloved & played with. — better than a dog anyhow. — Home, & someone to take care of house — Charms of music & female chit-chat. — These things good for one’s health. — but terrible loss of time.

My God, it is intolerable to think of spending ones whole life, like a neuter bee, working, working, & nothing after all. — No, no won’t do. — Imagine living all one’s day solitarily in smoky dirty London House. — Only picture to yourself a nice soft wife on a sofa With good fire, & books & music perhaps — Compare this vision with the dingy reality of Grt. Marlbro’ St.

Marry—Mary—Marry Q.E.D.

Not Marry

Freedom to go where one liked — choice of Society & little of it. — Conversation of clever men at clubs — Not forced to visit relatives, & to bend in every trifle. — to have the expense & anxiety of children — perhaps quarelling — Loss of time. — cannot read in the Evenings — fatness & idleness — Anxiety & responsibility — less money for books &c — if many children forced to gain one’s bread. — (But then it is very bad for ones health to work too much)

Perhaps my wife won’t like London; then the sentence is banishment & degradation into indolent, idle fool —
N.B. No person will be admitted except in mourning.

Dean
G. C. Bradley, D.D.
Enlightenment by Dean's Yard.

Jerusalem Chamber.
Agree the shorter at eleven o'clock to the
Ar 12 o'clock present.
Wednesday, April 20th, 1862.
Westminster Abbey.

FUNERAL OF MR. DARWIN.

Died 19 April 1882
Born 12 February 1809
CHARLES ROBERT DARWIN
Most honoured Sir

...Of all the books I have ever read, not a single one has come even close to making such an overpowering and lasting impression on me, as your theory of the evolution of species. In your book I found all at once the harmonious solution of all the fundamental problems that I had continually tried to solve ever since I had come to know nature as she really is. Since then your theory—I can say so without exaggerating—has occupied my mind every day most pressingly, and whatever I investigate in the life of humans, animals or plants, your theory of descent always offers me a harmonious solution to all problems, however knotty...

Hoping, dear Sir, that your health will improve and that it will allow you for many years yet to continue the battle for truth and against human prejudice, I remain with the most sincere esteem,

Yours truly devoted
Ernst Haeckel
Liebster geehrter Herr,


Excerpts (highlighted red opposite) from The Times Obituary for Charles Robert Darwin
The Times, Friday, Apr 21, 1882

...The announcement of the death of Charles Darwin flashes over the face of the earth whose secrets he has done more than any other to reveal...

Fifteen volumes lie before us and nearly as many memoirs large and small, the product of 45 years' work—a product which, in quantity, would do credit to the most robust constitution. But when we consider Mr. Darwin's always feeble health and his deliberately slow method of work, never hasting but rarely resting, the result seems marvellous...

The Beagle sailed from England December 27, 1831, and returned October 28, 1836, having thus been absent nearly five years. In more ways than one these five years were the most eventful of Mr. Darwin's life. During these five years the Beagle circumnavigated the world, and it's not too much to say that singlehanded, Mr. Darwin during the voyage did more for natural history in all its varied departments than any expedition has done since; much more when we consider the momentous results that followed...

His personal influence on young scientific men can with difficulty be calculated; his simple readiness to listen and suggest and help has won the gratitude of many an aspiring observer.

Since he took up his residence in at Down, Mr. Darwin's life has been marked mainly by the successive publication of those works which have revolutionized modern thought. In 1859 was published what may be regarded as the most momentous of all his works, "The Origin of Species by means of Natural Selection."

No one, we are sure, would be more surprised than the author himself at the results which followed. But all this has long passed. The work, slowly at first, but with increasing rapidity made its way to general acceptance...

It goes without saying that the honours and medals were showered upon Mr. Darwin by learned societies all the world over...