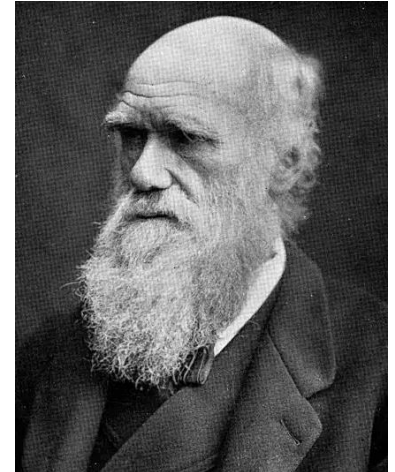


CHARLES DARWIN

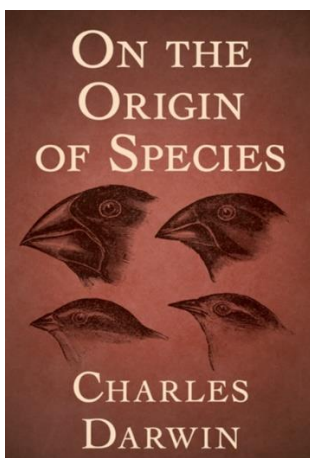
Charles Darwin was a scientist who was born on 12th February 1809 in Shrewsbury, England.

Darwin did not particularly enjoy school and found some of the work, like Latin and Greek, hard. He did, however, love science and was always asking questions. When he was 13 years old, he set up a science lab in his garden shed. When he was 16 years old, he was sent to Edinburgh to train to become a doctor. However, Darwin did not enjoy it. He didn't like looking at blood. He was more interested in learning about nature and animals.



After university, he found out that the captain of the ship HMS Beagle, (which set sail in 1831) was looking for someone to be the ship's naturalist. The person would have to explore, collect and record information about the rocks, plants and animals that they found on their trip. Darwin knew this was his dream job and so persuaded his father to let him 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! Animals Darwin discovered living in the Galapagos islands: including finches and giant Galapagos tortoises.



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'.

Charles Darwin died on 19th April 1882 and even now, over 100 years later, people are still talking about his ideas and findings.

Find out more about Darwin and his findings by clicking on the link. [Click here](#)