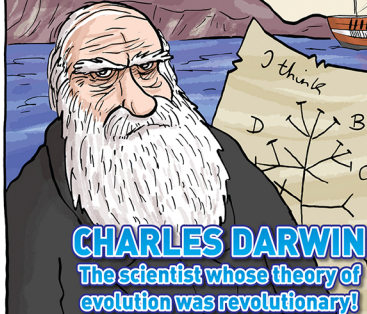


THE WORLD'S GREATEST HEROES!



CHARLES DARWIN
The scientist whose theory of evolution was revolutionary!

It's 1829 and young Cambridge student, Charles Darwin, is indulging in his favourite hobby - collecting beetles! Holding as many as he can, he's popped one in his mouth! Bad move...

MMPH!

I've squirted acid in his mouth!

Ha! Ha! That'll teach him!

Bored with his studies to become a parson, Darwin spent more time collecting beetles and studying science.

His enthusiasm earned him a place as a naturalist on the ship HMS Beagle. Captain Robert FitzRoy was unsure of Darwin's credentials, though...

The shape of your nose means you're unseaworthy!

Don't worry, Captain! This job is perfect for me!

It would be Darwin's job to collect animal and fossil specimens throughout the voyage.

In 1831, the Beagle set sail for Brazil. Despite his enthusiasm, Darwin was horribly seasick!

I told you so! I have a nose for these sort of things!

Bleugh!

The journey took three months. Poor Darwin was desperate to visit the Canary Islands, but they were closed off, due to disease.

Beh! I brought my swimming trunks and everything!

As they reached South America, Darwin encountered his first rainforest. He immediately began exploring!

Darwin dashed about collecting every animal, bird, insect and sea creature he could get his hands on! All the while, dressed unseemingly as a posh English gentleman!

I say! In you go, old bean!

When he's so polite, how can I argue?

He also collected many fossil specimens, noting peculiar similarities to animals still living...

Darwin kept notes and diaries detailing all his discoveries. He also gathered a vast collection of specimens, which he packed onto passing ships heading back to England!

Thanks a lot! I really appreciate it!

All the while he was away, his exploits and discoveries were being reported in England, and Darwin was unknowingly becoming famous!

A trip to the Galapagos Islands proved very interesting. He found weird and diverse species, including finches with different beaks for different uses...

This one is great for opening bottle tops!

Based on his observations, a new idea was forming in Darwin's head...

Back home in England, Darwin sifted through his findings. He spotted patterns in the relationships of species, which he called, 'transmutation'.

The evidence is overwhelming...

He theorised that rather than all of Earth's separate species appearing at once, each species changes over time into a new one, reacting to their environment.

Ancient giant sloth

Millions of years

Modern sloth

Are you following me?

The trigger for change would be called 'Natural Selection'.

Darwin was intrigued by animal breeders who had bred traits in animals such as pigeons, cattle and dogs, to encourage speed, more meat or happy pets!

Ruf!

Unnatural selection more like.

Here was transmutation for all to see!

Unfortunately, his theories conflicted with what was written in the Bible and upset a lot of people. Darwin became ill with all the stress this caused.

So much for survival of the fittest!

He wrote popular books about his voyage on the Beagle, but was careful to leave out any hint of his new theory.

His friends encouraged him to write a scientific book to improve his reputation. He decided to write about barnacles!

Hooray! Barnacles are brilliant!

A scientific reputation would help people accept his controversial ideas!

He spent eight years writing about barnacles, and his scientific standing increased dramatically.

But I never want to see another bloomin' barnacle for as long as I live!

Out of the blue, in 1858, another naturalist had hit upon the idea of transmutation. They presented their ideas together at the same lecture.

It's my ideal.

I thought of it before you were born!

Darwin presented his theory of 'Evolution' in a book entitled, 'The Origin of the Species'. The book was a bestseller!

However, trouble soon began when people realised that Darwin suggested humans shared a common ancestor with apes.

Is it on your grandfather's or your grandmother's side the ape ancestry comes in?

Very funny!

Bishop of Oxford

Darwin supporter Huxley

Darwin wrote more books about evolution to clear misunderstandings. But arguments over his ideas still rage today!

Phew! That should clear it up once and for all!

He once predicted a molecule would be discovered in all species that carried characteristics from one generation to the next. This turned out to be DNA!

Along with fossil records of so-called 'missing links', here was the final scientific proof of Darwin's ideas!

Darwin studied animals until the day he died. He even played bassoon to worms to see how they'd react!

Oh, no! Not this song again!

He did the most famous scientist of his time. His ideas changed the way we look at the world and everything in it!