

# Darwin's Delights



These activities are for you to do at home. You can do all of them or choose the ones that you find most interesting.

## Activities

1. Use a dictionary and write a definition for the following topic-related terms.

adaptation

DNA

endangered

evolution

examine

extinction

fossil

journal

inheritance

natural selection

palaeontologist

species

specimen

survival

theory

variation

2. Research the historical figures Charles Darwin and Mary Anning, including the important scientific discoveries they made. Record your findings as notes under headings on two mind maps, one for each figure. Example headings could include childhood, work, significant achievements, death and legacy. Use your mind maps to help you to write a report. You might like to write about one or both figures. Include a title, opening paragraph, headings and subheadings, detailed facts, precise topic vocabulary and images with captions.
3. In 1831, Charles Darwin joined the HMS *Beagle's* five-year expedition to explore South America's coast. They reached the Galápagos Islands in September 1835. Use online sources and information books to find out about the Galápagos Islands, including where they are and their geographical features. Find out about the importance of this location to Darwin's discoveries and theories. Record your findings under the headings: location, geography, plants and animals, and the islands' historical importance.
4. Use online sources or information books to learn about fossils and to answer the questions.
  - What is a fossil, and why are fossils important for science today?
  - Where are fossils found?
  - How do fossils form?
  - What different types of fossil are there?
  - What is a palaeontologist, and why is Mary Anning described as a pioneering palaeontologist today?

5. Look online for scientific sketches by Charles Darwin and Mary Anning and botanical illustrations by Walter Hood Fitch. Afterwards, create a sketch or illustration using their style. Choose a plant, tree, animal, fossil or shell for your subject. Look carefully at the shape, form, pattern and colour of the subject, and use a hand lens to examine fine details. Display your work for others to admire.
6. Use the web links listed to learn about classification, adaptation, inheritance, evolution and natural selection. Record your findings in a table.

BBC Bitesize – What is classification?

DKfindout! – Classification of Living Things

BBC Bitesize – Adaptation, inheritance and evolution – KS2 Science

Natural History Museum – Charles Darwin: history's most famous biologist

7. Use information books or online sources to explore plant and animal adaptations. Choose four living things from a habitat of your choice. Draw labelled diagrams and write a paragraph to explain their adaptations.
8. Use a range of sources to learn more about endangered animal species and conservation. After reading, answer the questions, then write a newspaper article about one or more endangered animal, explaining the importance of conservation and what is being done to save them. Include a headline, byline, date, orientation, relevant facts and a reorientation.
  - What are endangered animals?
  - List three endangered animals and explain what factors have caused them to become endangered.
  - What is conservation?
  - What examples of conservation are happening to save endangered animals?
  - What is World Wildlife Day, and how does this day help endangered animals?
9. Finish your home learning by writing a summary of the topic, explaining what you have learned about Charles Darwin and Mary Anning and how their discoveries, theories and scientific understanding have impacted science today.

## Useful websites

BBC Teach – KS2: Charles Darwin – The biggest name in Victorian science  
National Geographic – HMS *Beagle*: Darwin’s Trip around the World  
Natural History Museum – Mary Anning: the unsung hero of fossil discovery  
National Geographic Society – Galápagos Islands  
DKfindout! – Fossil Facts – Types of Fossils  
Illustrations of Darwin’s Specimens – Darwin Online  
Google Arts & Culture – Mary Anning  
Kew – What is botanical art?  
BBC Teach – How animals have adapted – Science KS2/KS3  
DKfindout! – Endangered Animal Facts  
DKfindout! – What is Conservation – Wildlife Conservation

## Good reads

Title	Author	ISBN
Extraordinary Scientists: Charles Darwin	Anita Croy	9781398201392
Our Hairy Past – Evolution and Life on Earth	Nancy Dickmann	9781474754873
Straight Forward with Science: Classification and Evolution	Peter Riley	9781445135083
Last Chance to See: Endangered Animals	Anita Ganeri	9781526301888
Saving Endangered Animals – Beyond the Headlines!	Jilly Hunt	9781474749213
Island – A Story of the Galapagos	Jason Chin	9781250799937