

# 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.



# Stop: 1

Darwin's diary: 13 February 1832

This has been the first day that the heat has annoyed us, & in proportion all have enjoyed the delicious coolness of the moonlight evenings: but when in bed, it is I am sure just like what one would feel if stewed in very warm melted butter. —

This morning a glorious fresh trade wind is driving us along; I call it glorious because others do; it is however bitter cruelty to call anything glorious that gives my stomach so much uneasiness. —

Oh a ship is a true pandemonium, & the cawkers who are hammering away above my head veritable devils. —

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# Stop: 1



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# Stop: 1



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# Stop: 1

## LETTER 158

From Charles Darwin

To Robert Waring Darwin

February 1832

Transcribed extracts

[www.darwinproject.ac.uk/entry-158](http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/entry-158)



Image sy7804. Shrewsbury Museums Service

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

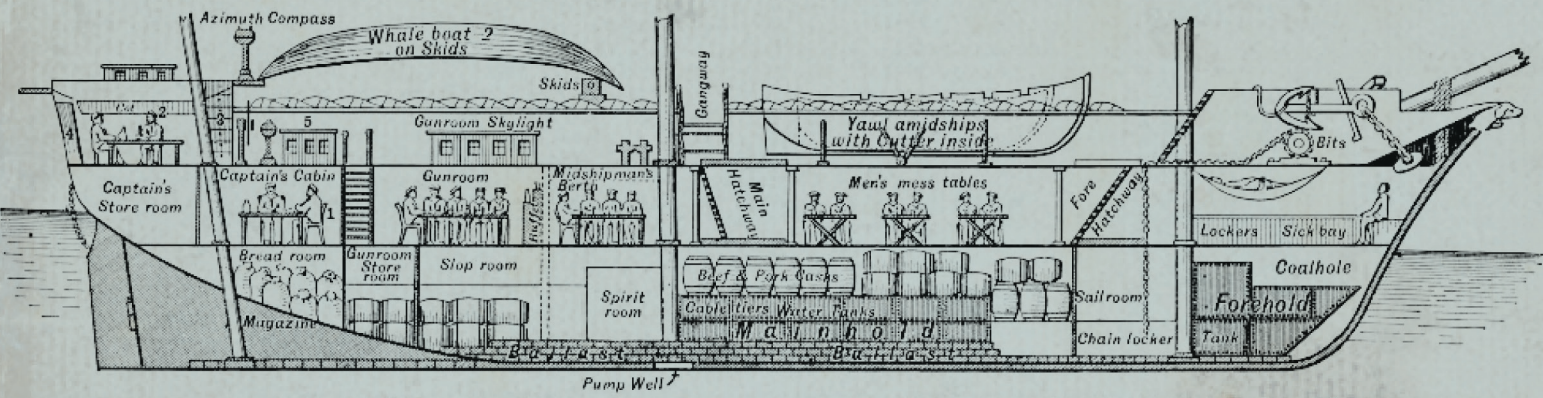
Charles Darwin

# Stop: 1

# H.M.S. BEAGLE

MIDDLE SECTION FORE AND AFT

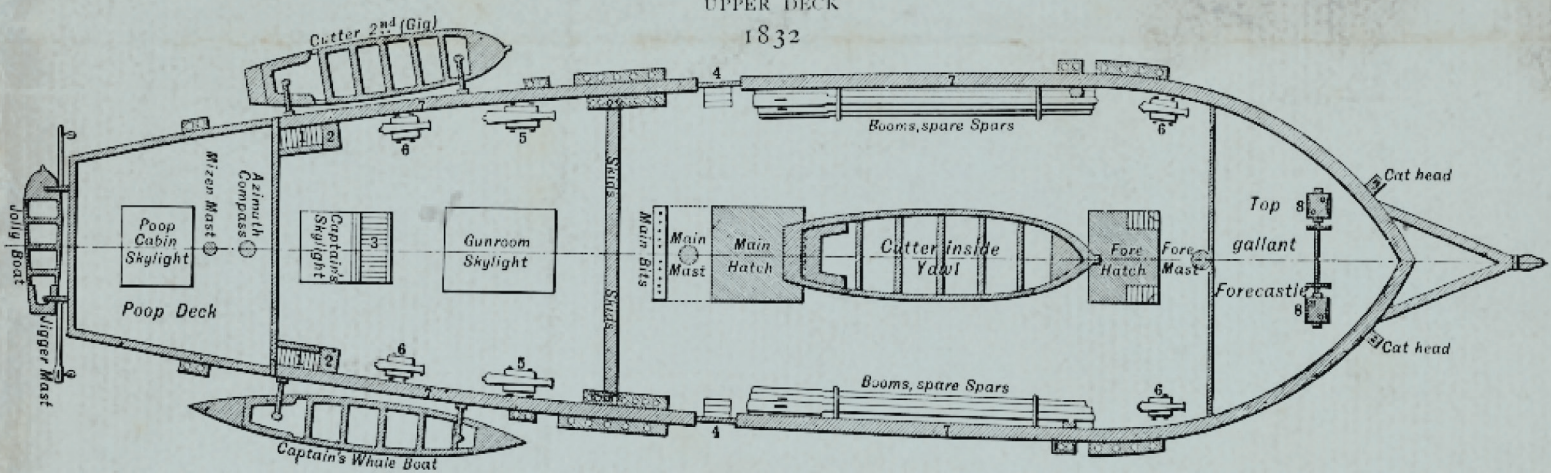
1832



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

## UPPER DECK

1832



1. Poop Ladders
2. Signal Flag Lockers
3. After Companion
4. Gangways
5. Brass nine pounders, Captain's private property
6. Six pounders
7. Hammock Nettings
8. Patent Windlass

### The Poop Cabin

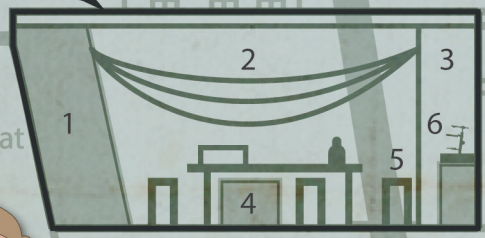


Image courtesy of Simon Keynes



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

# Stop: 1

## The Beagle Voyage



Plymouth

Ascension Island

Cape Verde

Salvador

Rio de Janeiro

Montevideo

Falkland Islands

Galapagos Islands

Callao

Valparaiso

Chiloe

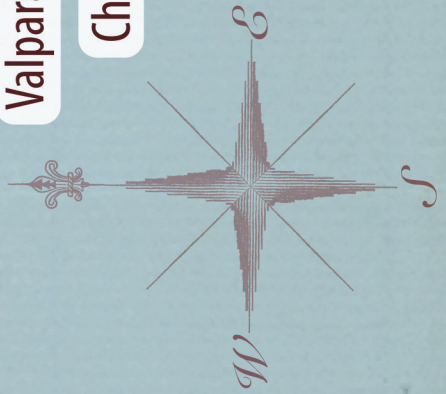
Straits of Magellan

Cape of Good Hope

King George Sound

Sydney

Hobart



# Stop: 1

## Some things that Darwin collected

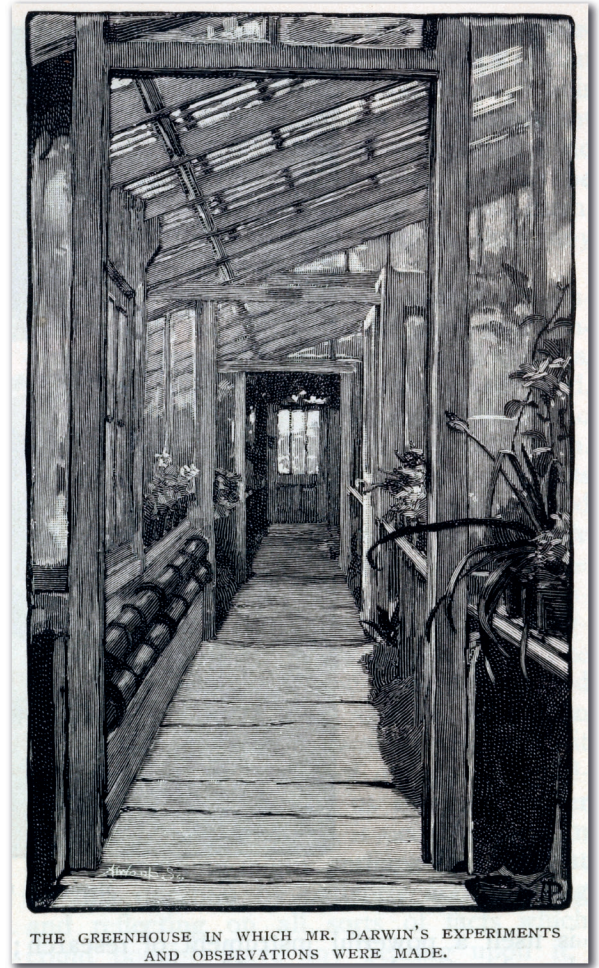


# Stop: 2



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# Stop: 2



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# Stop: 2



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# Stop: 2

# The Wedgwood and Darwin Families





## Stop: 2

### 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.



# Stop: 2

## LETTER 456

From John Stephens Henslow

To Charles Darwin

16 December 1838

Transcribed extracts

[www.darwinproject.ac.uk/entry-456](http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/entry-456)



Cambridge  
16 Decr 1838

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

# Stop: 2

## LETTER 456

From John Stephens Henslow

To Charles Darwin

16 December 1838

Pages 1 & 3 of original letter (reduced in size)

[www.darwinproject.ac.uk/entry-456](http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/entry-456)



DAR 254.166

Cambridge 16 Dec. 1838

My dear Darwin,

This day 15 yrs ago I entered on that state which, in regard to my pericardium & health that, you are about to enter - I have been scrupulous in not telling you so sooner, but I am sure you will not think me unmindful of your happiness from having added one more specimen of my carelessness to the many you have witnessed before - All I can wish you is, that you may experience as great content in the marriage state - as I have done myself - & all

piece of mine knows advice I shall be taken from us in a moment. This reflection annoys us & our happiness from being as earthly happiness can be - I wish you may experience as great content in the marriage state - as I have done myself - & all

Remembrance - 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 year? I am anxious to know & bid me with you -  
Yours affly  
J. S. Henslow

# Stop: 2

## LETTER 1012

From Charles Darwin

To Joseph Hooker

[26 October 1846]

Transcribed extracts

[www.darwinproject.ac.uk/entry-1012](http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/entry-1012)



Down Farnborough Kent  
Monday Morning

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

# Stop: 2

## LETTER 1012

From Charles Darwin

To Joseph Hooker

[26 October 1846]

Pages 1 & 4 of original letter (reduced in size)

[www.darwinproject.ac.uk/entry-1012](http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/entry-1012)



Down Farnborough Kent .68  
Muddy morning

My dear Hooker

Your drawing is quite beautiful; I cannot thank you enough, & I feel, as I before said guiltily - your goodnature is as wonderful as mesmerism. - I have been reading heaps of papers on Cinipedia, & your drawing is dearer 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 most wonderful instrument. How different would the drawing have been, if I had employed an artist! not to mention the invaluable assistance of my having my loose observations enforced, & the several points ascertained of you - I shall of course state this in the beginning of my paper, & when I have not seen the thing, give

bin-shaped, & twice as long as in the last <sup>(see fig. 21)</sup> previous state, the two projections: I send of your two figures, for the I see I state the two shaped organs in fig 21. are longer than in fig 20. knowledge enough to describe the limbs in this larva; divided better any one has, for its to various very distinct families. less, with very many thanks, & with ditto for being written to Alice - My lens has been altered (for 3.5. only!) & a great comfort it is. You really are the most goodnatured man I ever knew, - too goodnatured for so true a zealot to your own science, - and I thank you cordially - Ever yours  
My dear Hooker, C. Darwin

## 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 —

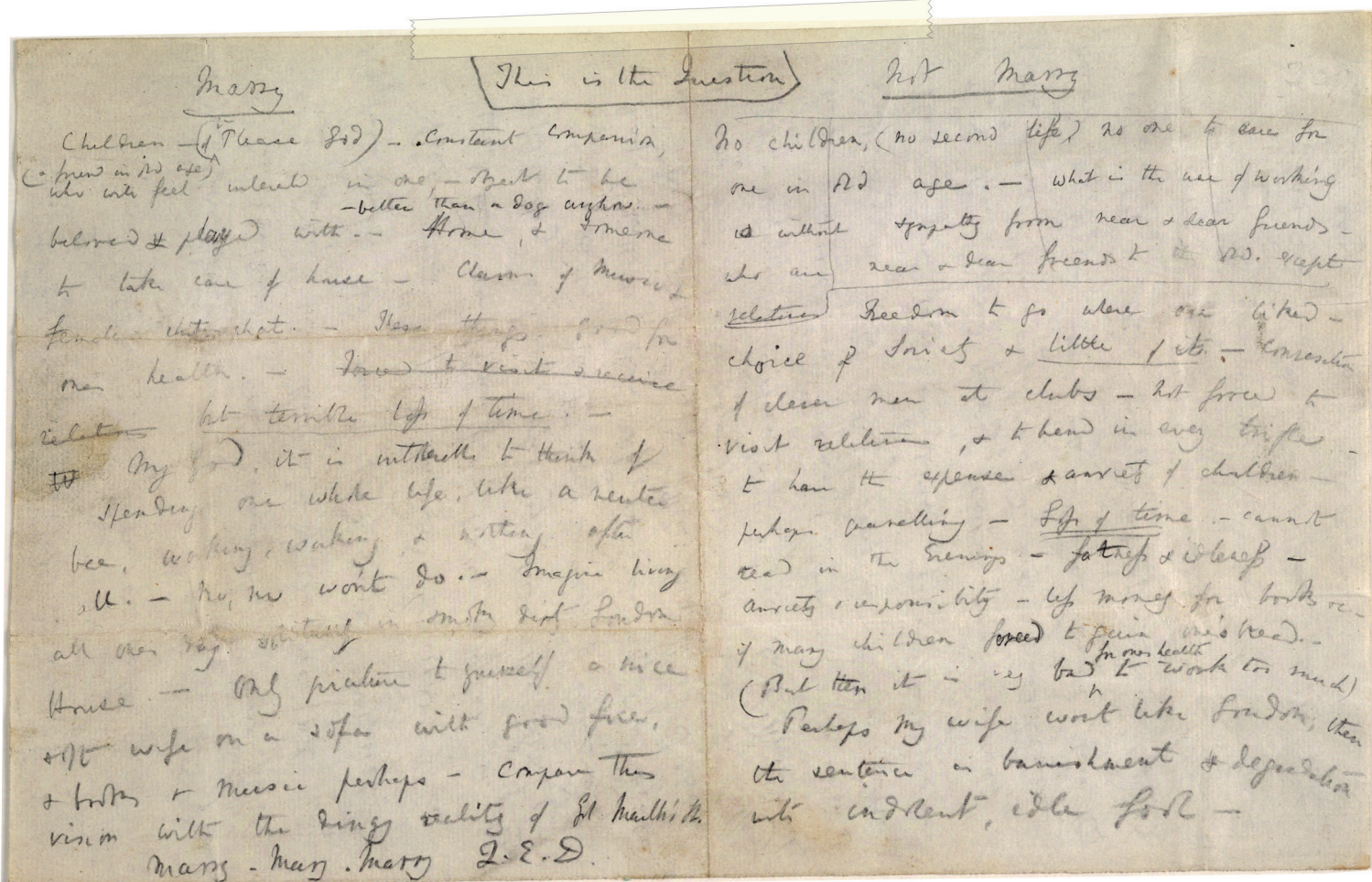
Not forced to visit relatives, & to bend in every trifle. — to have the expense & anxiety of children — perhaps quarelling —

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 wont like London; then the sentence is banishment & degradation into indolent, idle fool —

Image of original

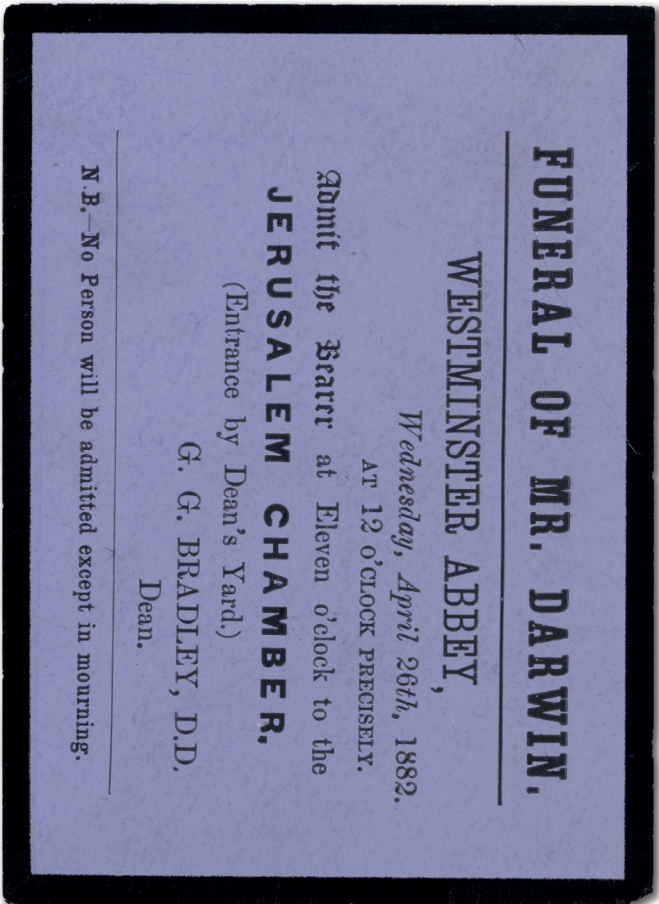


Stop: 3



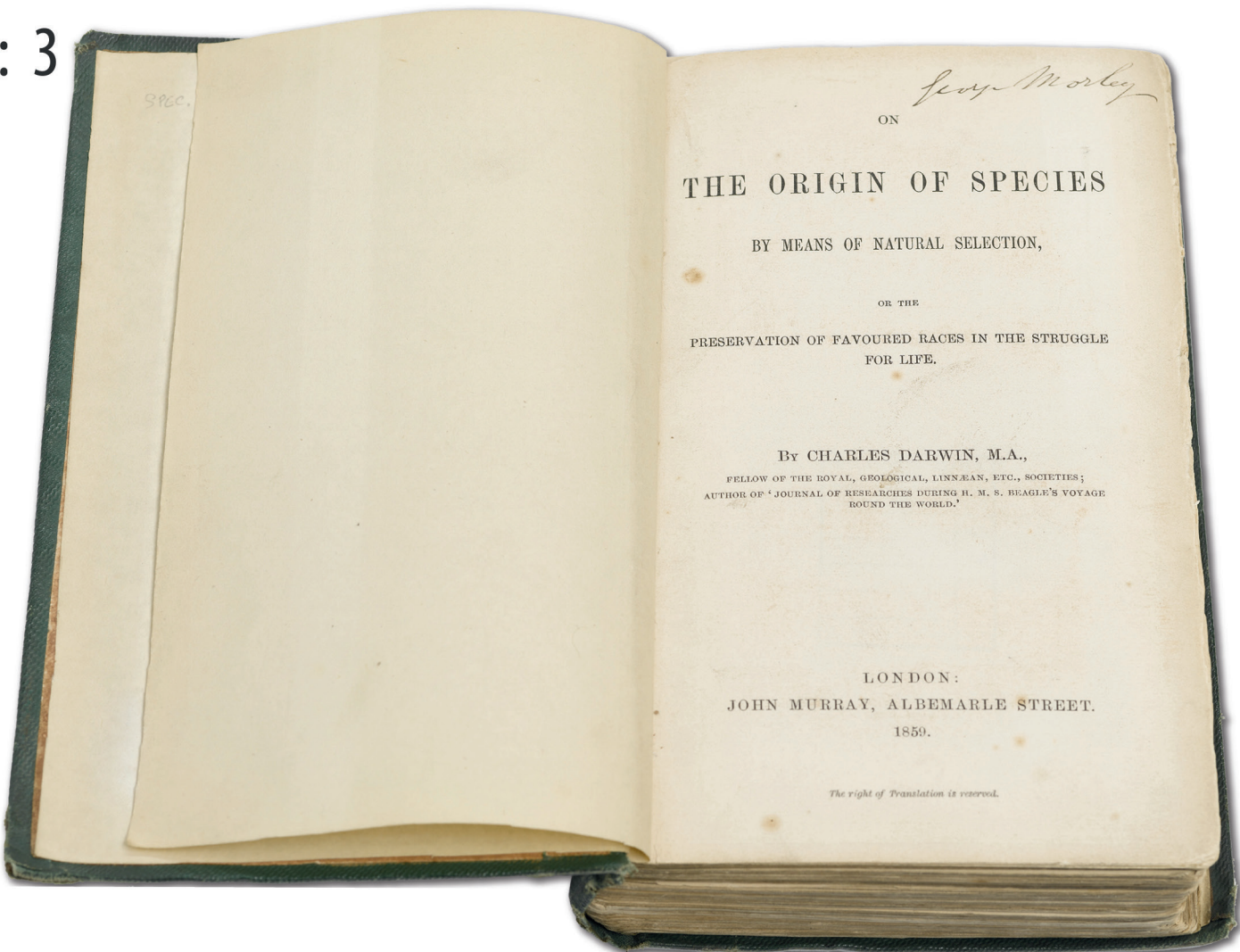
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Stop: 3



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Stop: 3



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# Stop: 3

## LETTER 4555

From Ernst Haeckel

To Charles Darwin

9 July, 1864

Translated and Transcribed extracts

<http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/entry-4555>



Jena (Saxony & Weimar)

9 July 1864

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



# Stop: 3

LETTER 4555

From Ernst Haeckel

To Charles Darwin

9 July, 1864

Pages 1 & 8 of original letter, in German

(reduced in size)

<http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/entry-4555>



Haeckel

35  
Jena G.  
(Pachsen-Weimar)

Hochachtung geehrter Herr

Von einer längeren geologischen Reise  
Mittelmeer zurückgekehrt, fand ich  
schon vor mehreren Monaten abge-  
nommen, da mir eine außerordentlich  
bereitet hat. Derselbe gibt mir  
Gelegenheit, Ihnen, theuren Herr,  
persönlich die vorzüglichste Verrechnung  
außerordentliche Hochachtung zu besetzen  
die ich für den Entdecken der „Struggle  
Life“ und der „Natural selection“ hege. Von  
allen Büchern, die ich jemals gelesen habe,  
hat kein einziges auch nur annähernd einen so  
mächtigen und nachhaltigen Eindruck in mir  
hervorgebracht, als Ihre Theorie über die  
Entstehung der Arten. Im diesem Buche fand  
ich mit einem Male die harmonische Lösung  
aller der fundamentalen Probleme, nach deren  
Erklärung ich beständig gestrebt hatte, seit-  
dem ich die Natur in ihrem wahren Wesen kennen  
gelernt hatte. Seitdem hat mich Ihre  
Theorie — ich darf dies ohne Übertreibung  
sagen — täglich auf der angelegentlichste  
beschäftigt, und wo ich mein Auge in das  
Leben der Menschen, Thiere und Pflanzen

Haeckel

Verzeihen Sie, hochverehrter  
Herr, wenn ich Ihre kostbare Zeit  
mit diesem langen Brief schon allzu sehr  
in Anspruch genommen habe. Allein  
war mir das lebhafteste Bedürfnis  
es derjenige einmal auszusprechen, was  
mich täglich auf der Vielfachste bewegt  
bei allen meinen Arbeiten durchdringt.  
Wess das Herz voll ist, des fließt  
der Mund über“.

Meine hiesigen Freunde und  
Kollegen, der vergleichende Linguist  
Gust Schleicher, und der vergleichende  
Anatom Carl Gegenbaur, mit denen  
sehr häufig von Ihnen spreche,  
die meine feste Überzeugung von der  
Wahrheit Ihrer Lehne theilen,  
wünschen Sie ihrer vorzüglichsten Hochachtung  
zu teil, theurer Herr, hoffe, dass Ihre  
Unruhe sich beruht und Ihnen noch  
lange gestattet, den guten Kampf für die  
Wahrheit und gegen der menschliche Vorurtheil  
zu kämpfen. Bleibe ich mit den vollkommene  
Vernehrung Ihr ganz ergebener Ernst Haeckel

# Stop: 3

Extracts (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 hastening 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 realize the momentous results that followed...

His personal influence on young scientific men with difficulty be calculated; his simple readiness to listen and suggest and help has won on 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 greatly surprised that 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...

CHARLES ROBERT DARWIN.

Exactly a year to a day has separated the death of one of the most powerful men of this century care for the task will find some very curious analogies between the progress and the ultimate result as were the spheres in which they exercised their remarkable powers. On April 19, 1831, all the civilized world held its breath at the news of the death of Lord Bunsfield; not less must be the effect upon the most civilized of the civilized world when the announcement of the death of Charles Darwin flashes over the face of that earth whose secrets he has done more than any other to reveal.

Mr. Darwin knew that, massive as the simplest habits that he was able to maintain a moderate amount of health and strength. Mr. Darwin had been endeavoring for some time past to do a slight amount of experimental work up to the last. He was taken ill on the night of Tuesday last, when he had an attack of pain in the chest with faintness and nausea. The latter lasted with more or less intermission during Wednesday and culminated in his death, which took place at about 4 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon. He himself fully conscious to within a quarter of an hour of his death. His wife and several of his children were present at the closing scene. During his illness he had been attended by Dr. Norman Moore, Dr. Andrew Cleck, Dr. Menon, and Dr. Alfred, St. Mary Cray, Mr. Davis, and Dr. Besides his widow a family of five sons and two daughters. It has not yet been decided when his remains will be interred, but it is probable that he will lie in the quiet chancel of the village of Down, near which place Mr. Darwin spent the last forty years of his life.

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 hastening but rarely resting, the result seems marvellous. How wonderful as this is under the circumstances, it is not more quantity that Mr. Darwin's work will be judged, but the chief importance in respect of the multifarious channels through which his influence has spread.

On the great principles of heredity, on which he himself was the prophet and expounder, Mr. Darwin could not help being a remarkable man. Through his father assisted in the place of Darwin, one of the most remarkable and original men of his age, and through his mother from Joseph Wedgwood, a man in his own line of scarcely less originality. Mr. Darwin was born in Down, in the neighbourhood of the great Manchester works, in the year 1766, and was educated at the boarding school of Dr. Butler, afterwards Bishop of Lichfield. In 1825, he went to Edinburgh University, there following the example of his grandfather, where he spent two sessions. Here he met the great naturalist and marine zoologist, and at the close of 1826 read before the Pinna Society of the University two short papers, probably his first public appearances in the world. From Edinburgh Mr. Darwin went to Christ's College, Cambridge, where he took his B.A. degree in 1828, proceeding to M.A. in 1830. The interval was spent in the most important of his life. We believe that Darwin, like Murray, was a keen fox-hunter in his youth, and that it was in the woods that the great habits of observation were first awakened. In the autumn of 1831, Captain Fitzroy having offered to give up part of his own vessel to Mr. Darwin, who would accompany Her Majesty's ship Beagle in surveying voyage round the world, Mr. Darwin volunteered his services with the condition that he should have entire disposal of his collections, all of which he ultimately deposited in the British Museum.

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 is 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 realize the momentous results that followed.

How interesting "Naturalist's Voyage Round the World," a volume which has subsequently done all that Mr. Darwin's works have done in natural science. Simplicity and free dealing characteristics of all Mr. Darwin's best known and most influential works; and in this volume on the Voyage of the Beagle there is scarcely a page that will not interest and nearly intelligent man, and many pages that must claim the attention of the mere reader of stories of adventure. Full incident in it, especially during the author's long sojourn in South America and in the vicinity of Magellan's Straits. Mr. Darwin's phenomenal genius as a scientific observer is seen throughout—when watching the method of catching and taming the horses of the Pampas, when investigating the structure of the coral reefs of the Pacific; when his first edition was published early in 1845, and the second was dedicated to Sir Charles Lyell, who, with his usual sagacity, early perceived the remarkable originality of the young naturalist, and to whom the letter was indebted for much wise counsel and help. It is evident from the recently published Life and Letters of the author, that that was not the only immediate result of this great voyage; under the superintendence of Mr. Darwin, and with abundant residence and attention by him, the Zoology of the expedition was published before the narrative, in 1845, with Professor Owen, its 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 greatly surprised that 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.

grandson, which have revolutionized research and the inherited germ was doubtless rapidly and fully developed during the splendid opportunities presented by the voyage of the Beagle. Throughout all his subsequent life the influence of that voyage is apparent, and continued reference to those to the stores of observation laid up during that eventful life was totally unobscured. Three years after his return, in the beginning of 1839, he married his cousin, Emma Wedgwood, and in 1842 he took up his residence at Down, in 1842 Kent, of which county he was a magistrate. There he has lived since, and there on Wednesday he died. It is known that he had sent Darwin never quite recovered from the evil effects of his long voyage. He himself tells us that during the voyage he was afflicted with a peculiar ailment, an ailment which no constitution could altogether withstand. As we have said, it was the carefulness that Mr. Darwin was able to keep himself in moderate health and working order. His habits were those of a childlike simplicity, his bearing of the most unassuming modesty, and his modesty and evident unconsciousness of his own greatness almost phenomenal. In 1859, he published his most important work, "The Origin of Species by means of Natural Selection." It was not only in physical and natural history that Darwin's influence was felt, but in the publication of his works, and the manner in which the manuscripts were hurried at the hand of the simple-minded observer, and the prophetic of only a few years ago. The most important of these works were "The Origin of Species by means of Natural Selection," "The Descent of Man," and "The Variation of Animals and Plants under Domestication." No one, we are sure, would be surprised that 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.

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