

# Detecting Darwin

## Activity 5: Remembering Darwin

<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

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Detecting Darwin Activity 2: Piecing things together

### How long will activity take?

- 45 mins

### What do I need?

- Paper and pens
- The Times obituary extracts for reference
- Examples of other memorials

## Create a memorial for Darwin.

### What do I do?

1. As a class discuss why we have memorial stones and statues. Why are they in public places? Are they just about famous people or events too? Are they important?
2. Imagine you have to design a memorial for Darwin – what would it look like?
3. Write the words to go with it. Think carefully, you only have 50 words to describe his life and work.



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 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...

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. Through-out 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 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 Kent, of which county he was a magistrate. There he has lived since, and there on Wednesday he died. It is known to us that Darwin never quavered from the evil effects of his long voyage. He himself tells us that during nearly thirty years he had no ailment, and that an affliction which no constitution could altogether withstand. As we have said, it is 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 sending a letter or a note to a friend, he asked for its insertion with a doubtful hesitancy.

His personal influence on the scientific world was not less extensive; his simple readiness to listen and suggest and help has won the gratitude of many an aspiring observer. Since he took up his residence 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."

It is not only in physical and natural history that Darwin's influence has been so great. In the domain of human thought and methods of research in the natural sciences, his influence has been as radical as in the domain of physical and natural history. Darwin's influence has been as radical as in the domain of physical and natural history. Darwin's influence has been as radical as in the domain of physical and natural history.

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