

Little People, BIG DREAMS

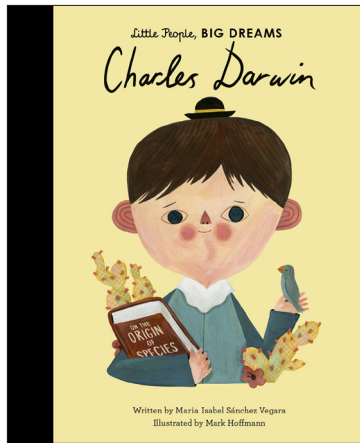
Charles Darwin



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For readers aged 4+ | 9780711257696 | Hardback | £9.99

The activities and discussion topics in these teacher's notes are deliberately left open to encourage pupils to develop independent thinking around the book. This will help pupils build confidence in their ability to problem solve as individuals and as part of a group.



The Front Cover

Is there anything on the front cover that gives you a clue to what Charles Darwin's Big Dream was?

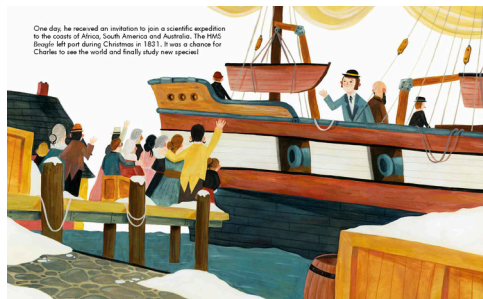
Do you know anything about Charles Darwin?

The Beginning

What does the first page suggest about young Charles Darwin? What does the author tell us about the Darwin family? What do you think it means to be 'questioning'? Where are the examples at the start of the book of Charles being 'questioning'? Can you think of an example in your life when you have questioned something? Do you know what it means to 'think outside the box'?

Charles Growing Up

Why did Charles not stick to studying medicine at university?



Page 7.

How do you think that Charles felt about leaving England? What year was it? Think about and discuss in a group or with a partner, what were some advantages and disadvantages for someone leaving home and going on such an expedition? How long do you think his expedition to these countries would last? Later in the book you will find this out.



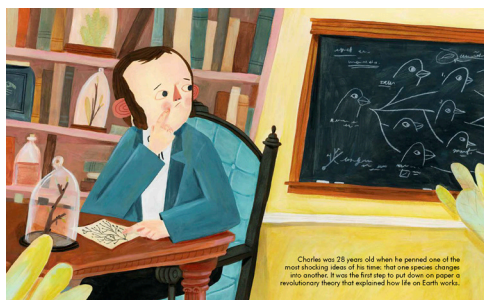
Page 8.

When Charles was in Brazil, he found the remains of an animal that had lived thousands of years before he found it. On black paper and with white chalk can you do a drawing of this animal making sure that you have all its bones in the right place. These drawings can be used as a classroom display.



Page 9.

What can you find out about birds how some birds have straight beaks and some birds have curved beaks? Charles recorded what he found by doing drawings and sketches – why do you think he did this? Can you go outside, find a plant, animal, or insect, and make a sketch? Add some notes to your sketch to tell you specific details about the species that you have found.



Page 11.

What did Charles discover when he was 28 years old?



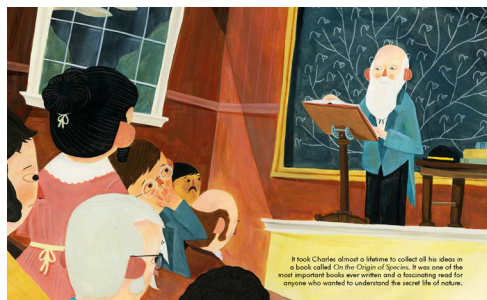
Page 12.

Are you able to explain what is happening in the picture on page 12? Darwin was able to tell us how animals have adapted to their environment to survive. He explains that both animals and plants can evolve (change and develop) through 'natural selection'



Page 13.

The book shows us that every living thing is connected in a family tree that goes back billions of years. Can you make a simple family tree showing where you come from?



Page 13.

Why do you think that the author tells us that 'On the Origin of Species' is one of the most important books ever written? Write a list of questions that you would ask Charles Darwin if he was sitting on a chair in your classroom today? You could use the illustration on page 12 and your questions for a display.



Page 15.

There are some quite complicated things to explain in this book that will really improve your knowledge. Make sure you understand the following words:

- Science
- Natural selection
- Evolution
- Species
- Fossil
- Theory

Can you explain each word to a partner?



Using the timeline at the back of the book, and reflecting on what you have learned, write a fact sheet on Charles Darwin that spans 1816 -1838.