

# A Man of Influence

## Who is this boy?

From an early age he loved biology. Born in Shrewsbury, England in 1809 he was not enormously **wealthy** and he didn't have famous parents or connections with nobility. The last book he published in 1882 was about the underground life of **earthworms**. You won't see it on Amazon's Best Seller list but this book has influenced gardening experts profoundly!



**wealthy** = benestante  
**earthworms** = lombrichi  
**buried** = sepolti  
**tombs** = tombe  
**citizens** = cittadini  
**achievement** = raggiungimento  
**dropped out** = ha mollato tutto  
**voyage** = viaggio per mare

glossary

## He is buried here

Westminster Abbey, in the heart of London, is the church where the Kings and Queens of England have been married and **buried** for hundreds of years. The **tombs** here are reserved only for the greatest **citizens** in Britain.



At the end of his life, this man thought that his greatest **achievement** was having influenced the minds of 'able men' or, 'very intelligent' people.

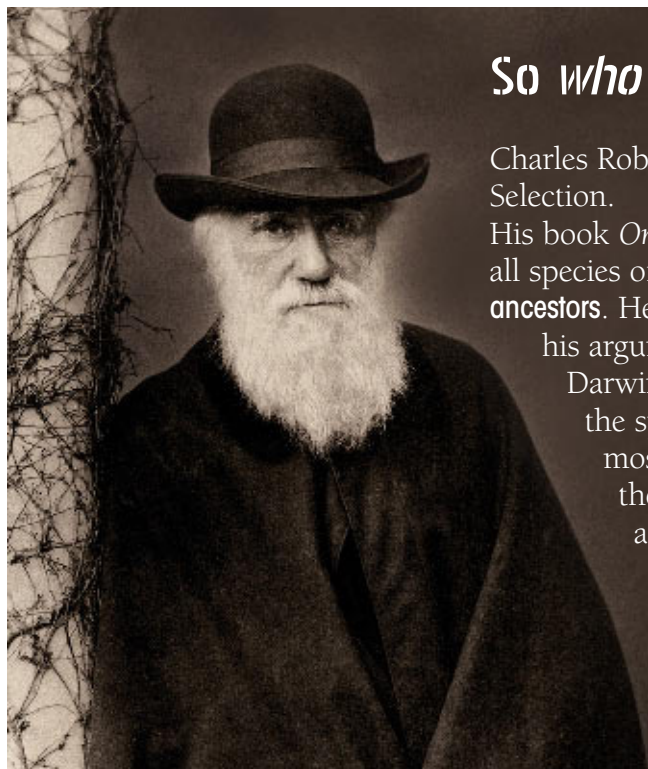
In his younger life, he was a bit of a hippy! He '**dropped out**' when he abandoned his career in medicine and agreed to sail around the world with his friend Robert Fitzroy, who was the ship's doctor on a ship called 'The Beagle'. His five-year **voyage** changed his life, and ours, forever.



1 Read the information on both pages, then the statements and mark them true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Charles Darwin loved chemistry.
- 2 He trained as a doctor.
- 3 He went around the world with Robert Fitzroy.
- 4 He wrote a book about gardening.
- 5 He was buried in London.
- 6 He believed humans weren't descended from monkeys.

T F  
 T F  
 T F  
 T F  
 T F  
 T F



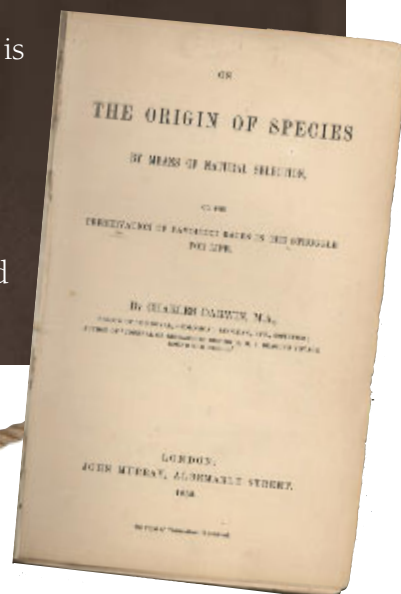
## So *who* was he?

Charles Robert Darwin, was the author of the theory of Natural Selection.

His book *On the Origin of Species*, published in 1859 **argues** that all species of life have evolved over time from common **ancestors**. He **set** the scientific and theological world **on fire** with his argument that humans are descended from monkeys.

Darwin said "It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is the most adaptable to change."

His theory caused a lot of controversy among Christians, who believed that God created the World and all the life in it.



**argues** = discute  
**ancestors** = antenati  
**set on fire** = sconvolse

glossary



### English Humour

A horse walked into a bar looking a bit sad.  
The barman said "Why the long face?"



### 2 Put these events from Darwin's life in the correct order.

- ☐ He went on a five-year voyage.
- ☐ He was buried in Westminster Abbey.
- ☐ He abandoned his career in medicine.
- ☐ He published 'On the Origin of Species'.
- ☐ He was born in Shrewsbury.



### 3 Listen to the radio journalist talking about the film 'Creation', released in 2009 to celebrate the bi-centenary of Darwin's birth. Listen again and complete the text with the missing words.

partner - crew - historic - 16 - Emma - project - theory - bi-centenary - middle-aged

"We're here today in the ..... town of Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, on the set of a new film. It's a huge ..... with 130 film ..... and 30 actors costing a total of \$ ..... million. 'Creation' tells the story of the man who invented the ..... of Evolution, Charles Darwin. Paul Bettany plays the ..... Darwin, opposite his real-life ....., Jennifer Connelly, who plays the role of his wife, ....., in the film. The film will be launched in 2009 in time for the ..... to celebrate Darwin's birth 200 years ago."



### 4 Work in pairs. Choose one of the famous scientists below and find out the most important events in his/her life. Tell them to your partner. Can he/she guess who it is?

Isaac Newton - Archimedes - Galileo - Guglielmo Marconi - Albert Einstein - Marie Curie