



Dear Parents/Carers,

Ship ahoy! We're off on an exciting expedition with Charles Darwin and his crew on HMS Beagle. Can you trace his route across the vast ocean? Stop at the magical Galapagos Islands to see the amazing species that helped Darwin develop his theory of evolution by natural selection. Do you know what's so special about a lava lizard? Or why the blue-footed booby has blue feet?

See how animals adapt to their environment over time and meet some of the world's greatest explorers and naturalists!

Imagine how humans will evolve in millions of years'. It's a scary thought! Ready to trace the origin of species? Let's set sail!

- **Reading books** should be brought into school **every day**. Your child should be reading one book per week. Once they have read their book the children complete a short comprehension check. The short test allows us to monitor your child's level of understanding. Please ensure your child reads **every day for 10 minutes** - it is a key skill for learning and for life.
- PE sessions will remain the same for this half term – Monday and Thursday. Please ensure your child attends school in their PE kits on these days. **Children are not allowed to wear jewellery at school.**
- Homework books are handed in on Thursday and the new homework is sent home on Friday.

English

Newspaper Reports

These lessons will allow the children to focus on the features and structure of a newspaper report. They will then write a report based on a recent issue concerning nature or environmental matters.

Journals

The children will spend time investigating how Charles Darwin wrote his journals. Then they will be asked to create a scientific journal about an animal and how it has evolved. They will use an informal writing style for this piece of work.

Explanations

The explanations will be based on Darwin's book 'On the Origin of Species'. They will draft and then write an explanation about the theory of natural selection. The focus will be on grammatical features.

Flashbacks

The children will spend time researching Darwin's journey on board HMS Beagle. They will then plan and write a flashback in role as Darwin from an experience on this journey.

Narrative

We will link our narrative to our novel this half term – Journey to the River Sea. The children will be writing a setting description based on the rainforest.

Biography of Darwin

The children will be looking at extracts from different biographies of Charles Darwin and will be writing their own 'mini biographies' about him and his life.

Maths

Arithmetic

Solve mental calculations which involve multiple operations.

- Long Division
- Geometry – properties of shape, angles and position and direction.

- Fractions

- Geometry and statistics

Computing

Web Design

The children will be learning how to create a webpage about Charles Darwin.

Science	Evolution and Inheritance	The children will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describing and identifying how animals and plants adapt to suit their environment in different ways. Darwin's theory of evolution.
RE	Is it better to express your religion through art or charity?	This investigation enables pupils to learn in depth from two different religions about why their holy buildings and works of art matter to them as expressions of devotion to God and worship, and about how they practice generosity and charity.
Geography	Using Maps / Islands of the World	Using atlases and investigating islands around the world especially the Galapagos Islands.
PE	Football Dodgeball	Outdoor PE session Indoor PE
History	Significant People – Charles Darwin	Investigate the life of Charles Darwin.
Art	Creating sketchbooks and observational drawing	To learn how to make a sketchbook. To use cross hatching and other sketching techniques.

Things that you could do at home:

Look at photos of the different archipelago islands that Charles Darwin visited. Design and draw your own archipelago island.

Make a fact file of different fossils and, if possible, with an adult, visit a local museum that has fossils on display.

Create a true or false quiz about Charles Darwin and his scientific expedition on HMS Beagle.

Explain how animals such as polar bears, monkeys and sharks have evolved to suit their environment. Design a new fantastical creature that has evolved to suit its unique environment.

If you live near London, you could visit the Darwin Centre at the Natural History Museum. If not, you can learn more about Charles Darwin and his work on the Natural History Museum website.

Create your own Darwin's Delight word search using words you have learnt during the project. Challenge a grown up to solve your puzzle!

Research the ship, HMS Beagle, and make a fact-filled poster to display the information you find.

Here are a few websites that may help to support your child's learning during this half term.

Maths

<https://app.century.tech/login>

Use your login details for Century Maths and try to complete all the nuggets.

<https://trockstars.com/login>

English

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/>

Reading, Writing and Grammar

<https://app.century.tech/login>

Access the new reading and grammar courses on the Century Tech website.

Science

<https://app.century.tech/login>

Access the new science course on the Century Tech website.

Miss Gackowska, Mrs Ellis, Mrs Hickinbottom, Mrs Batson, Mrs Brown and Mrs Porter
Year 6 Team