

D

DARWIN



Of course, there is far more to say in praise of Darwin than we can begin to deal with in three minutes, but what do you think was his greatest achievement?

What's it all about? Darwin's theory of evolution
 The theory of evolution which Charles Darwin developed during his voyage on the Beagle, argues that all living creatures have evolved through processes he called 'Natural Selection' and when he eventually published this idea in his famous and brilliant biology book 'On The Origin of Species', many people took it as an attack on the biblical creation story: 'In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth in 6 days and rested on the seventh day.'
 The convulsions of Victorian Christianity caused by the spreading influence of evolutionary ideas included some who condemned Darwin, and other Christians who supported him.
 Science and religion are usually intertwined: Islamic science, Catholic support for science and many scientists today who follow a religion show that these are not two wholly incompatible worldviews. But at the same time, some people like the Creationist Christians, more prominent in the USA than the UK, still consider that accepting religion means rejecting evolution.

Which religions and beliefs?

- Christianity
- Atheism
- Islam

Key Questions

- Why was Charles Darwin such a controversial Victorian?
- If you believe in God, does that mean you have to take Genesis 1 – 3 literally?
- Why might more American Christians be creationists than British Christians?
- Can you find out more about key Islamic scientific discoveries?
- Does belief in God or confidence in science help humanity most when it comes to understanding where we come from?

Clip available here:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-education-ks3-a-z-of-religion-and-beliefs-d-is-for-darwin-charles-theory-evolution/zmqdmfr>

Classroom or homework task:

Take a landscape piece of A4 paper and write down the left-hand side 'Atheistic Darwinian Ideas about the Earth' Down the other side write 'Belief in an intelligent designer of the Earth.' Cut up or copy these quotations, arranging them on the page in the right sequence.

Natural Selection can completely explain why humans exist	The processes of how humans developed are described better by evolution than by Genesis 1-3	God is at work through human evolution.
God is the 'Great Evolver'	Genesis 1-3 is the truth. God did make the world in 6 days. Evolution is wrong.	The stories of Genesis are not science – they serve a different purpose
Nobody needs religion to explain how humanity developed. Science does it better.	Darwin is a hero to all rationalists because he followed the evidence.	Christians in the UK mostly believe in evolution and thank God for it.

Write a paragraph to explain your own view of Charles Darwin's contribution to human civilisation.

Suggested outcomes: students can...

- Give an informed account of the controversies associated with Darwin, religion and evolution
- Give reasons for their views about evolution and the idea of God
- Handle information and ideas effectively by arguing their case about whether belief in God should survive the Darwinian revolution.

D is for Darwin

Choose four words that describe the genius of Charles Darwin

In the section of the page below, arrange the 9 comments from the previous page in the right positions. Which come from Darwinian atheistic evolution? Which are open to the idea that God is the creator?

Atheistic Darwinian ideas about the Earth

Belief in an intelligent designer of the Earth

These are my opinions and views (with reasons) about Darwin, evolution and the beauty of the Earth.