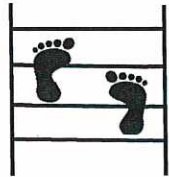


Monday 15th October 2018

LO: To write a biography

Remember to



Include only the most important information. Start with a summary of Darwin's life then continue your description in chronological order. Ensure that different sections of his life are linked effectively with conjunctions and fronted adverbials. Use the different stages of Darwin's life to create paragraphs. Write at length with sufficient detail - your writing must be extended.

Introduction

Evolution is the complicated process where all living things changed gradually from a single-cell organism to a multi-cell organism over millions of years. The much admired Victorian scientist, Charles Darwin, invented the theory of evolution. He invented this theory when studying the Galapagos Islands in the 1830's.

Early Life

Charles Darwin was born in Shrewsbury, England on the 12th February 1809 at The Mount - his home. He had a wealthy family and he was the fifth child of six, who were: Marianna, Caroline, Susan, Erasmus, Charles and Catherine. His mum, Susannah Wedgwood, died when he was only eight years old! His elder brother (Erasmus) was his best friend and his father - Robert Darwin - was a well-known doctor. Charles Darwin set up a lab in his garden shed! Darwin liked collecting insects, stones and plants. He ^{also} liked going for walks, bird watching and ^{gathering} collecting beetles. He loved nature but he hated school. His nickname at school was 'Gas' because of all the smelly experiments he did.

Education

In his spare time, Darwin built up a substantial beetle collection which included some very rare species.

However, his father was a doctor, and, quite understandably, wanted him to study medicine as well so he sent him to Edinburgh to study ~~but~~ Charles ^{had hemophobia} ^(fear of blood) was ^{scared} (afraid of blood) so he spent more time studying sponges. His dad suggested he became a priest so Charles went to Cambridge University, but he didn't like it either. He had doubts over his faith and wasn't committed to his degree but he realised his passion for geology ^(rocks) and botany ^(plants). At Cambridge, he met Professor Henslow and Professor Sedgwick who took him under their wing to study nature scientifically and his final exams ranked him tenth out of one hundred and seventy eight people! He was famous for his work on natural selection and idea of evolution.

Voyage

In 1831 - aged 22 - Henslow offered Darwin a five year voyage on HMS Beagle (responsible for mapping coastlines). Darwin wanted to collect evidence and carry out a detailed research. Darwin was stunned by how small the vessel was. It had a library and they had to sleep in hammocks. Darwin was often sea sick ~~and~~ but found amazing fossils of ten foot tall sloths and huge crow-sized armadillos, which provided an idea that life on Earth was very old. On the Galapagos Islands he found strange animals, that live nowhere else on Earth, with huge varieties of species. On his voyage he visited: Brazil, Chile, Australia, Falkland Islands and The Galapagos Islands (where he spent most of his time). He returned to Cambridge on the second October 1836 to examine specimens. In 1859 he wrote a book called 'On the Origin of Species' which explained his findings. It made him famous and he ^{won} ~~got~~ lots of awards and prizes.