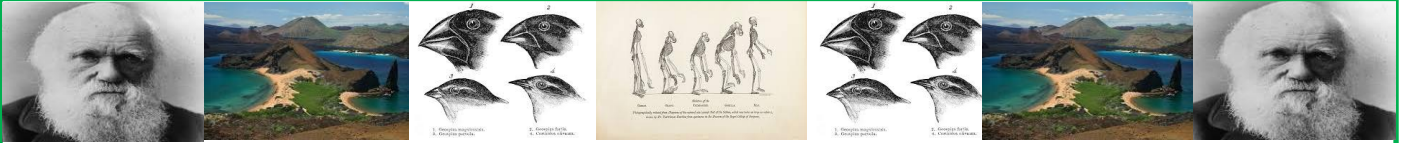


Creative Home Learning Ideas

Darwin's Delights



To start us off this year, we are going to explore the work and theories of Charles Darwin. The topic will cover the Year 6 science curriculum objectives on 'evolution and inheritance', as well as touching upon some of the objectives on 'living things' and developing the children's ability to work scientifically. The topic also has significant historical, geographical and artistic learning opportunities as well as linking nicely with our first English text of the year – *Kensuke's Kingdom* by Michael Morpurgo. We look forward to sharing our learning with you at our end of topic showcase event – to be shared virtually with you during the final week of the half-term.

Below are some ideas for home learning based around our new topic. Please read the ideas with your child and let them choose which activities they would like to complete at home with you or on their own over the coming weeks. We would like the children to complete one or more of the activities. The work should be handed in on, or in the weeks before, **Friday 16th October**.

- Look at photos of the different archipelago islands that Charles Darwin visited. Design and draw your own archipelago island.
- Make a fact file about different fossil types and, if possible, accompany an adult on a visit to a local museum that has fossils on display.
- Create a true or false quiz about Charles Darwin and his scientific expedition on HMS Beagle. Learn more about Charles Darwin and his work using the Natural History Museum website.
- Explain how animals such as polar bears, monkeys and sharks have evolved to suit their environment. Create a display poster with pictures and fact boxes.
- Research HMS Beagle and make a fact-filled poster to display the information you find about the ship.
- Find out more about other famous scientists who had an interest in evolution and inheritance, such as Alfred Wallace or Mary Anning.
- Imagine you are the young scientist, Charles Darwin, out on his scientific expedition on HMS Beagle. Write an extract from his journal that describes part of the journey. It could be the start of the voyage, arriving at one of the islands, or discovering different animal species.
- What can you discover about Lonesome George, the last giant Pinta Island tortoise? Research conservation charities such as the World Wildlife Fund, to learn about current endangered species.
- Investigate which physical and personality characteristics you have inherited or acquired from your family. Can you present your family tree in a new way to show what makes you the way you are today?
- Visit the Great Plant Hunt website and be a plant detective – just like Charles Darwin!

These activities are intended to be fun and to provide inspiration to build on learning from school. Other ideas are welcome too! Please just send a message to any of the Year 6 team if you have any queries.