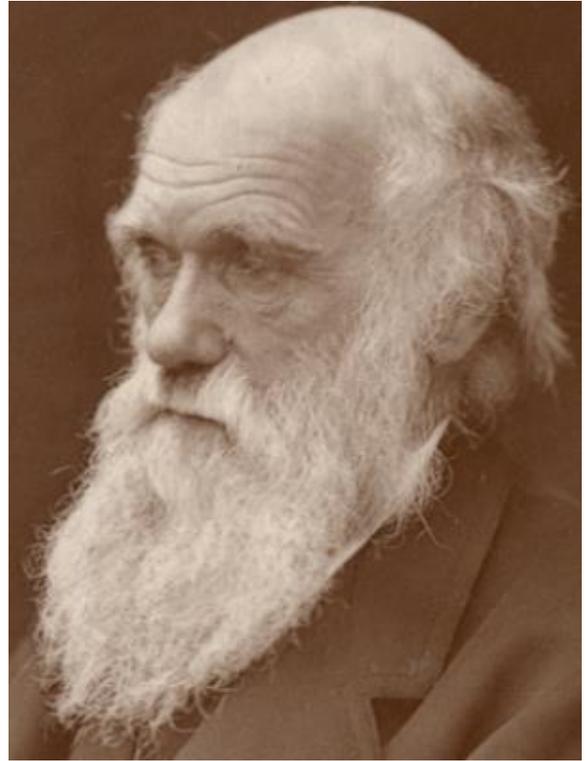
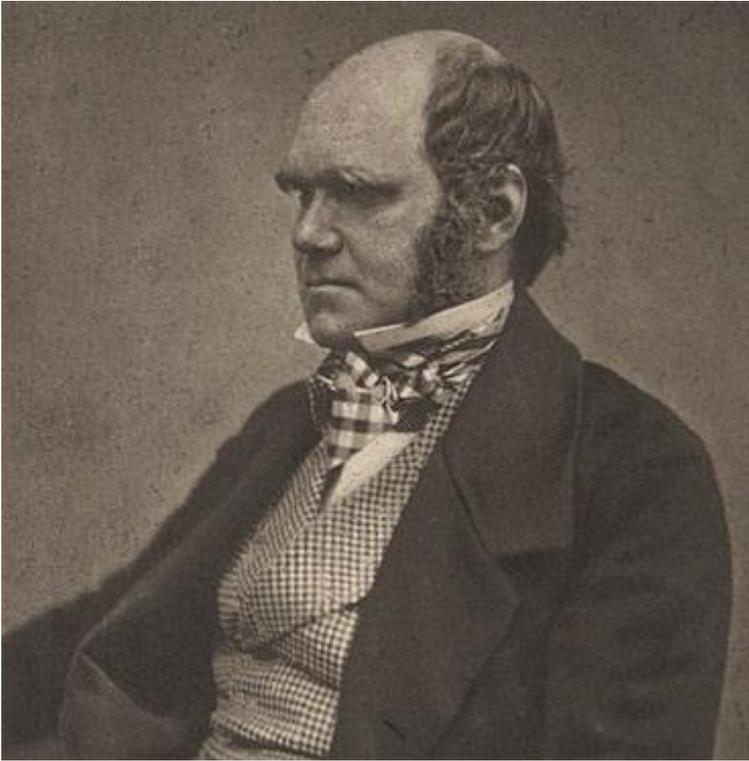


# Charles Darwin (1809 - 1882) A

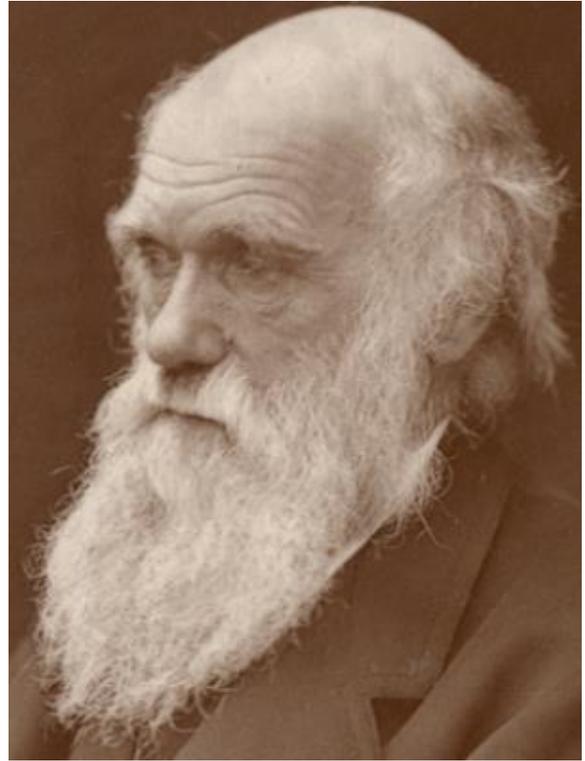
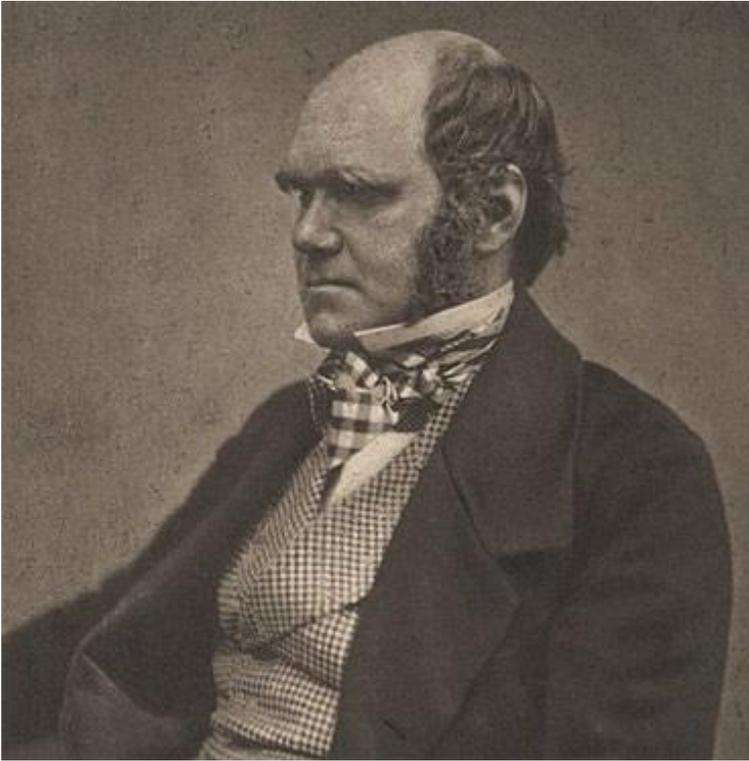


"Probably all organic beings which have ever lived on this earth have descended from some one primordial form, into which life was first breathed ... There is grandeur in this view of life ... that, whilst this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being evolved."

-- **Charles Darwin** -- *The Origin of Species*

Charles Darwin was born on February 12, 1809. Darwin's mother died when he was eight years old and he was brought up by his sister. He was taught classics at school in Shrewsbury. During this five-year expedition he obtained intimate knowledge of the fauna, flora and the geology of many lands. By 1846 he had published several works on the geological and zoological discoveries of his voyage -works that placed him at once in the front rank of scientists. Darwin then set to work to condense his vast mass of notes and put into shape his great work, *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*, published in 1859. This epoch-making work, received throughout Europe with the deepest interest, was violently attacked because it did not agree with the account of creation given in the *Book of Genesis*. Darwin died after a long illness, leaving eight children. He was buried in London.

# Charles Darwin (1809 - 1882) B

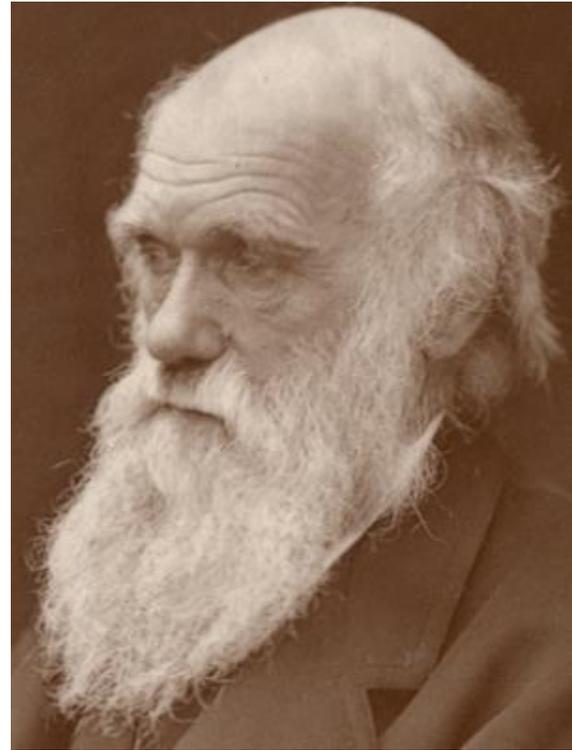
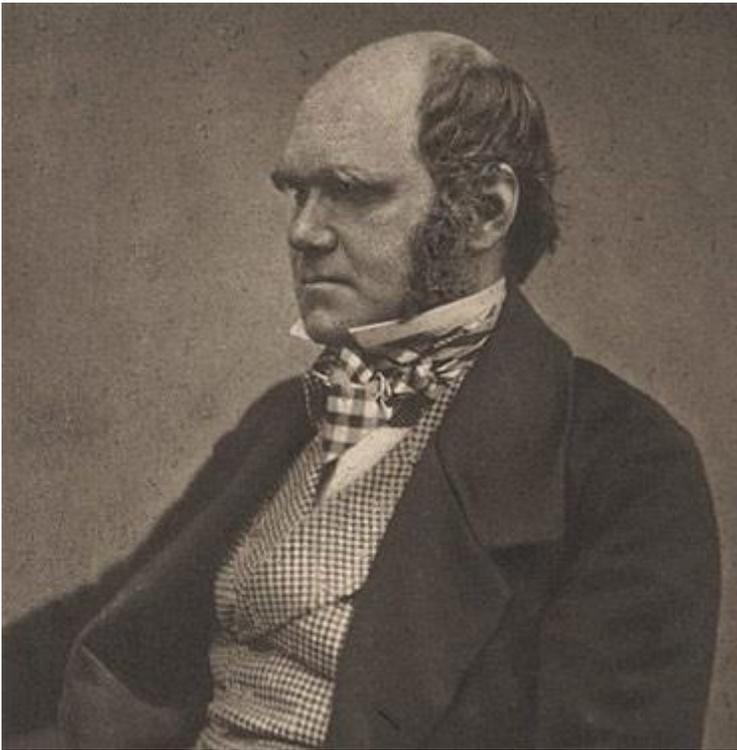


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-- **Charles Darwin** -- The Origin of Species

He was the son of a rich society doctor Robert Waring Darwin and his wife Susannah, the grandson of the scientist Erasmus Darwin and of the potter Josiah Wedgwood. He was sent to Edinburgh to study medicine, which he hated because he was scared of the sight of blood. The ship he sailed on under Captain Robert Fitzroy he visited Tenerife, the Cape Verde Islands, Brazil, Montevideo, Tierra del Fuego, Buenos Aires, Valparaiso, Chile, the Galapagos Islands, Tahiti, New Zealand and Tasmania. In 1839 married his cousin Emma Wedgwood. Private wealth enabled him to devote himself to science, in spite of continuous ill-health: it was not realised until after his death that he had suffered from Chagas' disease, which he had contracted from an insect bite while in South America. Darwin proposed a theory of evolution occurring by the process of natural selection. The animals (or plants) best suited to their environment are more likely to survive and reproduce, passing on the characteristics which helped them survive to their offspring. Gradually, the species changes over time.

# Charles Darwin (1809 - 1882) C



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-- **Charles Darwin** -- *The Origin of Species*

Charles Darwin was born in Shrewsbury, Shropshire. A final attempt at educating him was made by sending him to Christ's College, Cambridge, to study theology (1827). During that period he loved to collect plants, insects, and geological specimens, guided by his cousin William Darwin Fox, an entomologist. Darwin became a naturalist on the surveying expedition of HMS Beagle to Patagonia (1831-6). From 1842 he lived at Down House, Downe, Kent. In 1858 Alfred Russel Wallace sent him a book, which, to Darwin's surprise, contained in essence the main ideas of his own theory of natural selection. In *The Descent of Man and Selection in Relation to Sex* (1871), Darwin suggested that the human race was derived from a hairy animal belonging to the great anthropoid group and was related to the progenitors of the orang-utan, chimpanzee and gorilla. Darwin died on 19 April 1882 and was buried in Westminster Abbey.