

Darwin and His Travels Station

Overview:

Embark on a journey through time with Charles Darwin, one of the most influential figures in the history of science. At this station, you'll explore a series of six laminated sheets, each capturing a crucial element of Darwin's adventures aboard the HMS Beagle and the discoveries that led to the development of his theory of natural selection. The sheets include:

1. Darwin's Finches: Discover how finches from different islands had varied beak shapes, adapting to their unique dietary needs.
2. Routes of the Beagle: Follow the path that Darwin traveled and consider how the diverse ecosystems he observed contributed to his groundbreaking ideas.
3. Ancient Animals of Argentina: Examine the fossils of Ice Age megafauna that Darwin uncovered, considering their implications for extinction and evolution.
4. The Galapagos Islands: Learn about the distinctive wildlife and volcanic landscapes that provided key insights into species adaptation.
5. Tierra del Fuego: Reflect on Darwin's interactions with the indigenous peoples and the extreme climates of this remote region.
6. Darwin in 1854: View a portrait of Darwin at age 45 and understand how his thinking continued to evolve after his voyage.

Activity Instructions:

- Spend approximately 2-3 minutes reviewing each laminated sheet. Discuss with your team what you find most intriguing about Darwin's observations and experiences.
- Think about how each piece of evidence from Darwin's journey contributes to our understanding of natural selection and the interconnectedness of life on Earth.

Big Question:

After exploring the evidence of Darwin's travels and discoveries, reflect on what impressed you the most. Consider how Darwin's observations might still influence our understanding of the natural world today.

Reflection Prompt:

- What aspect of Darwin's journey or which discovery impressed you the most, and why?
- How do you think this piece of evidence helped shape the scientific community's understanding of evolution?

Writing Task:

Choose one element that stood out to you the most and write a detailed reflection on why it made a significant impact on you. Discuss its relevance to Darwin's overall theories and how it contributes to modern scientific thought. You can record your thoughts either in Google Classroom or on the hardcopy page provided at the station.

These instructions aim to guide the students through a thoughtful exploration of Darwin's contributions to science and encourage them to articulate their insights and reflections clearly.