

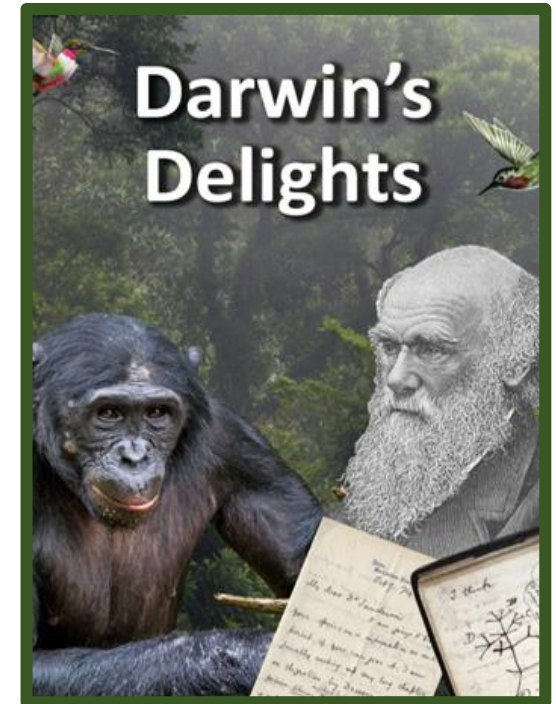
Year 6 Spring Term 1 - Parent Information

Darwin's Delights

Ship ahoy! We're off on an exciting journey with Charles Darwin and his crew on the HMS *Beagle*.

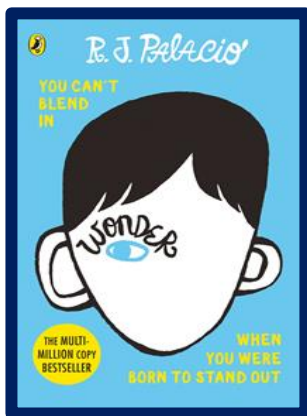
During this half term, we're going to investigate a range of animal specimens, describing the characteristics of the creatures. We'll use a range of non-fiction books to investigate adaptation, natural selection, variation and inheritance. After examining letters and journal entries written by Darwin, we'll write our own examples. We'll collect natural items and discover what plants live around our school. We'll retrace Darwin's steps using maps and create sketchbooks to record the plants, flowers and trees we encounter. Using maps and globes, we'll plan an expedition. What will the weather be like and what physical and man-made features might we encounter?

At the end of the term, we'll think about why the Galapagos Islands developed such diverse animal life, and why they might be under threat. We'll also think about what Darwin would have worked on if he were alive today. How would he use our technology?



Helping your child prepare for their project

Charles Darwin was a world-renowned naturalist, geologist and physicist, and we're going to follow in his footsteps. Why not collect samples of plant life from your garden and see if you can identify them? You could make detailed sketches of the plants you find, just like Darwin. Alternatively, visit a museum that has fossils on display. What can you learn about the animals from which they were formed?



Our Class Novel - Wonder

August (Auggie) Pullman was born with a severe facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, Auggie wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past his extraordinary face. Wonder begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include the perspectives of his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These voices converge to portray a community as it struggles with differences about the true nature of empathy, compassion, acceptance, friendship, and—ultimately—kindness. Auggie is a hero for the ages, one who proves that you can't blend in when you were born to stand out.

Curriculum Themes for this half-term	
Memorable experience	Visit to the Great North Museum, including the 'Evolution' workshop
English	Writing an alternative chapter to Wonder, Non-Chronological Reports, Formal Letters
Maths	Decimals, percentages, fractions, measurement, algebra
Science	Evolution and inheritance; Living things and their habitats; Working scientifically
A&D	Creating sketchbooks; Observational drawing linked to Darwin
Computing	Multimedia presentations
Geography	Maps; Geographical similarities and differences between places, the Galapagos Islands
History	Significant individuals – Charles Darwin, Mary Anning
PSHE	Keeping Myself Safe & Valuing Differences
RE	Ways in which people take care of the environment
French	This is me!
Music	Blues!