

CHARLES DARWIN'S COLLECTING JOURNEY ACTIVITY SHEET

This activity sheet has been designed to help you explore Darwin's collecting journey on HMS Beagle from 1832 – 1836. It can be used to guide a complete programme of activity over 2 hour long sessions, or elements used selectively as required.

You can use the search box (top left) on The Earth Museum to help you find the answers (using the words in bold as clues).



Science and Geography

1. What were the first 5 places Darwin visited on his voyage after leaving Plymouth in **1832**? Give one interesting fact for each place about Darwin's visit there.

2. Darwin was especially interested in collecting rock samples from the geology he came across on his journey, as he wanted to understand how features like mountains and river valleys were formed, and how old they were.

Find the geological specimens he collected at **Orange Bay** in Tierra del Fuego, and choose one of the rocks to draw. Look at its shape, colour and anything else you notice. (The green labels were put on by the museum in Cambridge where Darwin sent them, with the unique number he gave them when collecting them in the field).

3. Zoom out to make sure your screen is showing the whole of Tierra del Fuego, looking like the map below. Investigate some of the other pins – you will find pictures of rock samples collected from other places in this area too.



Choose 6 images of the rock samples Darwin collected. Tell us where they are from and what unique Darwin number they have. If you can, download them, and create your own mini-collection gallery, with labels.

4. From your research in Tierra del Fuego, what other types of specimen did Darwin collect here, as well as rocks?

Pick one of your favourites and tell us:

- What it is
- Where Darwin collected it from
- When he collected it
- Make a quick drawing of it

5. In 1834, the crew of HMS Beagle included an artist, Conrad Martens, who created sketches and watercolours of places and people he saw during the voyage. There were no cameras or photographs at this time, so drawing or painting a picture was the only way of sharing what you had seen on your travels with people back home.

Look for some of the places which **Martens** illustrated during his travels on the Beagle. Choose 3 images, download them if you can, and create a mini-collection gallery. Write an exhibition caption describing where they are from, what they tell us about Darwin's journey, and why you chose them.

6. Three of Darwin's companions on the HMS Beagle were el'leparu, **o'run-del'lico** and yok'cushly. Look for all references to them on the map, and piece together clues to find out who they were and why they are important in the Darwin story.

7. While Darwin was travelling in Chile he experienced a big **earthquake**, which helped him develop his ideas about how the earth works. Find out more about this experience and what he learnt from it.

8. Often when we think of Darwin and evolution, we study his work on the Galapagos Islands. However, at the time of his visit, Darwin did not realise the significance of his discoveries. Yes, he collected bird specimens, including finches, from some of the Islands, but he was probably more interested in geology at the time. It wasn't until the finches were being studied later that the significance of their different adaptations on different Islands became apparent.

Investigate the places he visited in **Galapagos**, and find out what he collected there.

9. Indigenous people are individuals and communities with a very long history of being in a place, and having distinct language, culture and beliefs. During the European and American imperial expansions of the C19th, many indigenous communities suffered at the hands of traders, settlers and armies.

During the 1830s, Darwin and the HMS Beagle party encountered several **indigenous** communities on their travels. How did the European and American imperial expansions of the C19th affected the lives of people Darwin met on the voyage?

10. On their return home to England, they crossed the Indian Ocean. What was the **coral** discovery that Darwin made on this part of the Beagle voyage?

11. The last place they stopped, before returning home to Falmouth in October 1836, was Terceira in the Azores. Darwin kept collecting right up to the last minute. What scientific samples did he bring back with him from this volcanic island?

12. Imagine you are on the voyage with Darwin. Write a letter to your family from any place on the journey, describing where you are, what you have been up to, how you are feeling and what you are looking forward to.

To use this resource, students will need access to good broadband, and an up-to-date version of a common desktop browser, ideally Chrome or Firefox. The resource does support most common current iOS and Android mobile devices, although the controls will be different.