

Walk Beside Charles Darwin on his Journey to Discovering Evolution

Darwin Exhibit examines the history of Darwin's explorations

Discover the fascinating journey Charles Darwin undertook as he discovered new species and formulated his theories on evolution by natural selection when *Darwin* opens at the Saint Louis Science Center.

The six-section exhibit showcases real specimens collected by Darwin, along with some of the personal items he carried aboard the HMS *Beagle*. You will also see live animals Darwin encountered during his time in the Galapagos.

As you walk through the exhibit, you will feel as if you are walking right alongside Darwin. His personal notebooks and letters are on display to give you insight into the observations he made and how he formed some of his ideas.

You will also learn the history of Darwin's time and discover why he faced difficulties in proposing his groundbreaking theories, find out the challenges he faced in his personal life, and learn about his rich family history—including his grandfather, Erasmus Darwin, who begun to research the possibility of a common ancestor before Charles' time.

His whole life, Darwin was fascinated with nature. As a young man he took pride in his collections of bug specimens, even competing with a fellow student at Cambridge to see who could find a new species of beetles first. You can see first-hand some of Darwin's prized collections of plant and animal specimens.

Darwin's journey around the world on the HMS *Beagle* laid the groundwork for the famous theories he is known for. Live animals and soundscapes help you to see into Darwin's experience on his journey. While aboard the *Beagle*, Darwin began to think about the possibility of all species evolving from a common ancestor.

Darwin's theory of evolution through natural selection didn't fully take shape until he returned home to London. Take a look into Darwin's mind as he carefully studied and analyzed the observations and data he spent years collecting as you venture further into the exhibit.

Upon publishing his theories, Darwin was subjected to much public speculation. Find out what people thought of Darwin's theories then, and what they mean to us today.

At the end of your journey through this fascinating exhibit, you can see the importance of Darwin's theories today with exhibits, videos, and interactive stations. You will see that without Darwin's research, some of the things we take as fact today might still be unknown.