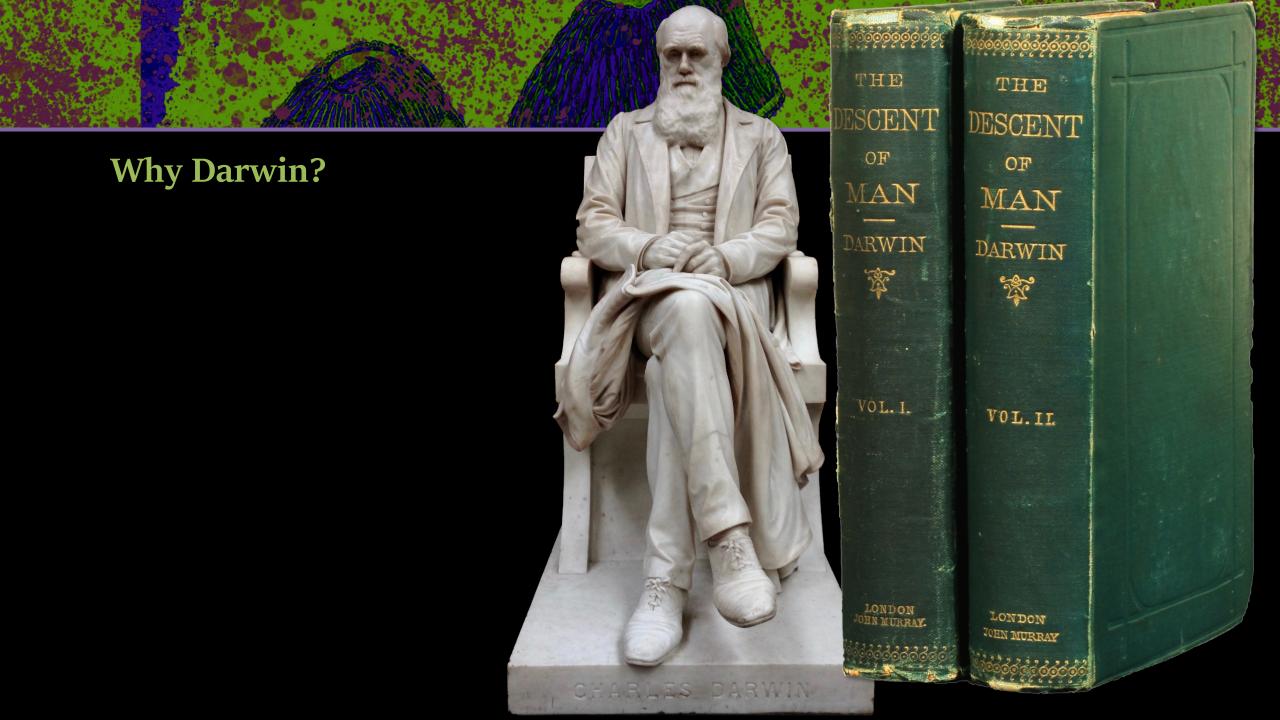


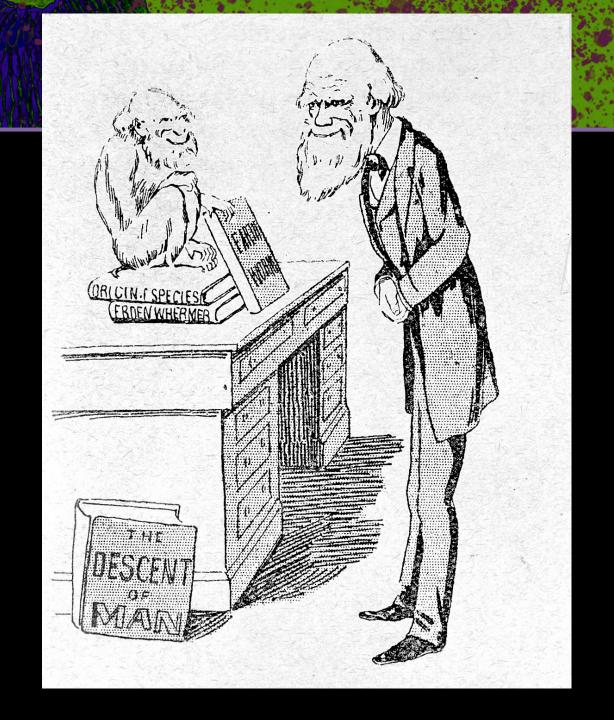
Breeding and Barnacles

Darwin's Descent: 1

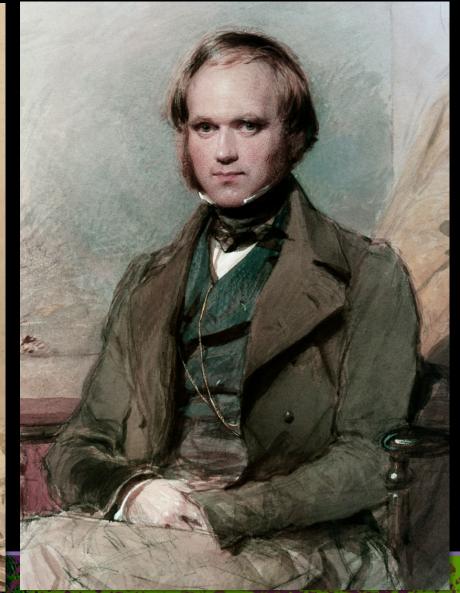
Jim Endersby



The funny side of Darwin?







After the Beagle

Darwin travelled for five years (1831–1836). A couple of years later, he was thinking about getting married.



"Not Marry"

"Freedom to go where one liked"

"choice of Society & <u>little of it</u>"

"Conversation of clever men at clubs"

"the expense & anxiety of children" ("less money for books &c"). If "many children" "forced to gain one's bread"

"perhaps my wife wont [sic] like London"? "then the sentence is banishment & degradation into indolent, idle fool".

"Marry"

"Home, & someone to take care of house"

"Charms of music & female chitchat" ("These things good for one's health")

"Constant companion, (& friend in old age) who will feel interested in one, — object to be beloved & played with.

-better than a dog anyhow"

My God, it is intolerable to think of spending ones whole life, like a neuter bee, working, working, & nothing after all. — No, no won't do. — Imagine living all one's day solitarily in smoky dirty London House. — Only picture to yourself a nice soft wife on a sofa with good fire, & books & music perhaps — Compare this vision with the dingy reality of Great Marlborough St.

nich I would live in Lordin will prett by house & Dr

Marry - Marry - Marry Q.E.D.

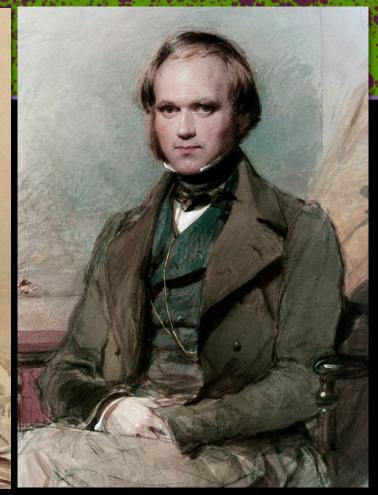
Travel

Marriage

Proposed to his cousin, Emma Wedgwood, on 11th November 1838.

Noted in his journal, it was "The day of days!" because she had accepted him.



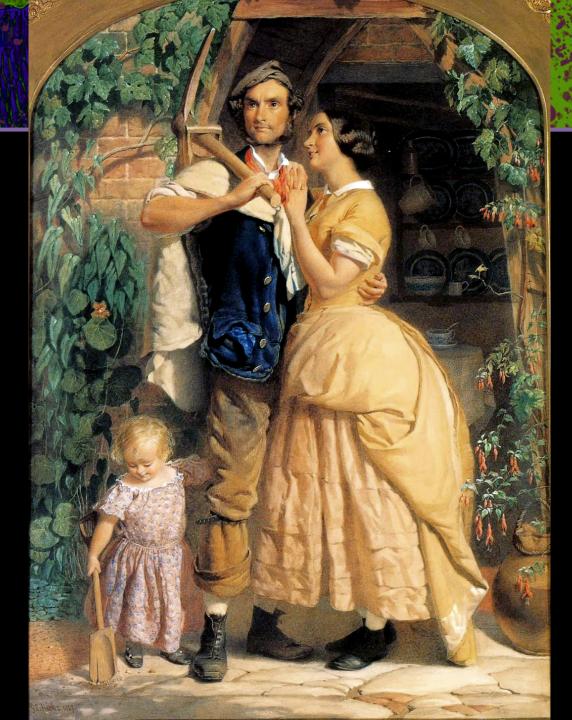


210.8:1 not instealy take county Charle I live in Imdon If I were moderates Benetin in loves and mals I would hive in London, with poety by house & Do 110 1 Jack- 17 14 1/18

Separate spheres?

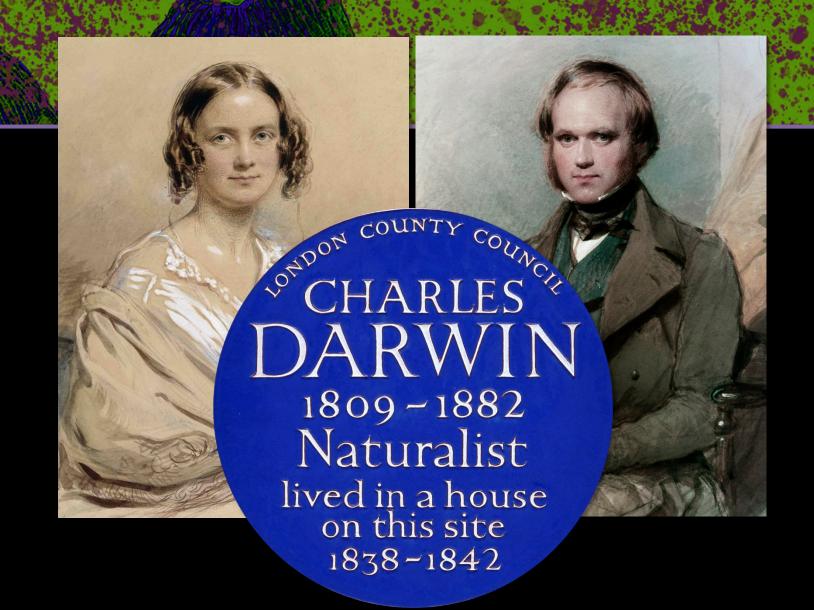
Assumption that men and women had supposedly natural roles.

Image: George Elgar Hicks "The Sinews of Old England" (1857).



Marriage

Married 29 January 1839. Charles and Emma lived together on Gower Street, London (where University College, London now has lecture theatres).



Settling Down

Growing family left London in September 1842. Moved to Down House, in the village of Downe in Kent.



"Banishment"?

Did Darwin become an "idle, indolent fool"?



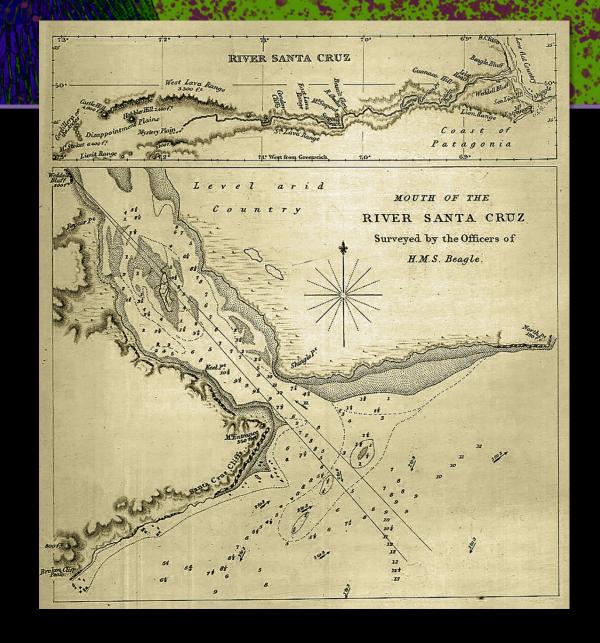


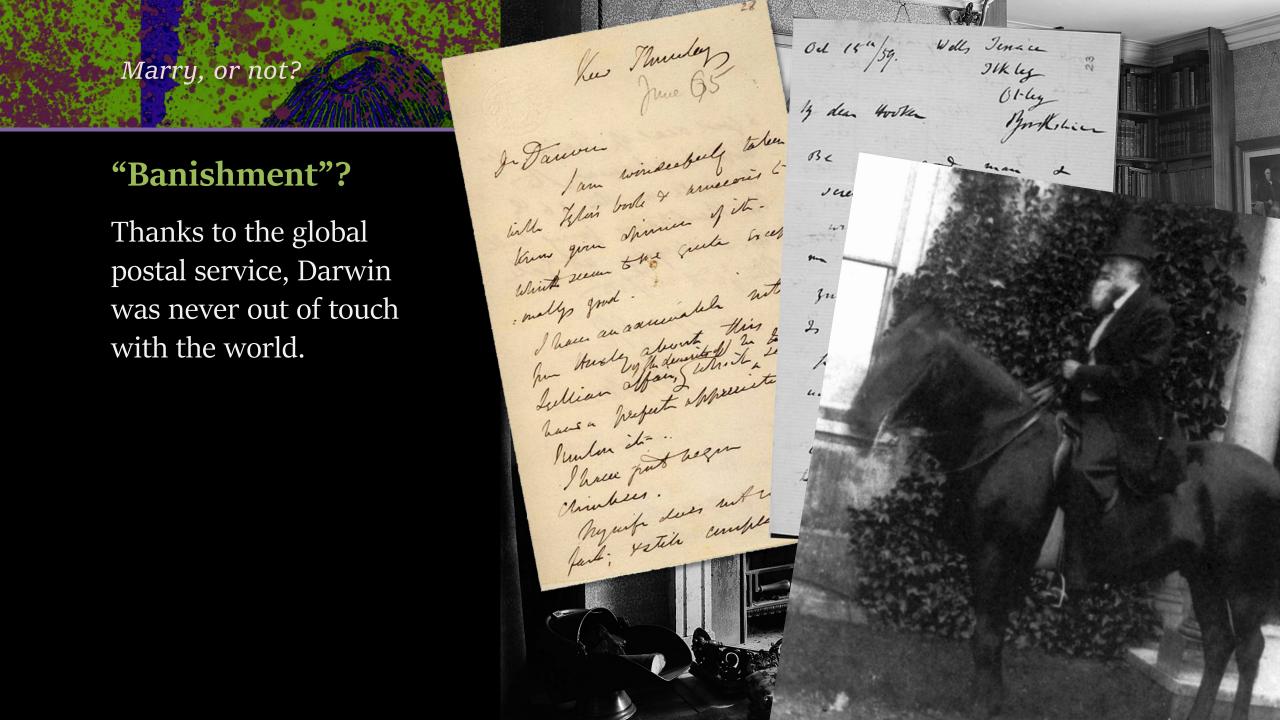


HMS Beagle

British naval surveying vessel.

Commerce, not science, was its main mission.





Darwin's letters

Darwin Correspondence Project (University of Cambridge)

https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/



Darwin Correspondence Project

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Meet the correspondents





secretary?







Orundellico (Jemmy Button)



Bartholomew James Sulivan

George Robert Waterhouse



Alexander von Humboldt



Frances Power Cobbe



George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans)



Darwin and working from home

Ever wondered how Darwin worked? To celebrate Darwin's 211th birthday we are launching For the Curious, a series of simple interactives that explore different areas of Darwin's life, work and legacy through his letters.

We start with 'Darwin working from home', in which you can explore objects from Darwin's study and garden at Down House to learn how he worked and what he had to say about it. Not all his work days were successful, here are some letters about Darwin's bad days.

Darwin's works in letters





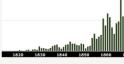
known letters Darwin wrote and rece

DARWIN FOR SCHOOLS

up to the year 1876.



Darwin's letters: a timeline



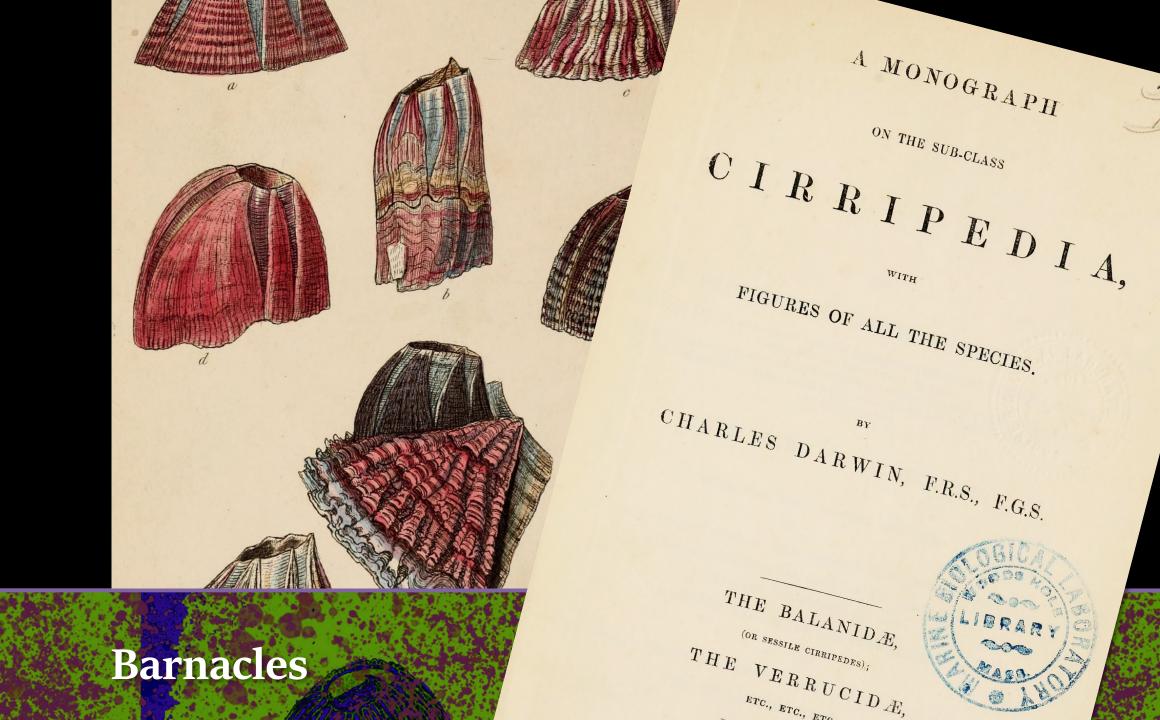
Explore the letters to and from Char Darwin over time

Beagle specimens

Darwin's collections sent to various specialists for technical description and classification.

But some stayed with Darwin, including an odd barnacle he nicknamed "Mr. Arthrobalanus".





"where does your daddy do his barnacles?"



Separate spheres (again)



A world without "scientists"



© Whipple Museum for the History of Science, Cambridge.

Vestiges of controversy

1844: The Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation, creates a sensation, becoming Britain's best selling book on evolution (for many decades).



VESTIGES

OF

THE NATURAL HISTORY

OF

CREATION.



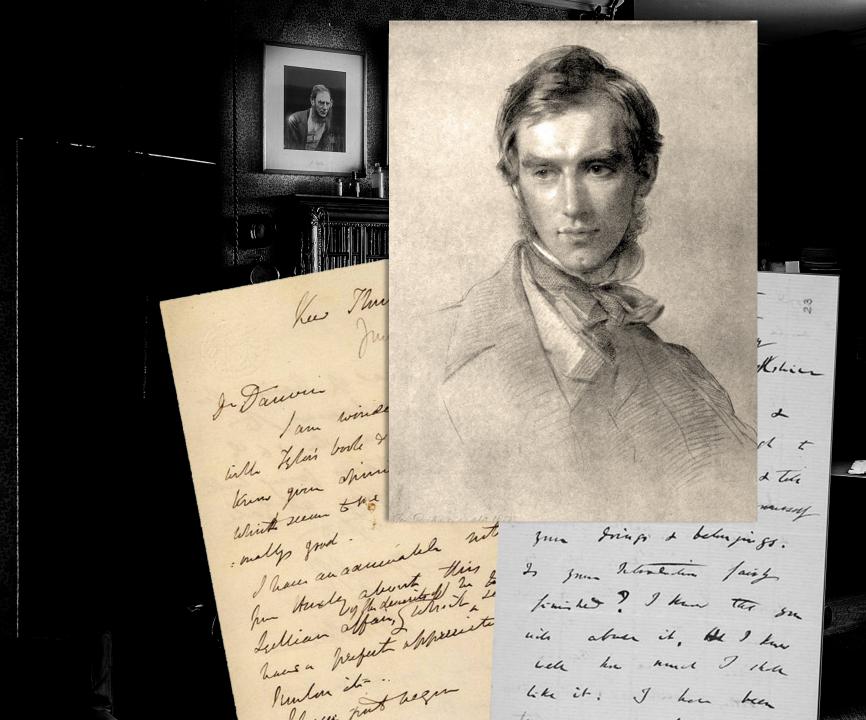
LONDON:

JOHN CHURCHILL, PRINCES STREET, SOHO.

MDCCCXLIV.

A world without "scientists"

Joseph Dalton Hooker (later director of Kew).

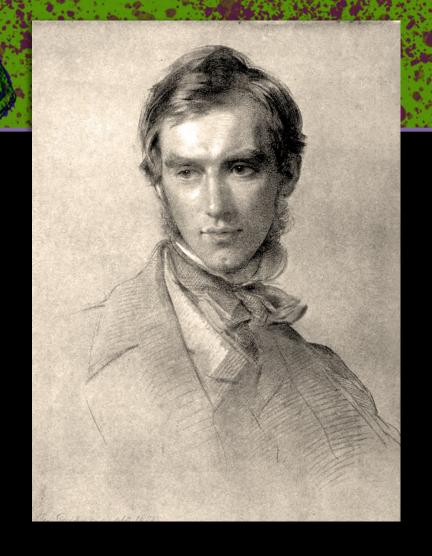


Darwin and Hooker (1845)

Discussed another rather speculative tract about species (by Frédéric Gérard).

Hooker unimpressed: Gérard was "neither a specific naturalist, nor a collector, nor a traveller" and therefore merely "a distorter of facts."

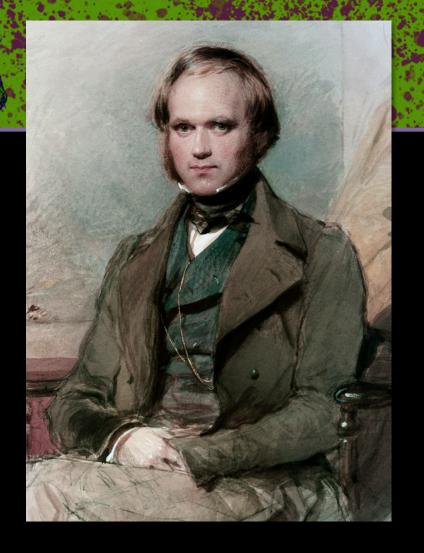
To write on species a man "must have handled hundreds of species with a view to distinguishing them & that over a great part,—or brought from a great many parts,—of the globe."





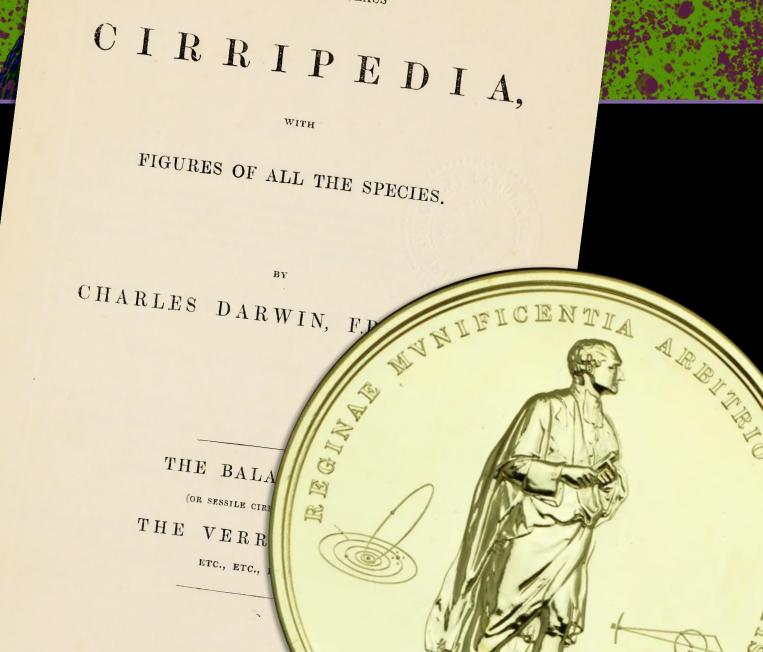
Darwin and Hooker (1845)

Darwin: "How painfully (to me) true is your remark that no one has hardly a right to examine the question of species who has not minutely described many".



Man of Science

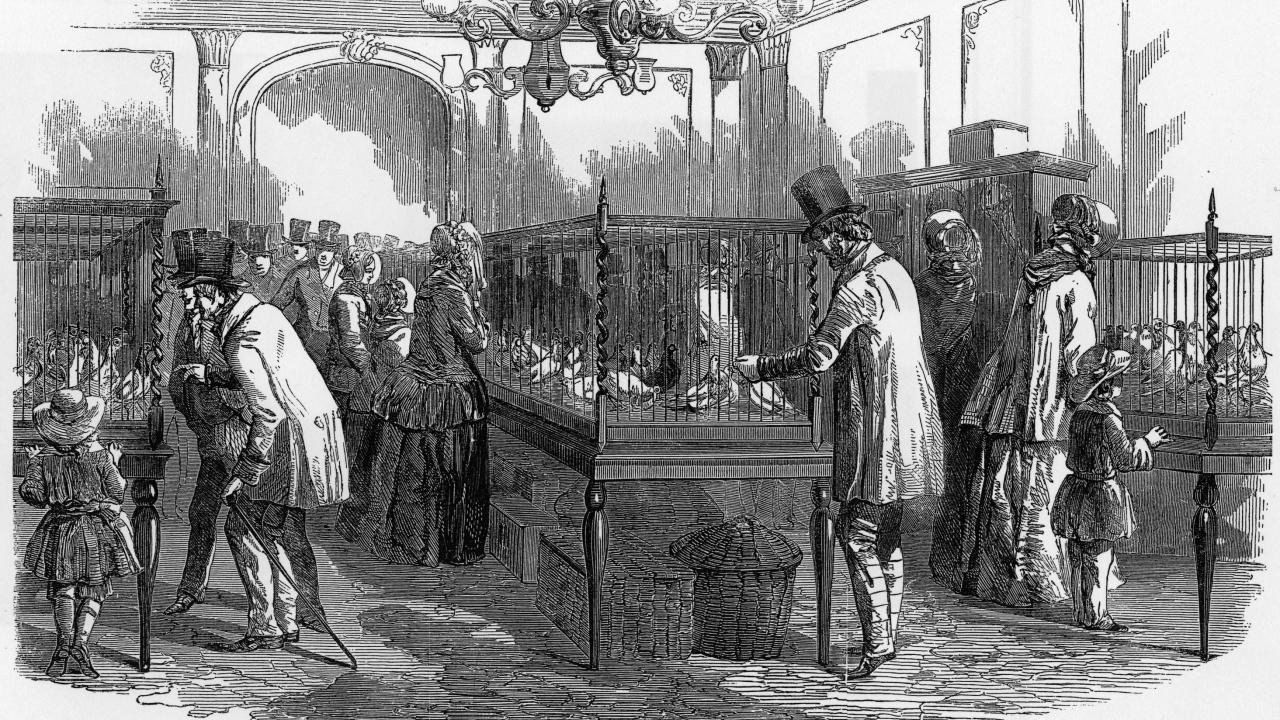
Royal Society of London awarded Darwin their prestigious Royal Medal in 1853, in recognition of his barnacle work.



Understanding sex

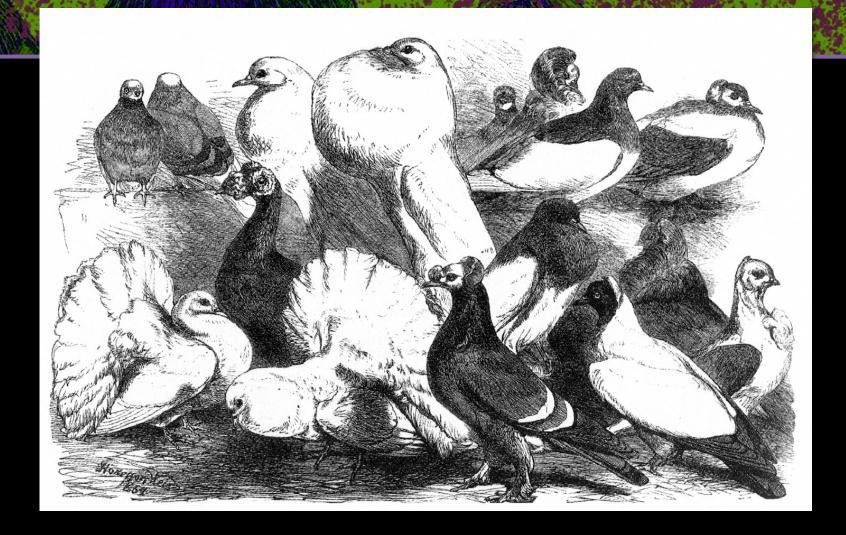
Darwin had a lifelong interest in animal- and plant-breeding. Used information from breeders (and kept his own pigeons) to test his ideas.





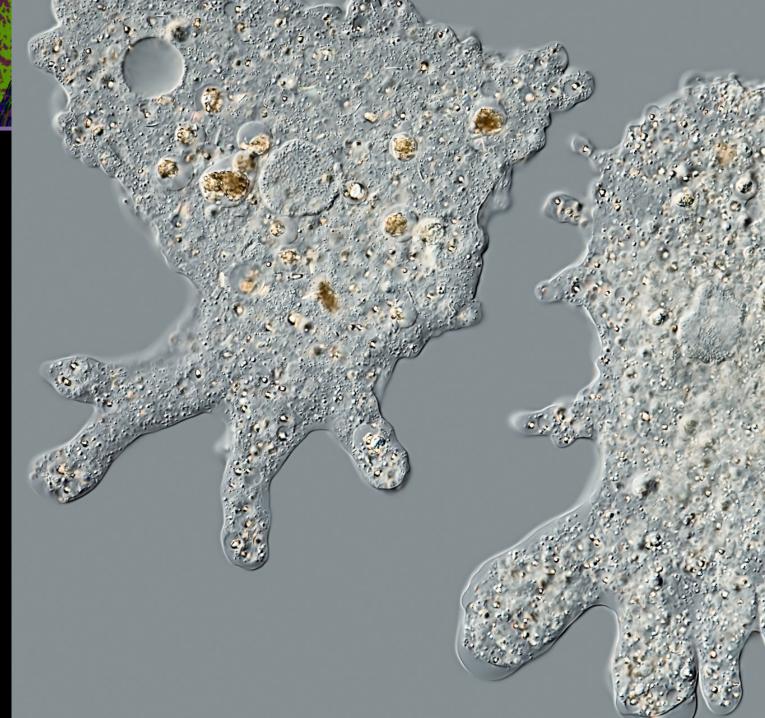
Understanding sex

Breeding was "artificial selection" (model for natural selection).



Why did sex evolve?

What's wrong with asexual reproduction?



Why did sex evolve?

What's wrong with asexual reproduction?

Dutch Elm disease: 25 million British elm trees died in the 1970s.

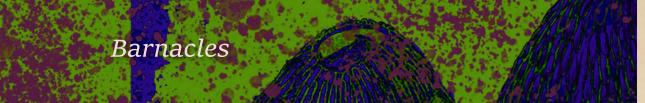
In 2004, geneticists confirmed what had long been suspected: that all Britain's elms were clones of a single tree.



The "good of the species"?

Sex increases variability, giving natural selection more raw material to select from.





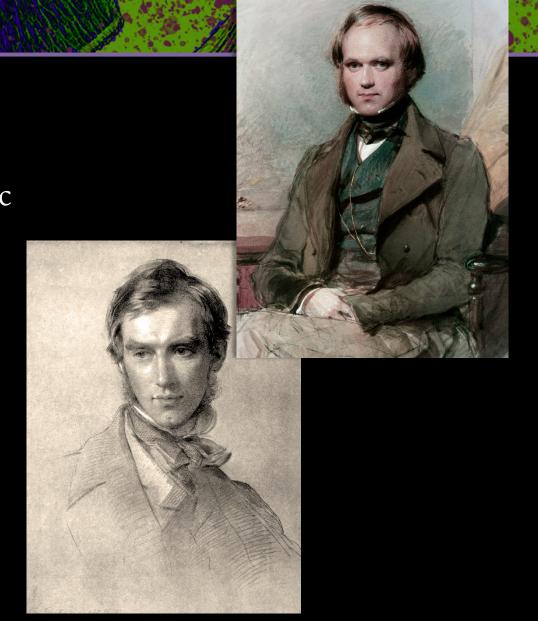
Hints from barnacles

Some species hermaphroditic (both sets of sexual organs), others bisexual (separate species).



Darwin to Hooker (1848)

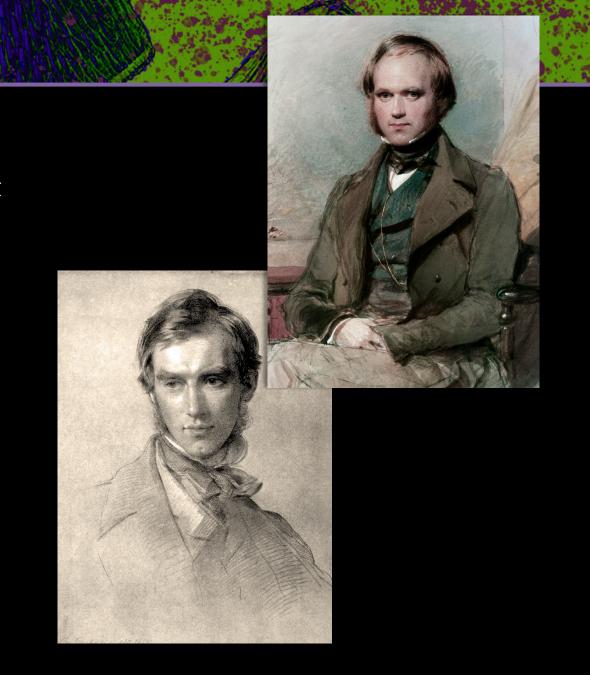
"I have lately got a bisexual cirripede, the male being microscopically small & parasitic within the sack of the female; I tell you this to boast of my species theory, for the nearest & closely allied genus to it is, as usual, hermaphrodite, but I had observed some minute parasites adhering to it, & these parasites, I now can show, are supplemental males, the male organs in the hermaphrodite being unusually small, though perfect & containing zoosperms.



Darwin to Hooker (1848)

"I never shd. have made this out, had not my species theory convinced me, that an hermaphrodite species must pass into a bisexual species by insensibly small stages".

Darwin wryly observed that Hooker might "perhaps wish my Barnacles & Species theory al Diabolo [to the devil] together. But I don't care what you say, my species theory is all gospel".



A working theory

In his "Recollections of the development of my mind & character", Darwin commented that after reading Malthus, he "had at last got a theory by which to work".

The barnacle work persuaded *Darwin* he was on the right track, just as much as it persuaded others that he knew what he was talking about.



A working theory

Many of Darwin's later books demonstrated natural selection in action.





Darwin read Alexander Walker's newly published book *Intermarriage* (1838): "How and why beauty, health, and intellect result from certain marriages, and deformity, disease, and insanity from others".

Walker explained "the functions and capacities which each parent, in every pair, bestows on children, in conformity with certain natural laws, and by an account of corresponding effects in the breeding of animals"

INTERMARRIAGE;

THE MODE IN WHICH, AND THE CAUSES WHY,

BEAUTY, HEALTH AND INTELLED

RESULT FROM CERTAIN UNIONS, AND

DEFORMITY, DISEASE AND INSANITY, FROM OTHERS;

DELINEATIONS OF THE STRUCTURE AND FORMS, AND DESCRIPTIONS WHICH EACH PARENT, IN EVERY PAIR, BESTOWS ON CHILDREN,— IN CONFORMITY WITH CERTAIN NATURAL LAWS, AND BY AN ACCOUNT OF CORRESPONDING EPPECTS IN THE

Illustrated by Orawings of Parents and Progeny.

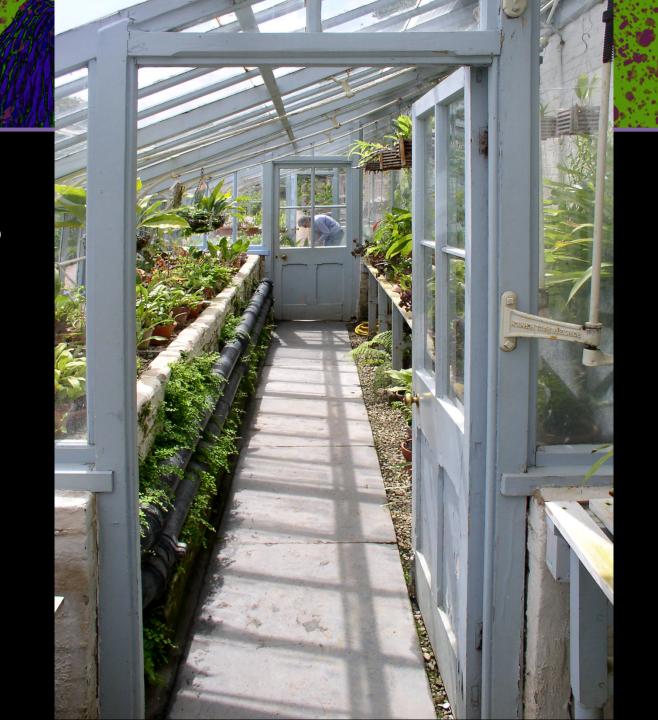
BY ALEXANDER WALKER.

JOHN CHURCHILL, PRINCES STREET, SOHO.

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Plant-breeding

Walker's book prompted Darwin to start breeding flowers, to see if inbreeding was harmful.



Charles and Emma

1842: their third child, Mary, died just a few weeks after her birth.

1851: Annie died, just ten years old.

Their last child, Charles Waring, lived for less than two years.





The consolations of evolution?

"When we reflect on this struggle, we may console ourselves with the full belief, that the war of nature is not incessant, that no fear is felt, that death is generally prompt, and that the vigorous, the healthy, and the happy survive and multiply".

