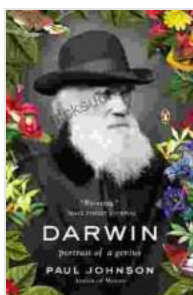


# Darwin: Portrait of a Genius

Charles Darwin, the father of modern evolutionary biology, was born in Shrewsbury, England, on February 12, 1809. His father, Robert Darwin, was a successful physician, while his mother, Susannah Wedgwood, was the daughter of the famous potter Josiah Wedgwood. Darwin had five older sisters and a younger brother, and he enjoyed a happy and privileged childhood.

Darwin was a curious and inquisitive child, and he showed an early interest in natural history. He collected insects, plants, and minerals, and he loved to explore the countryside around his home. At the age of 16, he was sent to Edinburgh University to study medicine, but he found the lectures dull and uninspiring. He preferred to spend his time collecting specimens and dissecting animals.



## Darwin: Portrait of a Genius by Paul Johnson

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1005 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 177 pages

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After two years at Edinburgh, Darwin decided to give up medicine and study divinity at Cambridge University. He hoped that this would please his

father, but he soon realized that he had no interest in becoming a clergyman. He continued to pursue his passion for natural history, and he spent his summers collecting specimens on the coast of Wales.

In 1831, Darwin graduated from Cambridge with a degree in divinity. However, he had no intention of entering the clergy. Instead, he accepted an offer to join the HMS Beagle as the ship's naturalist. The Beagle was setting out on a five-year voyage around the world, and Darwin was eager to see the world and collect specimens.

The Beagle's voyage was a transformative experience for Darwin. He visited South America, the Galapagos Islands, and Australia, and he collected thousands of specimens. He also made important observations about the distribution of plants and animals, and he began to develop his theory of evolution by natural selection.

Darwin returned to England in 1836, and he spent the rest of his life working on his theory of evolution. He published his groundbreaking book, *On the Origin of Species*, in 1859. The book was a huge success, and it revolutionized the way scientists thought about the natural world.

Darwin's theory of evolution is one of the most important scientific discoveries in history. It explains how all living things have evolved from a common ancestor, and it provides a natural explanation for the diversity of life on Earth.

Darwin was a brilliant scientist, but he was also a humble and generous man. He was always willing to share his ideas with others, and he never sought to take credit for the work of others.

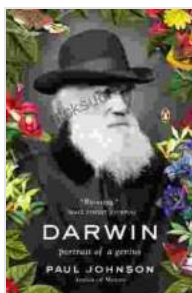
Darwin died in Downe, Kent, on April 19, 1882. He was buried in Westminster Abbey, alongside other great scientists such as Isaac Newton and Charles Babbage.

## Darwin's Legacy

Darwin's legacy is immense. His theory of evolution is one of the cornerstones of modern science, and it has had a profound impact on our understanding of the natural world. Darwin's work has also inspired countless other scientists, and it has helped to shape our modern world.

In addition to his scientific work, Darwin was also a gifted writer and a keen observer of human nature. His autobiography, *The Voyage of the Beagle*, is a classic of travel literature, and it provides a fascinating insight into Darwin's mind and character.

Darwin was a truly remarkable man, and his work has had a lasting impact on the world. He was a brilliant scientist, a gifted writer, and a humble and generous man. He is one of the most important figures in history, and his legacy will continue to inspire scientists and thinkers for generations to come.



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