## **Charles Darwin**

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La teoria dels gens de Mendel ja havia desmuntat en época de Charles Darwin (encara que ell no els va fer mai cas) les "teories evolutives dins d'una mateixa espècie" defensades per la Zoonomia del seu l'avi Erasnus Darwin que proposava l'herència dels trets adquirits i la Pangènesi, teoria ja defensada per Anaxàgores, Demòcrit i els tractats hipocràtics segons la qual cada òrgan i estructura del cos produïa petits sediments anomenat gèmmules, que per via sanguínia arribaven als gàmetes. L'individu es formaria gràcies a la fusió de les gèmmules de les cèl·lules, un concepte del clàssics desmuntat pels gens de Mendel

Amb només 16 anys Darwin va entrar a la Universitat d'Edimburg a fer estudis medicina, que va deixar paulatinament de costat per dedicar-se a la investigació dels invertebrats marins. Durant l'any i mig d'estudis de medicina, només va entrar 2 cops al quiròfan de l'hospital, ja que li causava una profunda impressió negativa. «Això era abans dels dies del cloroform», va escriure a la seva autobiografia. Després, va anar a la Universitat de Cambridge per esdevenir clèric però en lloc d'aixó va estudiar ciències naturals convertint-se en naturalista, fins el punt que als vint-i-dos anys, quan va ser assignat naturalista del Beagle, tot i que no era encara un "naturalista acabat", tenia un coneixement general sobre una àmplia varietat de camps científics, i per aixó s'el va escollir, no com ajuda psicològica al capità Robert FitzRoy. (el que s'havia suicidat era el capità de la 1ª expedició)

La teoria dels gens de Mendel ja havia desmuntat en época de Charles Darwin (encara que ell no els va fer mai cas) les "teories evolutives dins d'una mateixa espècie" defensades per la Zoonomia del seu l'avi Erasnus Darwin que proposava l'herència dels trets adquirits i la Pangènesi, teoria ja defensada per Anaxàgores, Demòcrit i els tractats hipocràtics segons la qual cada òrgan i estructura del cos produïa petits sediments anomenat gèmmules, que per via sanguínia arribaven als gàmetes. L'individu es formaria gràcies a la fusió de les gèmmules de les cèl·lules, un concepte del clàssics desmuntat pels gens de Mendel

Mendel presentà els seus treballs a les reunions de la Societat d'Història Natural de Brno[4] el 8 de febrer i el 8 de març de 1865, i els publicà posteriorment amb el títol d'Experiments sobre la hibridació de les plantes el 1866 a les actes de la Societat. Els seus resultats foren ignorats completament, i passaren més de trenta anys perquè els reconeguessin i els entenguessin.[5] Curiosament, el propi Charles Darwin va desestimar el treball de Mendel, segons afirma Jacob Bronowski a la seva obra L'ascens de l'home.[6]

Segon viatge del Beagle

Robert FitzRoy va ser reassignat com a comandant del Beagle. El 27 de desembre de 1831 el Beagle va partir en una nova expedició que havia estat retardada en diverses ocasions. Hi viatjava Charles Darwin com a naturalista de l'expedició. El Beagle va retornar el 2 d'octubre del 1836.

QUESTIONS ABOUT DARWIN (si algú ho demana ho traduiré)

Who was Charles Darwin? What did Darwin look like? What were some of his other physical attributes? What was Darwin like as a child? How did his love of natural science develop? What did Darwin accomplish while at medical school? How was his thirst for science nurtured at Cambridge University? What kind of music did Charles Darwin like? What sorts of literature did Darwin like? What was Darwin's family life like? What were Darwin's views on politics? What were Darwin's religious views? Who was Charles Darwin? Most people know that Charles Darwin was the father of evolutionary biology. However, what is not widely known is what sort of a person Charles Darwin was. In an attempt to remedy this situation, this section of AboutDarwin.com will allow the reader to get to know Darwin on a very personal level. What did Darwin look like? Charles Darwin stood about 5 feet, 11 1/2 inches tall and weighed, after his famous Beagle Voyage, 148 pounds (10.5 stone). Judging from older photographs, it is likely that he gained a bit of weight in his later years. He had dark brown hair, with a receding hairline on his forehead, and thick curly sideburns. blue-gray eyes were set off by large overhanging bushy eyebrows. His piercing In his elderly years his hairline receded a great deal, his face turned a healthy ruddy color (his complexion often gave people the mistaken impression that Darwin was in fine health!), and his forehead developed deep horizontal wrinkles. In January 1866 he grew a large flowing unkempt gray-white beard, perhaps to hide the ravages of health problems, or to prevent people from recognizing him. His plan worked, for while attending a meeting of the Royal Society on 27 April hardly anyone recognized him, even his Hooker! closest friend, Joseph What were some of his other physical attributes? Most of Darwin's physical characteristics are known from his later years, as described by his children. Charles Darwin had no natural grace of movement, and was awkward with his hands. with a swinging action, striking his cane loudly on the ground as he went. Indoors his step was slow and He became excited when engaged in conversation and was very animated and bright labored. often used hand gestures when talking, perhaps as an aid to eved, even when he was in ill health. He himself, rather than to the listener. In old age Darwin stooped a great deal. He had a hearty laugh, often raising his hands or bringing them down with a slap on his thighs. It is known that Darwin sometimes spoke with a stutter. Apparently, when puzzled during a conversation he pronounced the first a sentence with a slight stammer, mainly words starting with the letter "W". Another a topic of conversation was related to his current research,

What was Darwin like as a child? (up to about age 9)

Darwin was very slow at forming the wording of an argument.

interesting attribute is that unless

that way, in whatever topic he was discussing.

have been difficult

to follow, for he would often go off on a tangent this way,

The flow of his conversation with others must

then another tangent

In his Autobiography, Darwin (called Charley and Bobby during "naughty" child.  This is borne out in his stories of stealing fruit from the of his parents' house, making up wild  His sister, Caroline, may have helped him become the center  went wrong in  the household, much to Darwin's dismay. He was also a very clums recounts one story of his childhood in which he  and walked right off the edge and fell about eight feet to the  ground! Darwin abilities, being a swift  runner and an excellent rock thrower. There are some indict was a rather gullible child. On one occasion a childhood  friend of Darwin's convince any shop  in Shrewsbury and wore a special hat which he moved in a certain shopkeeper, he could take whatever he wanted for  some  cakes, moved the hat for the shopkeeper, and headed out the when the man made a rush for poor Darwin  as he dropped the cakes ran for dear	orchard trees on the side ntion in the family. ming him for everything that sy boy. Darwin pparently lost in thought, vin had excellent athletic ations that he ced him that if he went into way for the t in a bakery shop, took oor. Imagine the shock
Ironic as it may seem, Charles Darwin was a lazy young man, and a slow learner educated by his sister, Caroline, before attending Revd. Case's grammar school He was a rather shy student but he did take great pleasure in showing off his athle school boys. It is not known how well Darwin did at Revd. Case's school, he was likely an unremarkable student.	in Shrewsbury. etic skills to the other
The first sparks of interest in natural history were developed very early in his child his mother, Susannah, taught him how to change the color of flowers by giving with food coloring. He was also, at a very early age, interested in the variability of perhaps influenced here by the gardens his father kept at the house. As a young lead collecting minerals, insects, coins, stamps and other odd bits. Darwin did not, how study into these objects, and seems to have collected them for the mere pleasure extreme fondness of dogs - easily winning their affection, and took great pleasure the River Severn that flowed along the back of his parents' house.	them water mixed plants, and was boy he delighted in wever, put much of it. Darwin also had an
How did his love of natural science develop?	
When Darwin was nine years old his father sent him to Revd. Samuel boy's boarding school, but for Darwin it had the great advantage of being just across his father's house, so he was able to visit home many times a week. At this school classics, ancient history, and Greek, all of which he found entirely boring. time learning Greek and struggled along by memorizing bits of phrases and stringing sentences (of course, he entirely forgot these memorized bits within a few do Darwin was a slow learner in his youth. He was not inspired much by his schooling only pleasures there in reading Shakespeare's historical plays, the poems of Byron Odes of Horace. His increased interest in natural science was spurred on by events formal education. These events were: (1) the many hikes he went on in Northern Williams during this period, and (3) helping his brother, Erasmus, in his backyard.	Darwin learned the  He had a particularly hard ng them together to form ays). It is safe to say that , and found his n, Scott, Thomson, and the s outside his
(1) Hiking - In his youth Darwin was quite an active hiker, and spent much of his Northern Wales with his family. Anyone who has been to this part of Britain incredible natural beauty of the area. It was here that Darwin spent his warm sum shells, minerals, insects, geological specimens, and whatever else interested influence of Northern Wales on Darwin was the exposure to the incredible beauty	is aware of the mer days collecting sea him. The primary
(2) Book Reading - One book that influenced Darwin a great deal in his youth w	as titled "Wonders of the

head to explore exotic

1822) his brother, Erasmus, built a small chemistry

It may have been this book that first put the idea into Darwin's

World."

foreign lands.

(3) Chemistry - When Darwin was thirteen years old (in

lab in the garden shed in back of the house. Darwin acted as assistant to his older brother, and they often worked into the late hours of the night experimenting with chemical reactions and producing various gases. It seems no one approved of Darwin's foray into chemistry. His classmates poked fun a his new hobby by calling him "Gas Darwin", the headmaster of the school scolded him for waste his time with such non-sense, and his sisters feared his would blow-up the house! Darwin learned many things in his brother's lab, the most important of which were the proper methods of scientific experimentation - a set of skills that would greatly benefit him in his future career as a naturalist. When Darwin was sixteen years old (in 1825) his father, Robert, took him out of Revd. Butler's school due to him not paying attention to his studies, getting poor grades, and his excessive laziness. It is ironic to think that his father declared to him that he "cared for nothing but shooting, dogs, and ratcatching, and you will be a disgrace to yourself and all your family." Darwin left Butler's school an entirely unremarkable student, and none of his instructors marked him out as possessing any noteworth abilities.	at ed
What did Darwin accomplish while at medical school?	
Poor young Darwin had no particular focus in his life at this time, so his father decided he would follow in to long line of doctors in the family and study medicine. Darwin was to be admitted into Edinburgh University, in Scotland - known as having one of Europe's most distinguished medical schools. During the summer Darwin acted as assistant in his father's medical practice, treating poor people, children are women. Much to his father's surprise, young Darwin seemed to enjoy medicine a great deal.	1
In October of 1825 Darwin started medical school at the University of Edinburgh. His brother joined him there to study for his exams, having completed most of his medical studies at Cambridge. They took lodgings together across the street from the university on Lothian Street. As it was at Revd. Butler's school, his studies at Edinburgh were for the most part a waste of time for Darwin. The only lectures that interested him were those of Professor Thomas Hope's chemistry class. He attended the geology lectures of Professor Jameson but, ironic as it may seem, the subject bored him, and he vowed never to read or study the subject again. It is common knowledge that Darwin loathed the sight of blood, and this is said to have prevented him from pursuing a medical career. While this is true to a certain extent, what mostly stopped him was that he found medical studies an extreme bore - he wondered what his father ever saw in him that led him to think he would make a good doctor.	ne
Once again Darwin's increased interest in natural science was nurtured from outside his formal studies. The was accomplished in many ways: (1) Darwin learned how to stuff animals, (2) he read a very interesting book on natural history, (3) he spent much of his time at the natural history museum in Edinburg (4) he joined the Plinian Society, and (5) he became a good friend of Professor Robert Grant.	
(1) Stuffing Animals - John Edmonstone, a freed black slave from Guyana, South America, has settled in Edinburgh and made his living teaching medical students the fine art of taxidermy. He lived just down the street from Darwin, and they soon became good friends. In February 1826 Darwin par Mr. Edmonstone to teach him how to stuff animals, and as a bonus, Darwin had the opportunity of drilling has with questions about his homeland in South America. Over the next few months Darwin's head was filled with vivid pictures of the tropical rain forests of South America, and this sent his imagination spinning. His talks with John ignited the spark inside Darwin's mind to desire to travel to South America dream that was to be fulfilled a few years later, while the taxidermy skills Darwin learned were indispensable during the Beagle voyage.	him
(2) Natural History Book - During the summer, after his first year at medical school, Darwin spent much of his time hiking around northern Wales and reading Revd. Gilbert White's book: "The Natural History of Selborne" (published in 1789). This book taught Darwin to appreciate the richness and beauty of birds, insects, and other creatures, so much in fact, that he started his own field notebook on his observations of birds. Most important of all, this book helped young Darwin develop the habit of making very close observations in nature, a habit that would serve him well all his life.	
(3) Natural History Museum - During his second year at Edinburgh, Darwin found himself alone - his	

around the Natu the y inspired Darwin	ural History Museum in young Darwin under h I to start taking notes o	ondon to study anaton n Edinburgh. is wing and taught hin on his obse and proved vitally imp	Mr. William Macgi n volumes on botany ervations in nature. H	llivray, the curator of animal is habit of taking no	of the museum, took lanatomy, and
the Plinian point of view, ra Society o these meetings	Society - a scient ather than a supernature on the marine biology of were perh	ond year of medical ence club that focused ral one. Or of the Firth of Forth, ar aps Darwin's first expension	on the merits of stud of 27 March 1827 Dai of estuary osure to a discussion	dying the win gave his first s just north of Edinbun of evolutionary	e world from a natural peech before the urgh. The debates at theory.
of Forth, of the specimens to in nature and he evolutionary ide great deal. Dark Towards again!) not taking that D school for good to do with his "la	discussing marine biol- they collected, ow to spot important s eas, especially win was not exactly su the end of his se ng his studies seriousl arwin was not putting , and returned eazy" son. Little did his	home to Shrewsb	rine animals.  borly. Grant taught hise walks of the naturalist, Lamarc this here school it became apper heard through the gat Edinburgh.  ury to a father who was becomed and the son was become and the son	Darwin started im how to make ob Grant filled Darwin' k, whom Grant adn tical evolutionary to barent the grapevine, perhaps In April of 182 was very concern alleing groomed by a	dissecting some of servations s head with nired a alk. nat Darwin was (once from his daughters, 7 Darwin quit medical bout what long series of entirely
How	was his thirst for scie	ence nurtured at Camb	ridge University?		
for the clergy excellent plan, a himself of the local coul	- a very resp as members of the cle leading a small parish ntryside - I took an interest in his	pectable profession in rgy were q	the early 1800's. Dar uite keen to engage ending his n. In the mean time, friend, Fanny Owe	win tho in natural history so spare time studying Darwin's social en, and he often vis	tudies. He fancied ng the flora and fauna life was
compulsory lect birds in the cou of Sh	tures, and ntryside, playing cards	did not take his studie: those did not excite his s with his fi ns, and the engraving:	m very much. A lot o riends, and going to o	f his time was dinner parties. He a	spent shooting also enjoyed readings
These were: (1)	) Beetle co	earwin spent at Cambr llecting, (2) befriendin eading two books	g Revd. John Steven	s Henslow,	-
His cousin, and tac Darwin's spare stretch to say h	William Fox, vught him a great deal time was s	bridge Darwin took who was al about insect classifica pent out in the countr new hobby n had to choose betwe	so attending Cambri tion, and yside collecting beetl r. Fanny Owen often	dge, introduced Da how to work in the es, and it scolded him for wa	field. Quite a lot of is not too far of a asting his time with

winter brea chasing his girlfr more interest in which	second year at Cambrid k, he stayed in Cambrid iend). Two m bugs than in her! All hun included: how to identif itomy, and how to work o	ge so he could spend onths later Fanny bro nor aside, beetle y species, the proper	all his time ke up with poor Charl collecting taug manner of cataloguin	e chasing after beetles es because he ht Darwin many vital so	(rather than showed cientific skills,
Henslow had the started when Da parties and intro- upper class Henslow dispens clergy	John Henslow - It would greatest influence upor rwin's cousin duced Darwin to Henslow students on all moderated, and in a short time I who was a naturalist bend his botany lectures.	n Charles Darwin durin , William Fox, invited w. At these atters of science. Dar ne saw He eyond compare. Hens	ng his Can him to one of Henslov dinner parties Hensl win soaked up every nslow as one to emul slow was also impress	nbridge days. Their rela v's Friday now gave informal lesson ounce of krate - a preeminent mena sed with Da	ight dinner ons to the owledge that mber of the rwin, and
much of his time surrounding cou Cambridge, who walks with hexpanded. He mineralogy, cher he helped potential to beco- with his life. He	r saw that Darwin was a nurturing his ntryside. Before long He discussing all madenslow." Under Henslow became familia mistry, and botany. Perh him develop confidence a top-notch naturalis would become a natura something to	s favorite student, and inslow and Darwin litters of scientific inquiters of scientific inquiter, Darwin's lar with such diverse to aps the most lence in his own abilities. It was a list and with a little	invited him on his so could be see iry, and Darwin becar storehouse of scien pics as: geology, ma profound influence es, and made him rea t this point that Darwin luck, he thou	entific excursions In taking walks around to the known a tific knowledge was greathematics, The Henslow had on Darvalize In finally decided what to tight to himself, he may	into the the streets of s "The man eatly entomology, vin was that e had the o do
University and w to Sedgwick by B exploring the Ca lectures that a knowledge Darwin went	dam Sedgwick - Sedgwas one of the Henslow during sprand, as opposed to he of field geology would on a geological tour of Negwick turned out	e most renowned geoling his third year at Ca ing term of his experience in Edin benefit Da North Wales during the	ogists in all of Englan ambridge after Darwin f 1831 Darwin attende burgh, he found them rwin on his Canary Isl e summer	d. Darwin was introduct expressed an ed many of Sedgwick's most enjoy and excursion, Sedgwi of 1831. The knowledg	interest in geology rable. Seeing ck and ge Darwin
scored 10th Natural Philosop to the zeal for science. 7-volume "Perso 1799-1804." It w	hy." The primary influente wonders that scientific Another boomal Narrative of the Trav	ead Sir John Herschel ce of this b investigation could un k he read (in the Springels to the Equinoctial that really got Darwin	s "Preliminary Discou book was that it convince over, and ng 1831) was Alexand Regions of s imagination spinnin	on the need Darwin that there this instilled in Darwin der von Humboldt's of America During the	Study of were no limits a burning ears now
did posses a ger important, howe enthusiasm for	ver, is that Darwin had d	of a wide variety	of scientific fields. Pe passion fo	rhaps what was more r natural science and a	
What	kind of music did Char	les Darwin like?			
Nothing	is known about Dar	win's musical disposit	ion as a child. There	is no indic	ation that he

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ever played a musical instrument, nor had an appreciation of music in general. As a yo Darwin acquired a taste for classical music while studying at Cambridge University. He College there, and would sit for hours listening to the church choir.	
What is interesting about Darwin's fondness for music is that he was tone deaf, and hat recalling a tune he just heard the day before. Darwin was also unable to he or keep time to music as he was listening to it. As far as specific composers go, he love and overtures of Mozart, Handel and Beethoven. In the evenings his wife, Er an accomplished pianist (she was trained by Frederic Chopin), would play for him on he forte as he reclined on a nearby sofa.	um a tune properly, ed the symphonies mma, who was quite
What sorts of literature did Darwin like?	
In his childhood Darwin was an avid reader, and this continued throughout an early age he was quite keen on the historical plays of Shakespeare. While in grade at Shrewsbury he admired the "Odes of Horace" a great deal.	
Although Darwin seemed to be born with an innate interest in the natural world, it was of 1826 that the books he read started to spark his serious interest in study this time he read Revd. Gilbert White's: "The Natural History of Selborne" and he came from this book with a much greater appreciation for wildlife.	ying nature. During
While attending Cambridge University, Darwin was further inspired by literature in such Paley's: "Natural Theology," Sir John Herschel's book: "Preliminary Discourse Natural Philosophy" and Alexander von Humboldt's 7-vol. "Personal Narrative" of his S	on the Study of
During the Beagle voyage he always read Milton's "Paradise Lost" when he had a spalliving in London after the voyage, Darwin read some metaphysical books, but found was not well suited to them. It was during this same time in his life that he became fond William Wordsworth, and Samuel Coleridge.	that he
In his later years Darwin was very fond of novels by Jane  Austen, and Elizabeth Gask Lord Byron, and  the historical novels of Sir Walter Scott. Darwin was always that he did not enjoy novels with a depressing  ending. He wife, Emma, would read nov day  while he reclined on a sofa, and he took great pleasure in  enjoyed books of narrated travels.	quick to point out
Darwin also read a huge volume of scientific works, and his seems he treated them simply as a tool and took little care to keep such books condition. For example, he would cut books in half to make them easier to hold while reout smaller sections of books that related to his current research interests. marked books, and added plenty of personal remarks in the margins. His method of reaves very methodical - he used to take notes on the scientific books he read, and then rehis notes.	in good eading, or just tear . Darwin also heavily ading
In late years his taste for literature and the arts diminished greatly, so much so that ever caused him much stress. Darwin also lost his appreciation for poetry and proceed and proceed him a great deal.	ren listening to music paintings, a fact that
What was Darwin's family life like?	
The home life Charles Darwin was unlike that of most Victorian country gentle	leman. The most

striking difference was seen in how he interacted

with his children. The well to do in Victorian England would

hire a governess to assist the wife in bringing up the children and seeing to their education. The father was more of a remote figure who engaged himself in politics, business or other gentlemanly pursuits. He typically had a detachment from bringing up the children. While it is true that there was a governess in Down House who assisted Emma in bringing up the children, Charles always took a keen interest in whatever they were doing.
I'll let his daughter illustrate how Darwin related to his children. She writes:
"To all of us he was the most delightful play-fellow, and the most perfect sympathizer. Indeed, it is impossible adequately to describe how delightful a relation his was to his family, whether as children or in their later life."
"It is a proof of the terms on which we were, and also of how much he was valued as a play- fellow, that one of his sons, when about four years old tried to bribe him with sixpence to come and play in working hours."
"He must have been the most patient and delightful of nurses. I remember the haven of peace and comfort it seemed to me when I was unwell, to be tucked up on the study sofa, idly considering the old geological map hung on the wall. This must have been in his working hours, for I always picture him sitting in the horse hair arm chair by the corner of the fire."
"Life seems to me, as I look back upon it, to have been very regular in those early days, and except for relations (and a few intimate friends), I do not think any one came to the house. After lessons we were always free to go where we would, and that was chiefly in the drawing-room and about the garden, so that we were very much with both my father and mother. We used to think it most delightful when he told us any stories about the Beagle, or about early Shrewsbury days - little bits about school life and his boyish tastes."
"He cared for all our pursuits and interests, and lived our lives with us in a way that very few fathers do. But I am certain that none of us felt that this intimacy interfered the least with our respect and obedience. Whatever he said was absolute truth and law to us. He always put his whole mind into answering any of our questions."
"Another characteristic of his treatment of his children was his respect for their liberty, and for their personality. Even as quite a little girl, I remember rejoicing in this sense of freedom. Our father and mother would not even wish to know what we were doing or thinking unless we wished to tell. He always made us feel that we were each of us creatures whose opinions and thoughts were valuable to him, so that whatever there was best in us came out in the sunshine of his presence."  Autobiography of Charles Darwin and Selected Letters. Darwin, Francis (Editor). New York: Dover Publications, 1992. Pages 90-92.
Darwin's relation to his wife, Emma, was a very special one, for it was with her that Darwin found his happiness. In a life filled with almost continued illness, the presence of Emma transformed Darwin's life into one of "quiet and content gladness". His son, Francis Darwin, writes:
"No one indeed, except my mother, knows the full amount of suffering he endured, or the full amount of his wonderful patience. For all the latter years of his life she never left him for a night; and her days were so planned that all his resting hours might be shared with her. She shielded him from every avoidable annoyance, and omitted nothing that might save him trouble, or prevent him becoming overtired, or that might alleviate the many discomforts of his ill-health." Page 109
Their day to day lives were entwined in a manner that was rare for an upper class Victorian family. Every day Emma would read to him from one of the popular novels of the day, especially those by Austen, Dickens and Gaskel. She was very fond of music, and played the piano forte (she was taught by Frederic Chopin) in the drawing room every day as Darwin relaxed on the sofa. In the afternoons they would stroll together in the garden as the children played around them.
Francis Darwin writes:

Institut Nova Història - www.inh.cat/articles/charles-darwin Pàgina 8 de 10 or some of his children, or

father much enjoyed wandering idly in the garden with my mother

"Му

making one of a party, sitting out on a bench on the lawn; he generally sat, however, on the grass, and I remember him often lying under one of the big lime-trees, with his head on the green mound at its foot. In dry summer weather, when we often sat out, the fly-wheel of the well was commonly heard spinning round, and so the sound became associated with those pleasant days. He used to like to watch us playing at lawn-tennis, and often knocked up a stray ball for us with the curved handle of his stick." page 76
In the evenings Emma and Charles played two games of backgammon in the drawing room, and this routine continued for nearly forty years. Apparently Emma was the better player, as Darwin kept a tally of who won every night. He would often explode in mock anger and lamented his bad luck while Emma smiled at her good fortune.
The manner in which Darwin related to his family was truly special. In fact, based on conversations I have had with other Darwin enthusiasts and with some of his descendants, it is safe to say that for Darwin his family life was far more important to him than his research into the natural sciences.
What were Darwin's views on politics?
There is only a scant bit of information known about specific political views of Charles Darwin. His political leaning was on the Whig side of things (i.e Liberal), as was everyone in his family, including the Wedgwoods, and most of his friends. It is known that he much enjoyed reading up on the political doings up in London, but he seems to have done so out of a sense of pure entertainment Although Darwin was a "Country Gentleman" he never became actively involved in politics, except for being the Justice of the Peace for the village of Downe.
It is known that Darwin, as well as his friends and family, were very much in favor of the Great Reform Act of 1832, which extended voting rights to millions of formally disenfranchised citizens. He was also a staunch supporter of the abolishment of slavery. Here are a few excerpts from letters Darwin wrote home while on the Beagle Voyage:
"The Captain does every thing in his power to assist me, & we get on very well - but I thank my better fortune he has not made me a renegade to Whig principles: I would not be a Tory, if it was merely on account of their cold hearts about that scandal to Christian Nations, Slavery."  To Revd. John Henslow 18 May 1832 from Rio de Janeiro.
"What a proud thing for England, if she is the first European nation which utterly abolishes it. I was told before leaving England, that after in Slave countries: all my opinions would be altered; the only alteration I am aware of is forming a much higher estimate of the Negro character."  To his sister, Catherine, on 22 May 1833 from Maldonado, Rio Plata.
"It does one's heart good to hear how things are going on in England. Hurrah for the honest Whigs. I trust they will soon attack that monstrous stain on our boasted liberty, Colonial Slavery. I have seen enough of Slavery & the disposition of the negros, to be thoroughly disgusted with the lies & nonsense one hears on the subject in England."  To John Herbert on 2 June, 1833 from Maldonado, Rio Plata.
England passed a law that emancipated all slaves in the British colonies in August of 1833.
What were Darwin's religious views?
Charles Darwin was baptized on November 17, 1809 at St. Chad's church in Shrewsbury, and his mother, Suzsanna, took him to services at the Unitarian church in High Street. She died when Darwin was just eight years old, but he continued to attend church on a regular basis with his sisters. There is very little known about Darwin's religious beliefs during his childhood. He was sent to Rev. Case's day school at St. Chad's for one year, and afterwards was sent to Dr. Butler's Shrewsbury School where

	ixteen. It is, therefore, safe to assun childhood.	ne that Darwin red	ceived a proper religious
during the Beagle Voyage h to the ill-mannered sailors of events depicted in Voyage caused Darwin to b cruelties of slave not accept that a kind god w	as a young man he found it very diffice was very orthodox, and no board. By the time he returned the Old Testament as allegory in ecome less religious? During ery and wondered how god could allow humans to living god allow such suffering in the world	d would often quote passage to England in 1836 I nature. What events during the Voyage he had amp ow such inhumanity to e in such a wretched state as	s out of the bible he had come to view the the Beagle ble opportunity to see the exist. He also could as the natives of Tierra
He came to see that species from one general that all species were created. There was no need for char	twenty years of his life, Darwin was a swere not fixed over time tion to the next. This flied in the face d by god as perfectly suitinge in the perfect world that god religious as he slowly uncover	e, but rather they adapted to of the Church whated for the environment he plotted created. Over these to	their changing environment hich held fast to the notion aced them in. twenty years Darwin
for god's place in nature. By old argument of design in nature now that the law of nature the beautiful hinge of a door by man. There see	bridge days he believed in William F the time Darwin wrote " ature, as given by Paley, ural selection has been discovered. of a bivalve shell must have beer ems to be no more design , than in the course which the wind I 87)	Origin of Species" he held which formerly seemed to m We can no longe made by an intelligent being in the variability of organic	the view that: "The le as conclusive, fails, r argue that, for instance, g, like the hinge beings and in the action of
Darwin. First of all, Darwin was a theist by the cause. However, it was his vision. The death of his dau	ears to be a common misconception was never an atheist. Where entirely discounted the existence time he wrote "Origin of Speciview that the nature of the ghter, Annie, on 23 April rward he stopped attending church whis entire life that Darwin	tile it is true that in his later your of god. In his Audies" and that he believed is "first cause" was somethin 1851 was a crushing blow to	ears he was not religious atobiography, Darwin says in an intelligent first g beyond man's basis religious beliefs, and
Darwin there never was mu science as comp existence was outside the s he did think that his theory of	oletely separate from religion. In gen	eligion as a strictly personal eral, he thought t However, and this may seer a belief in god, but d	hat the question of god's
cannot pretend to throw the	nany reasons for man's belief in god, least light on such abstr s; and I for one must be content	use problems. The mystery o	the end of his life: "I of the beginning c." (Barlow, Page - 94)