Early Life and Education: Charles Robert Darwin was born on February 12, 1809, in Shrewsbury, England. He came from a wealthy and influential family and showed an early interest in natural history.

Voyage of the Beagle: In 1831, Darwin embarked on a five-year journey aboard the HMS Beagle as a naturalist and companion to Captain Robert FitzRoy. The voyage took him to various locations worldwide, including South America, the Galápagos Islands, and Australia, where he collected specimens and made observations that would significantly influence his later work.

Evolution by Natural Selection: Darwin's most famous work, "On the Origin of Species," was published in 1859. In it, he presented his theory of evolution by natural selection, proposing that species change over time through a process of adaptation and survival of the fittest in response to environmental pressures.

Galápagos Finches: During his voyage, Darwin observed and collected various species of finches on the Galápagos Islands. He later used these finches as a case study in his theory of natural selection, showing how their beak variations were adapted to different food sources on the islands.

Fossils and Geology: Darwin was interested in geology and paleontology, and he collected numerous fossils during his travels. His study of fossilized species and geological formations provided evidence for the gradual changes in life forms over time, supporting his theory of evolution.

Co-discovery of Natural Selection: Although Darwin is most associated with the theory of evolution, it is essential to note that Alfred Russel Wallace independently arrived at a similar theory of natural selection. Both Darwin and Wallace's joint work was presented to the Linnean Society of London in 1858, a year before the publication of "On the Origin of Species."

Controversy and Public Reception: "On the Origin of Species" caused significant controversy upon its release. It challenged traditional views of creation and the fixity of species, leading to debates among scientists, theologians, and the general public.

Impact on Modern Biology: Darwin's theory of evolution has become the cornerstone of modern biology. It revolutionized the understanding of life's diversity and led to the development of the field of evolutionary biology.

The Descent of Man: In his later work, "The Descent of Man, and Selection in Relation to Sex" (1871), Darwin applied the principles of natural selection to human evolution. He suggested that humans and apes shared a common ancestor and that humans' mental and moral faculties could be explained by natural selection.

Lasting Legacy: Charles Darwin's influence extends far beyond the scientific realm. His ideas have had a profound impact on fields such as anthropology, psychology, sociology, and theology, shaping our understanding of the natural world and our place in it.