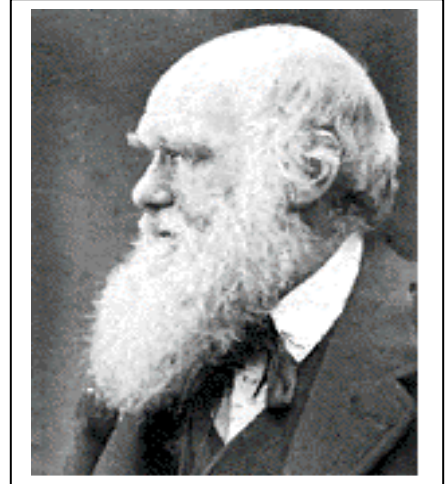


**Charles Robert Darwin** (1809 – 1882)

He gave us a new conception of creation. He set forth his theory of Natural Selection as the means of evolution which he outlined in 'Origin of Species'. Today parts of the theory have been modified.

Charles Darwin was born on February 12, 1809. He was the fifth child in a family of six. His father was Erasmus Darwin, a physician. As a doctor he was famous. When Charles had only reached the age of eight, his mother died. He was looked after by his father and his elder sisters.



In 1818 he became a boarder at Shrewsbury School. He picked up education during his school life, from private lessons in Euclid and from Chemistry experiments in a home-made laboratory which his brother rigged up in a toolshed at home. He was actually rebuked at school for wasting his time upon it. He gave up a medical career and was told by his father, 'You care for nothing but shooting dogs and rat catching'. He said, "I was considered by all my masters and by my father a very ordinary boy, rather below the common standard in intellect".

In 1831 he joined an expedition as naturalist without pay. The voyage lasted five years. After visitation of many islands, Darwin returned with a magnificent collection.

Ill-health mainly dyspeptic trouble, dogged him all his life, although he was accustomed to conceal his suffering. It was his habit to work quietly in his peaceful retreat at Downe until at last his health broke down completely, and then he would recruit his strength with a short holiday and prepare for another spell of labor.

He worked steadily to the end. He divided his days into short spells of labor and rest, and he worked to a regular program. His own ending came on April 19, 1882, at Downe, and science mourned the thinker who had changed man's whole conception of the world.