

Charles Darwin: Evolution's Voice

Discussion Questions

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1. Charles Darwin's theory of evolution rocked the 19th century religious and intellectual world. Why was his theory so revolutionary?
2. Darwin is considered one of the most important figures in world history. Do you agree? If so, why? If not, why not?
3. How did Darwin's theory change the world?
4. Charles Darwin did poorly in school as a young boy. How did his poor performance belie his genius?
5. After Darwin dropped out from medical school, he began to study for the ministry. Why did he study for the ministry, despite the fact that he did not have the "calling?"
6. Darwin's voyage on the Beagle changed his life and world history. But he was apprehensive of the voyage. Why? Why did he fear sailing on the Beagle?
7. Why was it so important for Darwin to earn his father's respect and his teacher's respect?
8. Charles Darwin became ill at a relatively young age. How did his illness change his life?
9. Darwin was hesitant to publish his findings because he knew they would create a controversy. What finally prompted him to publish?
10. Discuss the response to *On the Origins of the Species*.
11. What is the core premise of Darwin's theory of evolution?

