

To end our topic 'Frozen Kingdoms', we created the Aurora Borealis using chalk.

This half term, we started our new topic 'Darwin's Delight'. We have been learning about evolution by natural selection, and animal and plant adaptations.

February

In Big Write, we have been learning about Charles Darwin. We then wrote a diary extract from his point of view about his first day on the Galapagos Islands.

25th September 1835

Dear diary,

After almost 3 months on the HMS Beagle, I thought this day would never come. We finally arrived at one of the Galapagos Islands, off the coast of Ecuador. I was stunned by the extraordinary landscape ^{and} overwhelmed by the intense heat, as it was nothing like the weather in Plymouth. These islands were on the eastern Pacific Ocean and placed directly under the equator.

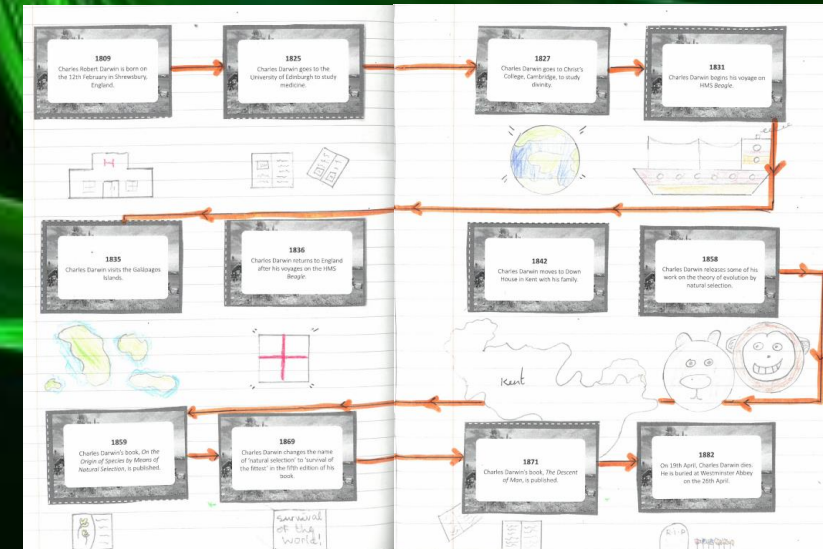
Once I stepped foot on the splendid island, I was glad to smell the crisp, clean atmosphere. I was immediately stunned by the volcanoes; I had never seen ones that spit fire before. I made sure to spend the day exploring the entire island.

I quickly discovered animals unlike any I had never seen before. I was surprised by the number of aboriginal animals, considering the size of these islands. I found a marine iguana, which could swim around 1.5 feet per second. On the ground, I found a Galapagos tortoise that could go a year without eating; surprisingly a full grown one could reach up to 5 feet tall. As I looked for more animals, I noticed a finch, similar to those in Ephraim, however it possessed a much longer and narrower beak. I wondered if this was an adaptation specific to the Galapagos Islands.

As it got darker, the stars started to flood the sky. I lay down and started sketching the fish I saw earlier today. George, my companion, wondered around looking for sticks to start a cosy, warming fire.

Whilst sketching, I started to grow bored but my mind was excited for the adventure that awaited me tomorrow.

- Charles Darwin -



In History, we have been looking at the achievements of Charles Darwin and ordering them on a timeline.