

1. Charles Darwin

This lesson focuses on Charles Darwin (1809-82), one of the greatest scientists in history. His pioneering work still forms the basis of our understanding of evolution as an explanation for the development of life on Earth. His revolutionary study *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* was published on 24th November 1859.

Level

Upper intermediate and above

How to use the lesson

1. Brainstorm what your students know about Charles Darwin.
2. Tell the class you are going to give them a text about Charles Darwin, and that the text comes in two parts.
3. Divide the class into pairs and give each pair a copy of Worksheet A divided into two parts (1 and 2). Give the students at least ten minutes to read their part of the text, and encourage them to look up any new vocabulary. Make it clear that you are going to take their pieces of paper away from them when the time is up, and that therefore it is important that they try to remember as much of the texts as possible.
3. Collect the pieces of paper and give each pair a copy of Worksheet B. Give them at least five minutes to work together to complete the crossword. To refresh the students' memories you could perhaps provide them with a few of the letters from the missing words.
4. When the time is up, give out Worksheet A again so that the students can check any questions they weren't able to answer.
5. Check answers in open class.
6. Hand out copies of Worksheet C, which features a text containing precisely fifteen mistakes. Keeping the students in their pairs, ask them to work together in order to find and correct the mistakes. Allow 5-10 minutes for this task, and encourage students to spend the first couple of minutes reading through the text, and looking up any new vocabulary, before they start concentrating on finding the mistakes. Tell the students that some of the mistakes are grammatical while others are due to the wrong choice of word, and that in a couple of cases there is more than one way of correcting them.
7. Check answers in open class by referring to Worksheet D, which contains the corrected text with all the changes in bold, then give every student a copy of Worksheet D.

Answers

Part A (crossword):

1. expedition
2. survival
3. books
4. related
5. outside
6. naturalist
7. millions
8. shocking
9. ancestry

If all the gaps have been filled correctly, *evolution* should read from top to bottom.

Part B (15 mistakes/corrections): see Worksheet D

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/darwin/>

Charles Darwin section from website of American Museum of Natural History. A huge amount of material. For upper-intermediate students.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/sn/prehistoric_life/human/human_evolution/

The Evolution of Man, from the Science & Nature section of the BBC website. A collection of texts, with links to other evolution-related topics. Upper-intermediate level and above.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/6064364.stm>

Recent news item from the BBC about Darwin's entire works being made available online. Upper-intermediate level and above.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_darwin

Wikipedia entry for Charles Darwin. For upper-intermediate students.