

DARWINIAN EVOLUTION HISTORY

1809

Birth of Charles Darwin

Born in Shrewsbury, England, the same day as Abraham Lincoln.

1831 - 1836

Voyage of the HMS Beagle

Darwin serves as naturalist, collecting specimens across South America and the Galápagos Islands.

1838

Theory of Natural Selection

After reading Malthus, Darwin conceives the mechanism of "natural selection" as the driver of evolution.

1858

The Wallace Correspondence

Alfred Russel Wallace sends Darwin a paper outlining similar ideas; both theories are presented at the Linnean Society.

1859

On the Origin of Species

Darwin publishes his seminal work, providing extensive evidence for descent with modification.

1871

The Descent of Man

Darwin applies evolutionary theory to human evolution and introduces the concept of sexual selection.

1930s - 1940s

The Modern Synthesis

The integration of Darwinian selection with Mendelian genetics creates the foundation of modern biology.