



Charles Darwin – Picture from Wikipedia

On 12th February 2009 it marks 200 years since the birth of one of Britain's most influential scientists, Charles Darwin. His book *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* [1] caused huge controversy on its publication, but went on to form the basis of our understanding of the process of evolution.

Throughout Darwin 200 year there are lots of exhibitions, events and resources. The celebrations began on 1 July 2008, 150 years since Darwin and Wallace announced the theory that rocked science and society, and will continue until 24 November 2009, the 150th anniversary of the publication of *On the Origin of Species*. See the special website at the Natural History Museum (NHM) for details [2].

If **your** school or authority is holding an event for Darwin 200 we would love to know [3], and can help publicise it via our website. Once your event has been held, please send us a report and photos. We will feature a selection in the SSERC Bulletin.

Free resources

The Wellcome Trust is funding a range of national projects throughout the year to engage people of all ages with the legacy of Darwin's scientific ideas. As part of the celebrations they are providing free experiment kits to all state secondary schools across the UK.



Survival Rivals is a series of Darwin-inspired experiments. There are three kits available in the series:

- *I'm a Worm Get Me Out of Here* for 11-14 year olds looks at naturalselection.
- *Brine Date* for 14-16 year olds looks at sexualselection.
- *The X-Bacteria* for post-16 students looks at antibiotic resistance in bacteria.

Each experiment will help young people to see the link between Darwin's ideas and modern evolutionary principles. They are also linked to relevant parts of the Scottish curricula. The kits include experimental materials as well as teacher, technician and student notes and online videos to support their delivery.

Survival Rivals kits are available to pre-order now and will be sent out to schools from Spring 2009. For more information see www.survivalrivals.org.

The kits will also be available for independent schools to purchase. See the Survivalrivals website for details [4].

References

- [1] <http://www.zoo.uib.no/classics/origin.html>
 [2] <http://www.darwin200.org/index.html>
 [3] e-mail - fiona.stewart@sserc.org.uk
 [4] <http://www.survivalrivals.org/>



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