

Darwin Day Card Sort

This is a collection of 12 questions and answers all derived from Darwin's work.

They are presented below with the questions and answers aligned.

However, the questions and answers should be printed separately on two different colours of card then cut up to make multiple sets for the pupils to work on in pairs, matching the questions with the answers.

See separate pages for printing questions and answers.

How did all the plants and animals that are on the earth get here?	Living things changed very slowly over millions of years, adapting and evolving.
What do fossils tell us about animals in the past?	There used to be animals that are not alive now because they died out and became extinct.
Why do some animals and plants become extinct (die out)?	They don't change and adapt fast enough to changes in their surroundings (environment)
How did life begin?	Chemicals dissolved in water could have been joined together by heat or lightning.
Why do birds have different shaped beaks?	They adapted and evolved different beaks to feed on different types of food.
Why are humans so similar to current day apes?	They evolved from a shared ancestor that was a bit like both of them.
Why are there so many varieties of apples and breeds of dogs?	People have been breeding plants and animals to get the types they wanted.
Why isn't the world piled high with dead plants and animals?	Bacteria and fungi feed on dead things and chemicals get re-used.
How do dead leaves get pulled into the soil?	Earthworms pull them into their burrows and feed on them.

Darwin Day Card Sort contd.

Where do ideas about good and bad human behaviour come from?	Feelings and beliefs have evolved for millions of years becoming fairness, kindness and morality.
Why did Darwin, like other scientists, spend so much time observing and collecting information?	Evidence is used to understand and explain the world and then come up with theories.
What made Darwin change his mind about the answer to his big question 'How did all the plants and animals on the earth get here?'	He collected a lot of evidence from different parts of the world. He was also upset and puzzled by the death of his daughter and the cruelty he saw.

Darwin Day Other questions to think about

How can knowing that humans are all related help us to be friendly and kind to people who are a bit different to us?

How are we different from other animals? Are we more important?
How should we treat other animals?

What is the best way to answer questions and understand the world?

What should we do about questions we don't have answers for?

See also a short document 'Lessons from Darwin' on the HUK Understanding Humanism website, which reflects on Darwin's work and poses a few additional questions.

<https://understandinghumanism.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Lessons-form-Darwin.pdf>