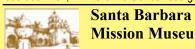
A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS AND THE EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE, PUBLISHED MONTHLY TO PROMOTE LEARNING AMONG YOUNG READERS IN NATURAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY, AND ART

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This Month's Theme: Become A Naturalist



Charles Darwin

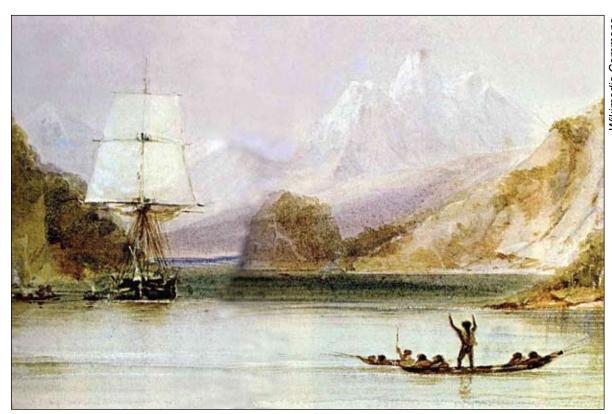
Naturalists are people who study nature, especially by direct observation of animals and plants. Through their detailed scientific observations, they come to understand the natural world around them.

February 2009 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of one of the most famous naturalists who ever lived:

Charles Darwin. Born in England on February 12, 1809, Darwin is known as one of the founders of modern biology. He was a scientist whose observations of the natural world

led him to propose a theory about how life on earth changes over time.

When Darwin was a young man, he went on a five-year scientific expedition on the survey ship, HMS Beagle. Through his travels, he saw many new kinds of plants, animals, geological formations, and even fossils. These experiences greatly shaped how he saw the world. After many years of experiments and observations, Darwin published his famous book, On the Origin of Species, in 1859.



HMS Beagle at Tierra del Fuego. Painting by Conrad Martens.

For more information about Charles Darwin, visit "The Evolution of Darwin" exhibit at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History starting February 6, 2009. Also, visit www. sbnature.org for details about events celebrating Darwin's birthday at the Museum of Natural History.

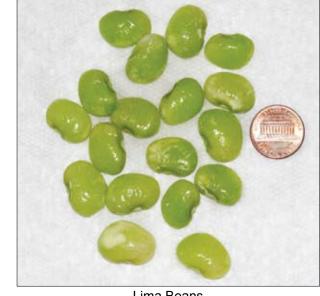


Nature Journaling at the Beach

How to Become a Naturalist:

- Go outside and observe the natural world around you.
- Use your eyes, ears, nose, and hands to explore.
- Visit a variety of places throughout the year to see how they change.
- Keep a nature journal to record what you learn through notes, measurements, and drawings. Your journal is a way to keep a memory collection of your experiences, so be sure to record everything you think you will want to remember.





Lima Beans

Adapted from a lesson by the UC Museum of Paleontology

As a young naturalist, you can examine living things and see how they change and grow over time. This activity involves measuring and noting the differences in lengths of lima beans and comparing how beans of different sizes grow.

Materials:

Bag of dried lima beans

Nature journal

Pencil

Ruler Two cups (with drainage holes in the bottom) or small flower pots

Soil Water

- 1. Examine a pile of lima beans. Measure the lengths of some of them. Record and draw your observations in your nature journal.
- 2. Pick the largest (#1) and smallest bean (#2) and plant each in its own numbered pot. Record your ideas about how each will grow.
- 3. Put the pots in a well-lit place and water regularly. Observe the plants each day, recording details such as number and size of leaves, color and height of each plant.
- 4. When the plants have grown several centimeters, compare the two plants. Is there any difference in growth between them? How does this compare to your prediction?

Page created by Heather Moffat, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

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