



EXPLORING NATURE

GET READY

Charles Darwin was an English naturalist, geologist, and biologist who explored the world and recorded his observations.

You don't have to travel to faraway lands to be a naturalist like Darwin. Exploring and learning about nature can be done in your very own yard!

CAREER CONNECTION

A person who studies **natural history** is a naturalist. Some people are naturalists as part of a career. Others are naturalists as a hobby.

WHAT YOU NEED

You can go exploring with just your eyes and a little patience! For extra help bird spotting, you may want to bring:

- * Notebook & Pencil
- * Field Guide(s)
- * Hand Lens or Magnifying Glass
- * Binoculars



TRY THIS:

Learning more about nature can be done at a park, the beach, or even your own yard. Exploring like Charles Darwin means to be curious, pay attention to detail, and record your discoveries carefully.

Step 1: Find a Place to Observe

You can observe from a balcony, a patio, within your neighborhood, or at a natural location like on a hike.

Step 2: Gather your Tools

Use a notebook and pencil to record your observations. You may want to use other tools such as a hand lens.

Step 3: Look and Listen Carefully

Sitting still, listen to and observe the nature around you.

Step 4: Record Your Observations

Write or draw your discoveries. You can record plants and animals you saw and describe natural sounds you heard like wind through the trees.



WHAT YOU DISCOVERED:

Darwin studied everything from land features to plants and animals. From looking at the same animals in different locations, and studying things over time, he was able to come up with some of the theories we use for science today. You too can learn a lot from studying one area. Keep observing your outside area and recording what you see on different days. The more observations you make, the more likely you are to see changes in nature like Darwin!



EXPLORE FURTHER:

Once you have studied one area repeatedly, try observing in a different location. Do you see any similarities in the area's nature? Any differences?