

Charles Darwin 1809-1882

- British biologist, naturalist, author
- at age 22,
 - took part in an around the world voyage
 - sponsored by British govt
 - HMS Beagle
 - most well known stop
 - Galapagos Islands
- animals there have no innate fear of humans
- easy to observe at close quarters

- he was not the inventor of the idea of evolution
- he tried to explain how it worked

— natural selection

- in any population, there will be variations in individual characteristics
- in any population, there will be a competition for food
- certain characteristics are advantageous vs the environment (and thus "getting" food)

- those w/ the advantages will have an easier time surviving

- they will pass those traits to their offspring

- species will evolve when the environment favors new characteristics over old ones

— Survival of Fittest
(not his term)

- those w/ those better traits will be more fit, than others of the same species, to survive

• examples

● giraffes, horses, birds

— this process takes generations to occur

importance

A) there is an implication

● that humans have somehow evolved over the course of time, humans must have evolved from some type of "lower life" form

B) continues the scientific

● challenge of religion

● C) begins "Social Darwinism"

- implied humans were different in their characteristics

- therefore some humans must be superior, or more

● fit, than others...

by race

by class

by nation

by business

● by intelligence

- Suddenly there was now
an excuse for...

racism and/or slavery
social inequality

Nationalism, imperialism,
militarism

monopolies

- the most extreme...

the Eugenics Movement

- a social and/or
scientific practice to
improve the genetic
make-up of a population
(Hitler loved eugenics)