

Darwin's Delights

Something to think about...

As a boy, Darwin was known for filling his pockets with stones, bits of plants and even live bugs, while he was exploring the countryside.

He continued collecting on his HMS Beagle voyages, filling the ship with thousands of specimens.



Darwin's hobby

Take a walk outdoors (or just around your garden) and collect a range of natural items in pots or pockets. Can you group the items in different ways and explain to an adult why you have grouped them in that way?

Choose a favourite item and learn its Latin name, if it has one (Google should be able to help you here).

Over time, you could continue to select similar items and display them in a **homemade sectional box**. A sectional box can be made from a matchbox, ice cube tray or by placing card dividers in a shoebox. If you collect flowers or leaves, you could press and preserve them with two large books or use the microwave trick we tried earlier this year when we dried flowers for our William Morris stained glass windows.

Use your sketchbooks to create observational sketches of any insects you find as you can't keep those- see the drawing task sheet for further ideas and guidance on this.



Giving your nature walks a focus:

Display one of the nature hunt sheets from our class web page on a mobile phone (or print one out) to look at whilst out on your nature walk. Can you find and identify the different trees, plants and animals from the markings and shapes displayed in the images?