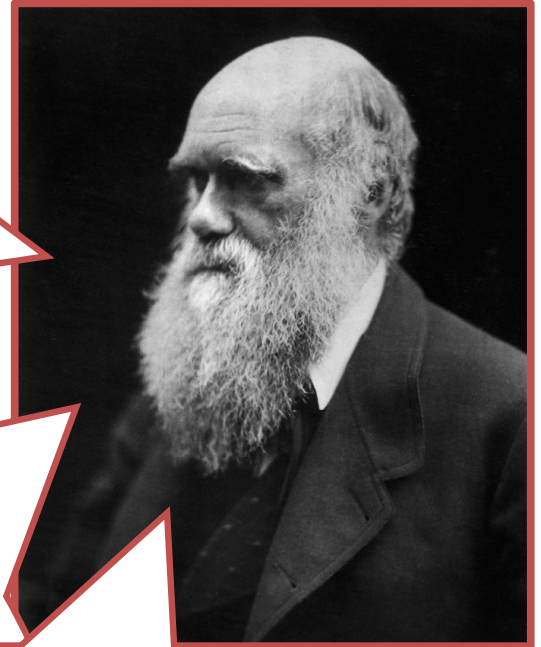


**Good Afternoon,**

My name is **Charles Darwin**. I am one of the most famous scientists of all time – or at least I think I should be! I'll tell you why in a minute but first let me tell you about myself.



I was born in February 1809 and died in April 1882. I am so important I was buried in Westminster Abbey in London.

I studied Science at the **University of Cambridge**, where I loved looking at beetles and animals. I lived here too for some of my life.

I was very lucky to be invited on a huge trip on board a boat named the *HMS Beagle*. It was only meant to last for 2 years but ended up being 5!! I got to study lots of rare animals on this journey which helped me a lot!

My most famous piece of work is called the 'Theory of evolution'. I used my work from the Beagle trip to write about how life evolved on Earth from very simple cells to complicated organisms like plants, animals and humans.

As evidence I used my huge fossil collection and my notes on the birds in the Galapagos islands that I visited.

This work was very important, as scientists spent years wondering how humans came to be on Earth – I was an important part of solving that problem.



This is my microscope, which is in the Whipple Museum. I used it to study things that I collected (specimens) and fossils. This helped me to develop my theory as I could see things like barnacles very close up. I loved to experiment with my microscope as it helped me think about my ideas.

*Charles Darwin*

**Hello,**

My name is **Dr. William Dillon-Weston**. I am not a very famous scientist, but my work was really important to Cambridge and English farming. Let me tell you about myself and then you'll understand why.



I was born in 1899 and died in 1953.

I studied Natural Sciences at the **University of Cambridge**, and then got a job working for the government on Farming and Fishing.

I worked at the University of Cambridge where I spent my time researching fungi. I also taught students and made them models to explain what I could see under the microscope.

I'm most famous for my models. I made them all out of pieces of glass which I melted and twisted into shape. (Don't try this though because I often got burnt and it hurts!)

I often made my models very late at night as I was not very good at sleeping.

Sometimes I would make them on holiday and bring them home in the back of my car. I had to drive very carefully so that they didn't smash!



Like many scientists I used a microscope to look at tiny fungi very close up. The models in the collection at the Whipple Museum (like the one on the left) show you what I could see when I looked down my microscope.

I lived in Britain during the Second World War. For me this meant that I had a lot of work to do as it was very important that Britain could produce lots of food for the soldiers and people at home. Fungi can kill food so my work helped stop this.

**Hello,**

My name is **Ida Freund**. I am a chemist and I was the first woman to be a university chemistry lecturer in the United Kingdom. I worked at Newnham College, Cambridge.

I was born in 1863 and died in 1914. I moved to England in 1881 to live with my uncle as my parents and grandparents had died.

I studied Natural Sciences at Girton College, Cambridge, and graduated with First Class honours even though English was my second language.

I joined Newnham College as a demonstrator and was promoted to staff lecturer in Chemistry in 1890. I was also a member of the college council.



I didn't study for a master's degree or a doctorate because I wanted to concentrate on teaching my students.

I am well known for writing two textbooks, inventing a gas measuring tube and making models of the periodic table out of cupcakes!

I lost my leg in a cycling accident when I was a girl so I was a distinctive figure around Cambridge with my sticks and my tricycle wheelchair.



In the Whipple Museum there is a fume cupboard from the Old Labs at Newnham College, where I worked. When I was working, girls often weren't allowed to learn chemistry in school so they needed lots of training when they came to university. Having laboratories where they could learn to use scientific equipment was really important. After I retired in 1913 the labs at Newnham were closed, but for a good reason - after that women were finally allowed to work in the university laboratories alongside male students.