

# The journey of young Charles Darwin

Charles Darwin joined HMS Beagle as a naturalist to sail on an admiralty surveying expedition to South America. During his five-year voyage Darwin began to formulate the theories of evolution realized in his master work, *On the Origin of Species by means of Natural Selection*

**Mizzen-mast:** Made her easier to handle under full sail

**Chart room:** Darwin's quarters during voyage

**Darwin's cabin:** 9ft by 11ft, built around mizzen-mast. Room equipped with chart table, bookshelves, cooker, and wash stand

**Main-mast**

**HMS Beagle: Cherokee Class** 10-gun brig built at cost of £7,803 and launched in 1820  
For survey work deck was raised by 18 inches and rig converted from brig to barque by addition of mizzen-mast

**Fore-mast**

**Captain: Robert Fitzroy**  
Crew: 74  
Displacement: 242 tons  
Length: 90ft 4in  
Beam: 24ft 6in  
Draught: 12ft 6in

Guns reduced to six for survey voyage

Ship built of larch and oak planking on oak frames

