

Fig. 1.1.1 Charles Darwin

The textbook will say that Darwin (Figure 1.1.1) was a naturalist aboard the HMS Beagle when he went to the Galapagos Islands.

In reality Darwin had no formal training in the realm of science, especially not biology. He was a theology student that could not initially get a job anywhere in his field of study.

He eventually got a job as the captain's companion. In those days, the captain was not allowed to interact with the crew on a personal level. Darwin's job was to keep the captain company and to provide someone to talk to.

There is no evidence to suggest that his travels were for his research or that he was brought on board because of his credentials.

Many of the things that we are taught about scientists in the past are wrong. These myths are often propped up and the truth ignored so that we will not scrutinize their findings or credentials. If we did look more closely, we would be less likely to believe what they taught.

Another overlooked fact is that in Darwin's time, our knowledge of biology, especially cell biology, was very limited.

This limited knowledge of the cell led Darwin and his contemporaries to vastly overestimate the possibility of evolution.

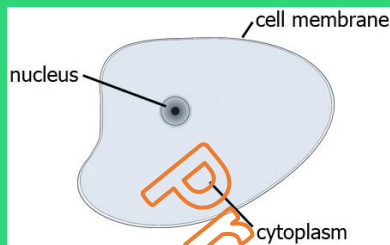


Fig. 1.1.3 An early cell model

Scientists at the time thought that the cell was little more than a membrane with genetic material (Figure 1.1.3). We



Fig. 1.1.4 A modern cell model

now know that the cell is infinitely more complex than anything that we could have ever imagined (Figure 1.1.4).

For comparison, those in Darwin's time thought that a cell had the complexity of a hut (Figure 1.1.5A), but we now



Fig. 1.1.5 A hut and a city

know that it is as complex as an entire city (Figure 1.1.5B).

The partial knowledge of Darwin and his contemporaries

concerning microbiology hindered how they saw the world. Because scientists thought that the cell and therefore any organism was simple, it seemed obvious that this took millions of years to form. With present microbiology, it is much more farfetched to hold this assessment.

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