

Bio4270 – Notes for “Voyage of Charles Darwin”

Episode 1 – “I was considered a very ordinary boy...”

Do “Trifling Chances” lead to a career in Science ?

04.00 – Medical school of U Edinburgh

Operation on young girl
Note absence of ordinary cleanliness
Wine as ‘anaesthetic’; cloth to bite
Darwin runs out [cf biography]

07.00 – We meet Robert Fitzroy, RN

Boarding the HMS *Beagle* w/ Sullivan: First command
Scurvy, frostbite, & suicide:

“What is it drives a man to suicide?” “Hardships & Anxieties”

Civilized Christians

16.00 – “Uncle Jos” - Josiah Wedgewood

U Cambridge to study Theology

Three years wasted [?] / “I cannot help looking back to those times”

“My passion for hunting led me into a Sporting Set....”

22.00 Beetle collecting: “I will give proof of my zeal”

22.49 – John Stevens Henslow [filmed at Kew Gardens]

Lecture to mixed group

Collecting - “The Man Who Walks with Henslow”

26.00 – Fuegians - Jemmy Button, Fuegia Basket, & York Minster

What is current (2022) status of Fuegians?

28:00 – Darwin & Henslow : Did Darwin disappoint Henslow?

Drawing conclusions from long-continued & minute observations

Contrasting explanations for adaptation & variety ?

32.00 – Voyage of HMS *Beagle* (1831) [filmed on Spanish barque *Marques*]

33:30 – Henslow’s Letter [see copies]

Father’s reaction: “Wild disreputable scheme”; Can Charles find a “Man of common sense” ?

Uncle Jos rebuttal: “A young man of Enlarged Curiosity....” [Note faces]

Interview with Fitzroy: no “dilettantism”, “high Tory” vs “low Whig”

Importance of Phrenology: “His nose”

What is Darwin’s position on the *Beagle* ?

Ship 235 tonnes, 90' long x 25' wide x 9' draft, crew of 70

Fitzroy – discipline contrasted with generosity

Authority on shipboard: flogging as discipline

Introduction to Wickham as First Lieutenant

Who is Augustus Earle ? Note Earle’s comments throughout

[Note *Book of Common Prayer* on those in Peril on the Sea]

45.00 - First display of Fitzroy’s temper

Chronometric survey – How do chronometers work ?

Lyell’s *Principles of Geology* [Vol. 1]

48.00 – “The Most Important Event of My Life”

Episode 2 – “A man must have a decided taste for some branch of knowledge”

“My Mind was a chaos of delight.”

02.00 – Sea-Sickness: **How does this affect his subsequent work?**

08.00 - Darwin mounts to the t’gallants

Note Fitzroy insights into biology

10.00 – Introduce **Covington** - Observe **British class system**

13.00 – “Crossing the Line”

Note Marines

Cf. account in *Voyage*

15.30 – Landfall at San Salvador on South American coast

23.00 – ***I made no conscience effort - My future path was set***

Why no large mammals in South America ?

I observed, rather than made deductions

26.00 – Oceanic collections

30.00 – Jungle collections

Advantages of ignorance

32.00 - **Are spiders “poisonous” ?**

35.00 – Collecting vs sport

36.00 – Layover at Rio de Janeiro w/ Earle

First encounter with slavery & slave-owners

Darwin as Naturalist w/ beard, **Earle** as Artist

English class system; beating of servant

“A higher opinion of the Negro character”

46.00 – **Speculation on predator / prey interactions**

Reception at *Rio MacKay* estate

54.00 – **Darwin argues with Fitzroy on slavery** & recovery

Death of Masters