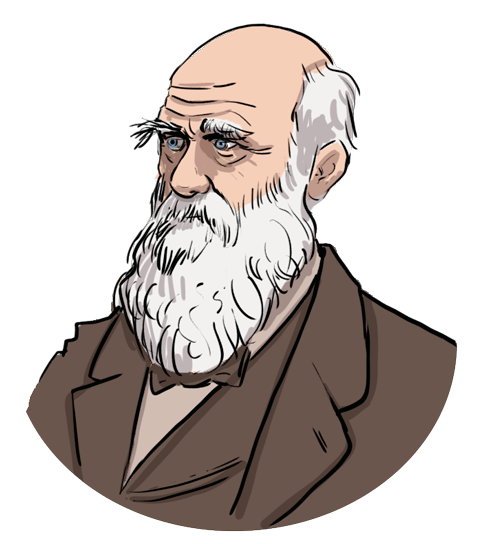
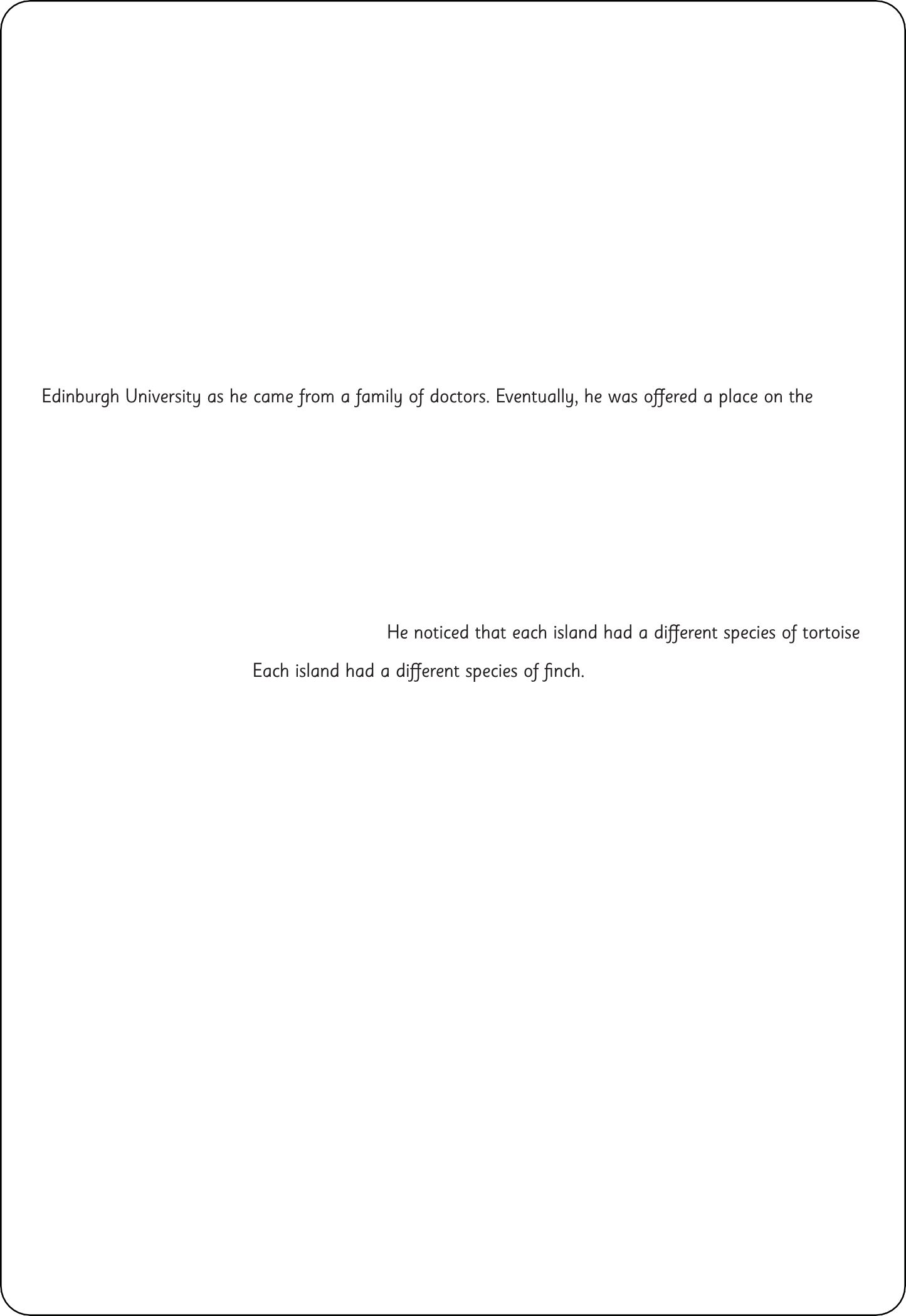
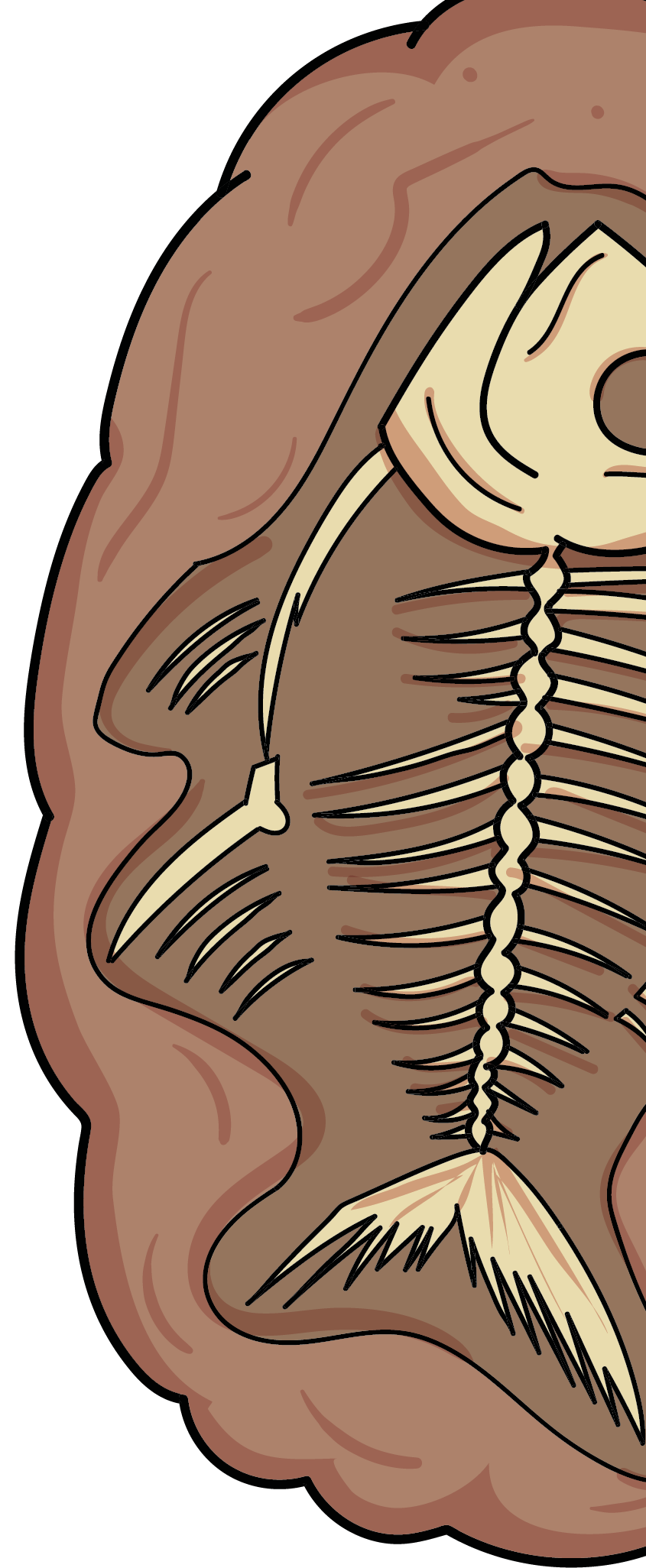
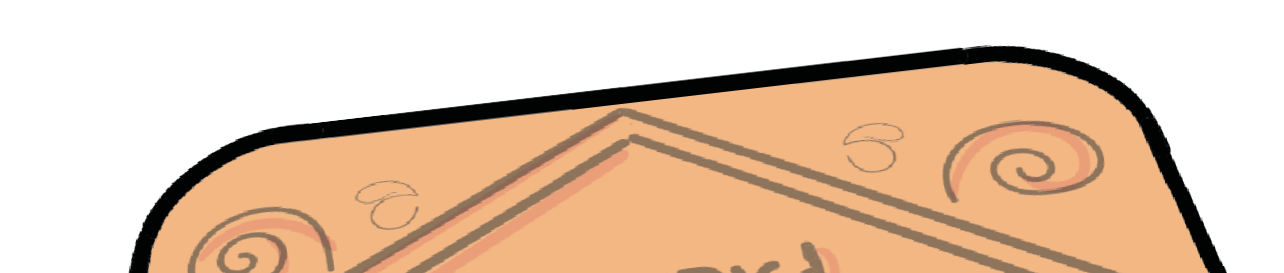
Charles Darwin Information sheet



Charles Darwin was an English naturalist born on **February 12, 1809** in Shrewsbury, England. He is best known for developing a **theory of evolution** to explain biological change. This theory showed how Man evolved from lower life forms. With this theory, Darwin shocked religious Victorian society by suggesting that animals and humans shared a common ancestry. He planned to study medicine at

Edinburgh University as he came from a family of doctors. Eventually, he was offered a place on the

HMS Beagle as a natural scientist in 1831. This voyage ended in 1836.

**Quick Facts:**

* Darwin was married to his first cousin, Emma Wedgewood.
* Charles and Emma had 10 children together, three of whom died as an infant.
* On his voyage, Darwin studied **tortoises.**

He noticed that each island had a different species of tortoise.

* He also studied **finches.**

Each island had a different species of finch.

* He wrote many books about his voyage, **Journal of Researches, Coral Reefs, Volcanic Islands** and

**Geographical Observations on South America.**

* His memorial work **The Origin of Species** was published on November 24, 1859.
* He wrote his last book on earthworms which published in October 1881.
* Darwin appeared on the back of the British 10 pound note along with an image of HMS Beagle, a magnifying lens and flora and fauna seen on his travels.
* When at Cambridge University, he formed the Gourmet Club for the purpose of dining on exotic animals.
* Charles Darwin **passed away** on **April 19, 1882** at Down House, Kent.
* He was honoured by burial in Westminster Abbey next to fellow scientists John Herschel and Sir Isaac Newton.
* Charles Darwin’s father was a doctor and he really wanted Charles to study medicine at university. Charles started to train to be a doctor, but he was afraid of the sight of blood, and switched to studying the classics. However, Charles soon realised that his real passion was for **geology** (the study of the Earth and rocks) and **botany** (plant biology).
* A **statue** of him has been placed in the main hall of **London’s Natural History Museum.**
* More than **120 species** have been named after Darwin.

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