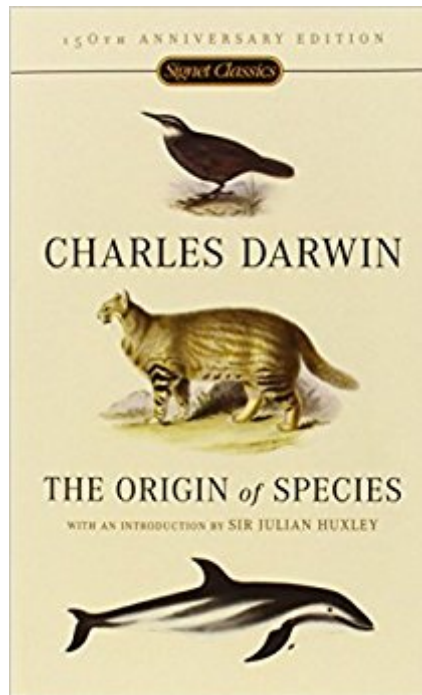




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# The Origin Of Species: 150th Anniversary Edition



## Synopsis

Charles Darwin's classic that exploded into public controversy, revolutionized the course of science, and continues to transform our views of the world. Few other books have created such a lasting storm of controversy as *The Origin of Species*. Darwin's theory that species derive from other species by a gradual evolutionary process and that the average level of each species is heightened by the "survival of the fittest" stirred up popular debate to fever pitch. Its acceptance revolutionized the course of science. As Sir Julian Huxley, the noted biologist, points out in his illuminating introduction, the importance of Darwin's contribution to modern scientific knowledge is almost impossible to evaluate: "a truly great book, one which can still be read with profit by professional biologist." Includes an Introduction by Sir Julian Huxley

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Next to the Bible no work has been quite as influential, in virtually every aspect of human thought, as *The Origin of Species*.  
• Ashley Montagu "Darwin was one of history's towering geniuses and ranks with the greatest heroes of man's intellectual progress."  
• George Gaylord Simpson in *The Meaning of Evolution* "It is clear that here is one of the most important contributions ever made to philosophic science; and it is at least behooving on scientists, in the light of the accumulation of evidence which the author has summoned in support of his theory, to reconsider the grounds on which their present doctrine of the origin of species is based."  
• The New York Times "Amazingly, 150 years after the publication of *The Origin of Species*, Darwin's

seminal work on the theory of evolution remains the authoritative tract on the subject. *Library Journal*

Charles Robert Darwin was born in 1809 in Shrewsbury, England. At Cambridge University he formed a friendship with J. S. Henslow, a professor of botany, and that association, along with his enthusiasm for collecting beetles, led to “a burning zeal,” as he wrote in his *Autobiography*, for the natural sciences. A voyage to the Southern Hemisphere on the H.M.S. *Beagle* between 1831 and 1836 would lay the foundation for *The Origin of Species*, published in 1859. His other works include *The Descent of Man*, and *Selection in Relation to Sex* (1871) and *Recollections of My Mind and Character*, also titled *Autobiography* (1887). Charles Darwin’s *Diary of the Voyage of the H.M.S. Beagle* was published posthumously in 1933.

Though at times the volume of facts that are presented seemed overwhelming, I had to remind myself of the difficulties Darwin faced in expounding his new theory. Still more impressive are the arguments he makes that anticipated some of the modern attacks of creationism. I am glad to have read this classic book of the biological sciences.

Wait until the last chapter - it’s worth the slog. The major part of the book repeatedly shows us evidence of evolution, with minor comments on how this or that theory is incompatible with the ‘creation’ of species. It is almost painfully repetitive, until the last chapter. But then he makes a change of direction and elaborates (in his impeccable politeness) how the old ideas of creation are about to die down, and that even eminent scientists of his era won’t accept his theory. But he states that a new, fresh set of ‘young and rising naturalists’ will ‘do good service by conscientiously expressing his conviction; for only thus can the load of prejudice by which this subject is overwhelmed be removed.’

I liked this book. People who are interested in historical books should be interested in reading this book... One of the things that was especially interesting is the author’s writing style and ability to get his message across. Overall, this book was very well written and I highly recommend to those who have not read. To those who have read it - read it again!

This is a classic in the study of biology that would never have been written if Darwin knew what we

know about cellular biology today. It is a big and complex book about a small and erroneous idea, but it is good to read what students are still being taught in their schools today. The book is complex because it is a compendium of evidence that variation does occur and this is important to understand. But it is tragic in that the author fails to understand that "survival of the fittest" offers only loss of life and can never introduce anything new. Note that he refers to the "Creator" as he is confronted by evidence that clearly fails to be explained by his religious evolution myths. Darwin had as much training in religion as he had in biology and this helps explain why faith is so important to him where he lacks evidence.

This book should be on every nonfiction shelf on earth. I've heard it called the second most important text second only to the bible, but its unfair to me to even compare in that category. Both the bible and origin of species have always been open to interpretation as any book should, the difference is that since its publishment, the theory of natural selection has been shown by evidence and repeated demonstration of experiment, to be absolutely true as a theory of how simple organisms can evolve over great spans of time into much more complex beings. This book does not preach, it does not command, and it does not judge. It only shows the scientific observations of a very intelligent and thoughtful man on the origin of species.

This classic needs no introduction. It is mandatory reading for anyone pretending to know anything about the life sciences. Fortunately, Darwin was a gifted writer. It is very accessible. There is ample human interest in his personal experiences, whether sailing around the world on the HMS Beagle, exchanging correspondence with the leading minds of his day, or engaging his ever-curious mind in conversation with all whom he encountered in life. Don't be afraid to give it to adolescents. I found a musty old volume in the UC Berkeley library at the age of fifteen and was fascinated. It is now, via and the Internet, much more accessible. Do it!

The hardcover illustrated version is a keeper. I wanted to help get my 13 yr. old interested in learning about evolution and Darwin. The illustrations help make a possibly difficult read for her way more interesting. It also makes for an excellent conversational coffee table book. Simply awesome.

The original book by Charles Darwin is a classic that should be on everyone's reading list. There are ample reviews here which address it, praise it, and I am completely in agreement with them. Darwin's Origin of Species is a true masterpiece. Unfortunately, this review is to help readers/buyers

realize that there is a 'vandalized' version which has been published, and to tell you how to avoid it and get the real thing. To explain; there is yet another edition also called "The Origin of Species, 150th Anniversary Edition", put out by Christian Fundamentalist Ray Comfort in an attempt to discredit evolutionary theory and Charles Darwin, and it has some extra 50 pages of unintelligible drivel about creationism, as well as having ABRIDGED Darwin's original text. If you want to read about creationism, find another book... if you want the facts, read ALL of what Darwin has to say, and please don't give any money to Comfort by accidentally buying his ABRIDGED version. Note that he used the EXACT same name as the 'real' anniversary edition -- "The Origin Of Species: 150th Anniversary Edition by Charles Darwin". You can easily tell which version you're getting by who wrote the introduction - go with Julian Huxley, NOT Ray Comfort, and you'll have the correct and complete version. Also, note that reviews are mixed between the books (normally not a problem at all) - I hope they are straightening this out, but currently that's not the case. Sadly, the negative reviews of the Comfort version are bringing down the rating of the 'good/real' book. Sorry to have to write about the 'drama', but I'm sure you want to know that you have ordered the correct book, and I know you'll love it. Enjoy.

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