

COMING SOON...
 PAUL BETTANY • JENNIFER CONNELLY
CREATION
 THE FILM ABOUT
CHARLES DARWIN
 IN CINEMAS SEPTEMBER 25, 2009

Creation in context: student worksheet

Read the extract from *Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation* and answer the following questions:

1) Is this what you would expect from a scientific argument? Explain your answer, giving examples from the extract.

2) Pick out the evidence or examples used at each stage of the argument to support the points made. Is the evidence used the kind that would be recognised today as 'scientific'?

<i>Point</i>	<i>Evidence</i>	<i>Scientific?</i>





3) How important is proof or evidence when dealing with scientific theories?





Read the extract from Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*

1) How much of what Darwin is arguing here relies on specific scientific knowledge, and how much on straightforward observation? How reliable do you find the proof he uses to support his argument?

2) Darwin asks his readers to believe his overall theory without giving access to the extensive research that he has completed. In the place of this extensive research, what techniques does he use here to persuade his reader of truth behind his reasoning?

3) a) What examples of variation in the squirrel family does Darwin identify?



b) What factors does Darwin suggest might lead to reduction in numbers or even extinction in the squirrel population?

c) In what ways does variation support the overall ideas behind evolutionary theory?

4) These two published works of science had very different receptions in their time. What similarities or differences can you identify in the style of the arguments of these two writers?
