

Detecting Darwin

Activity 1: Who lives here?

<http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/learning/7-11/detecting-darwin>

Suggested preparation

Presentation: Detecting Charles Darwin
<http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/learning/7-11/detecting-darwin>

Film: What was Darwin like and why is he important?
Professor Jim Secord, Director of the Darwin Correspondence Project explains
<http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/learning/7-11/detecting-darwin>

How long will activity take?

- 15 mins

What do I need?

- Image of Darwin's study

What we can learn about Charles Darwin as a person, and about his work, from what we see in his study?

What do I do?

As a class, look closely at the image of Darwin's study and discuss what you see.

What are the tools on his desk and what might they be used for?

What can you see in the mirror? What might that tell us?

What is on the table in the background and what might these things be used for?

What personal items can you see?

The portraits above the fire place are of his friends Joseph hooker (botanist), Charles Lyell (geologist) and his Grandfather Erasmus Darwin (doctor and inventor). Why might he have their portraits on the wall?

What do all these objects tell us about Darwin and the work that he did?



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Interior view of the Old Study, Down House, Kent. © Historic England. Ref: N080878 (DP064914)

