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## MAPS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

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Cover illustration: the *Rhea darwinii*, a second type of Rhea found only in the southern parts of the Argentine pampas, collected by Darwin and named in his honour by the London zoologist John Gould.

The principal locations mentioned in Darwin's text	30-31
South America in 1830	32

## CHARLES DARWIN: A CHRONOLOGY FROM 1809 TO 1839

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- 1809 Born at Shrewsbury on 12 February, in the parish of St Chad, the son of Robert Waring Darwin and Susannah, née Wedgwood.
- 1813 In the summer, goes to Gros near Abegele for sea-bathing, some of his earliest recollections coming from this.
- 1817 Attends Dr G. Case's day-school at Shrewsbury, aged eight. His mother dies.
- 1818 At midsummer, goes to Samuel Butler's school at Shrewsbury. Butler (1744–1839) was the grandfather of Samuel Butler (1835–1902), science writer and the author of *Erewhon*. In September, Darwin is ill with scarlet fever.
- 1822 In June, with his sister Caroline (1800–1888), Darwin goes touring and recollects taking pleasure in scenery.
- 1825 In October, matriculates at the University of Edinburgh. In the winter of 1826/1827 he examines marine animals on the shore of the Firth of Forth with Dr R. E. Grant (1793–1874), Lamarckian and naturalist.
- 1827 On 15 October Darwin is admitted to Christ's College, Cambridge, after ending his medical education in Edinburgh. He becomes friendly with his second cousin W. D. Fox (1805–1880) and they share an interest in entomology.
- 1828 Becomes a keen collector of insects, as well as spending time either hunting, shooting or being idle.
- 1831 Passes his BA on 22 January without Honours, and remains at Cambridge for a further two terms. Spends

much time with J. S. Henslow (1796–1861), clergyman, botanist and mineralogist. In his *Autobiography*, Darwin describes Henslow as ‘free from every tinge of vanity or other petty feeling’. In the spring of 1831 Darwin plans a visit to Tenerife and learns Spanish for that reason. In the summer he geologizes in North Wales with Adam Sedgwick (1785–1873), Woodwardian Professor of Geology at Cambridge. In August Henslow informs Darwin that Robert FitzRoy is seeking a gentleman companion and a naturalist aboard HMS *Beagle* for a journey to South America to ‘survey the S. extremity’. Initially Darwin refuses the offer (30 August) because his father has strong objections, the first of which is ‘the unfitting’ of Darwin to become a clergyman. Robert Darwin is persuaded to drop his objections by Josiah Wedgwood II, Charles’s uncle, who wrote in late August: ‘The undertaking would be useless as regards his profession, but looking upon him as a man of enlarged curiosity, it affords him such an opportunity of seeing men and things as happens to few.’ On 11 September, Darwin travels with Captain FitzRoy to Plymouth to see the *Beagle*, taking the steamer on a journey that lasts three days. He returns to Shrewsbury, via Cambridge, on 22 September and departs from home ten days later for the journey to South America, reaching Plymouth on 24 October. The *Beagle*’s departure is delayed during October and November, and two attempts to depart in December, on 10th and 21st, are abandoned because of bad weather. On 27 December the *Beagle* starts on the voyage of circumnavigation of the globe.

- 1832 On 16 January, Darwin makes his first landing ‘on a tropical shore’ at St Jago, Cape Verde Islands.
- 1836 On 2 October the *Beagle* drops anchor at Falmouth, and on the 4th Darwin returns home to Shrewsbury after an absence of five years and two days.
- 1837 In March Darwin takes up lodgings at 36 Great

Marlborough Street, in London. In May he gives a paper to the Geological Society on coral formations. In July, he opens his first notebook on 'transmutation of Species', having for some months pondered the character of South American fossils and the fauna of the Galapagos Archipelago. Throughout October and November he prepares the scheme for *The zoology of the voyage of HMS Beagle*.

- 1838 Works on a variety of geological and natural historical topics, and in September finishes his paper on the Scottish site Glen Roy and its famous 'roads', attempting to prove their marine origin. Throughout September and October he ponders transmutation questions and matters of religion. On 11 November, a Sunday (Darwin called it 'the day of days'), his cousin Emma Wedgwood (1808–1896), a daughter of Josiah Wedgwood II, agrees to marry him. In December Darwin is busy house-hunting and often feels unwell. In the last days of the year they take possession of their London home at 12 Upper Gower Street. On 24 January 1839 Darwin is elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, and on the 29th, he and Emma are married in Staffordshire.