



Darwin and Evolution

2009 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin and the 150th anniversary of the publication of *On The Origin Of Species*. This album introduces Darwin's great revelation: that species change and adapt according to their environment. Apparently diverse specimens and fossils reveal surprising results, such as the common ancestry of the hippopotamus and the dolphin, whose evolutionary paths diverged when their habitats changed. Research on sparrows show how particular characteristics are linked to success at surviving in the wild, and the selective breeding of dogs for aesthetic purposes shows how humans can influence the evolution of other species. This material forms part of the Open University course S366 Evolution.