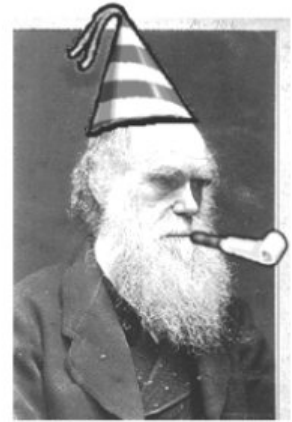


## *The 5 W's of Darwin Day*

**What?** - Darwin Day is an international celebration of science and humanity. Specifically a celebration of the discoveries and life of Charles Darwin -- the man who first described biological evolution via natural selection with scientific rigor and also a man who is known for his kindness, consideration, tolerance, reflective thought and deep appreciation for the similarities, as well as the differences, among us. Darwin Day does not seek to worship Darwin, or claim him flawless, rather simply to honor him for his contributions and his character.



Charles Robert Darwin  
Feb. 12, 1809 - Apr. 19, 1882

**Who?** - Darwin Day is celebrated by freethought and science advocacy groups, museums, schools, universities and communities around the world.

**When?** - Darwin Day itself is on February 12th--Darwin's birthday. But festivities often last the whole week of this day.

**Where?** - Most Darwin Day celebrations are in North America and England, but there are also celebrations in Mainland Europe, Australia and South America. The Darwin Day web site ([www.darwinday.org](http://www.darwinday.org)) has a listing of many of the larger celebrations.

**Why?** - Especially in North America (but also Australia and Europe to a lesser extent) there is an organized movement against the teaching of biological evolution through natural selection. While it is the responsibility of any citizen to cry foul when they see something being taught they do not think is true, those opposing evolution have spread a tremendous amount of misinformation. Also, efforts to reduce the teaching of evolution have left many people without a quality education regarding the details of evolution. The primary motivation behind Darwin Day is to give more people a better understanding of evolution.

Additionally, we seek to remind ourselves and our communities how important responsible scientific inquiry and education is to both our understanding of the world and our well being.

**hoW?** - Perhaps unlike most celebrations, the meat of Darwin Day celebrations is based in education. Speakers and community out reach are typically the largest part of any Darwin Day celebration. Cakes are not uncommon though.