

Darwin-Inspired Learning

Carolyn J. Boulter

University of London, Institute of Education, UK

Michael J. Reiss

University of London, Institute of Education, UK

and

Dawn L. Sanders (Eds.)

Department of Pedagogical, Curricular and Professional Studies, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Charles Darwin has been extensively analysed and written about as a scientist, Victorian, father and husband. However, this is the first book to present a carefully thought out pedagogical approach to learning that is centered on Darwin's life and scientific practice. The ways in which Darwin developed his scientific ideas, and their far reaching effects, continue to challenge and provoke contemporary teachers and learners, inspiring them to consider both how scientists work and how individual humans 'read nature'.

Darwin-inspired learning, as proposed in this international collection of essays, is an enquiry-based pedagogy, that takes the professional practice of Charles Darwin as its source. Without seeking to idealise the man, Darwin-inspired learning places importance on:

- active learning
- hands-on enquiry
- critical thinking
- creativity
- argumentation
- interdisciplinarity.

In an increasingly urbanised world, first-hand observations of living plants and animals are becoming rarer. Indeed, some commentators suggest that such encounters are under threat and children are living in a time of 'nature-deficit'. Darwin-inspired learning, with its focus on close observation and hands-on enquiry, seeks to re-engage children and young people with the living world through critical and creative thinking modeled on Darwin's life and science.

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Peter de Liefde – peter.deliefde@sensepublishers.com

Michel Lokhorst – michel.lokhorst@sensepublishers.com



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword

Rosemary & Peter Grant

Acknowledgements

Open Window

Ruth Padel

Introduction: Darwin-Inspired Learning

Michael J. Reiss, Carolyn J. Boulter & Dawn L. Sanders

Darwin's Heritage

1. Entering Darwin's Life

Randal Keynes

2. The World of Downe: Charles Darwin's Living Laboratory

Dawn L. Sanders

3. 'Pester Them with Letters': Using Darwin's Correspondence in the Classroom: The Darwin Correspondence Project

Sally Stafford

Developing a Sense of Place

4. Learning in Cultivated Gardens and Other Outdoor Landscapes

Paul Davies, Dawn L. Sanders & Ruth Amos

5. Learning to Read Nature to Understand the Natural World and How It Works

Ola Magntorn

6. Walking with Darwin in Rio de Janeiro: Learning about Cultural and Historical Values

Sandra Escovedo Selles

7. Getting the Kids Involved – Darwin's Paternal Example

James Moore

8. Using Collections of Darwiniana in Darwin-Inspired Learning

Ruth Barlow

The Importance of Active Hands-on Enquiry

9. Object Lessons in Evidence-Based Learning

Mike Corbishley

10. Sailing the Backyard *Beagle*: Darwin-Inspired Voyages of Discovery in Backyard and Schoolyard

James T. Costa

11. Naming the Living World: From the Infant's Perception of Animacy to a Child's Species Concept

Stephen P. Tomkins & Sue Dale Tunnicliffe

12. Scientific Enquiry: Searching for and Interpreting Evidence to Construct Arguments

Shirley Simon

13. Using Darwin to Teach Earth Science: The Importance of Hands-on Enquiry: The Development of the Darwin Workshop Methodology

Peter Kennett & Chris King

Critical Thinking about What and How we Know

14. Darwin the Scientist: Working Scientifically

James D. Williams

15. Teaching Evolution in Schools: A Matter of Controversy?

Ralph Levinson

16. The 'Attentive and Reflective Observer': Darwin-Inspired Learning and the Teaching of Evolution

Neil Ingram

17. Darwinian Case Studies Within a Post-16 Programme for the History and Philosophy of Science: The Perspectives on Science Course

John L. Taylor

18. They Really do Eat Insects: Learning from Charles Darwin's Experiments with Carnivorous Plants

Aaron M. Ellison

19. DNA Barcoding Darwin's Meadow: A Twenty-first-century Botanical Inventory at Historic Down House

Karen E. James

Interdisciplinary Studies

20. Darwin's Barnacles: Learning from Collections

Miranda Lowe & Carolyn J. Boulter

21. Darwin-Inspired Drama: Towards One Culture in Teaching and Learning Science

Martin Braund

22. Evolutionary Narratives: Darwin's Botany and US Periodical Literature

Tina Gianquitto

23. Darwin in Natural Science School Textbooks in the Nineteenth Century in England and Spain

Margarita Hernández-Laille

Developing Work with Learners

24. Writing and Representing to Learn in Science

Vaughan Prain

25. Routes to Conceptual Change in Teaching and Learning about Evolution: Experiences with Students Aged between 11 and 16 Years

Emma Newall

26. Developing a Model for Post-16 Teaching and Learning

Carolyn J. Boulter & Emma Newall

27. Transformation of the School Grounds for Darwin-Inspired Learning

Susan Johnson

28. Transition: Darwin-Inspired Learning Approaches at Crucial Junctures in Science Education

Susan Johnson

29. Staging Darwin's Science through Biographical Narratives

Dawn L. Sanders

Epilogue: Transforming the Ordinary

Dawn L. Sanders, Carolyn J. Boulter & Michael J. Reiss

About the Contributors

Index

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