

## MR DARWIN

Mister Darwin on the Beagle sailed the oceans and seas  
To South America and Tahiti and New Zealand, Maldives  
To Australia and Tasmania, Keeling Island and Saint Helena  
To Ascension and Mauritius and Brazil, de Verdes and Galapagos Islands  
Mister Darwin on the Beagle sailed away for five years

Mister Darwin on his journey watched the plants, beasts and birds  
He drew pictures, gathered samples, kept a journal full of words  
Looked at beetles, giant tortoises, finches, mockingbirds, flightless cormorants  
Studied daisies, prickly poppies, climbers, cactuses, kassava, coconut and cress  
He wondered where they came from and he soon had ideas

Now let's go out on a plant expedition  
Look at things closely, draw, measure, think, talk  
You can be part of botanical tradition  
Join the Great Plant Hunt, let's think as we walk

Mister Darwin, when he got home, wrote these new ideas down  
But he didn't like to offend so didn't share them around  
Twenty years passed, Mister Darwin got a letter from a Mister Wallace  
Now this young man had discovered  
Just the same thing Mister Darwin found  
**Aboard the Beagle, Mister Wallace had the self-same ideas**

Mister Darwin and Mister Wallace formed a team for some time  
But Mister Darwin wrote his big book in eighteen hundred and fifty-nine  
"On the Origin of Species by Natural Selection"  
Everybody read the book, everybody had an opinion  
Some people praised it, others damned it, Mister Darwin's big book

Mister Darwin sent some samples to the scientists at Kew  
**Some were added to the great collection, some were planted then grew**  
Still today plant hunters journey, collecting samples, writing words  
Sending specimens to Kew, investigating how to save their habitats and still we  
Ponder many questions – these are questions for you!

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With help on the lyrics from Khairoun Abji, Megan Gimber and Sue Blake