CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

The Voyage of the Beagle

Charles Darwin · *1839 (revised 1845) · Darwin's English (1845 revision)*

After having been twice driven back by heavy south-western gales, Her Majesty's ship Beagle, a ten-gun brig, under the command of Captain Fitz Roy, R.N., sailed from Devonport on the 27th of December, 1831. The object of the expedition was to complete the survey of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego. Darwin's 1845 revision, Project Gutenberg #3704. For grades 9–12. Quote this revision, not a later abridgment or a film. The book is long; one map cannot teach the whole voyage.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read The Voyage of the Beagle as Darwin opens the 1845 revision—twice driven back by gales, a ten-gun brig under Fitz Roy, sailing from Devonport on 27 December 1831—rather than as a later legend of a theory only?

"After having been twice driven back by heavy south-western gales, Her Majesty's ship _Beagle_, a ten-gun brig, under the command of Captain"

Chapter I, opening

After having been twice driven back by heavy south-western gales, Her Majesty's ship Beagle, a ten-gun brig, under the command of Captain Fitz Roy, R.N., sailed from Devonport on the 27th of December, 1831. The object of the expedition was to complete the survey of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego. Teach that sailing, for grades 9–12, as this 1845 revision prints it (the name Beagle is italic in the file). This is a voyage and a survey, told in Darwin's English; it is not a later abridgment, a film, or a substitute for On the Origin of Species. The book is long; one map cannot teach the whole circumnavigation. Quote the 1845 text, Project Gutenberg #3704.

KEY CHARACTERS

Charles Darwin
Who writes this 1845 account of the voyage, after a sailing twice delayed by gales

Captain Fitz Roy, R.N.
In command of the ten-gun brig Beagle, named in the first sentence

H.M.S. Beagle
The ship that sailed from Devonport on 27 December 1831, after being twice driven back

HOW TO BEGIN THIS VOYAGE

> *"After having been twice driven back by heavy south-western gales, Her Majesty's ship _Beagle_, a ten-gun brig, under the command of Captain"*
> Chapter I

> *"The object of the expedition was to complete the survey of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, commenced"*
> Chapter I

Grades 9–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

Twice Driven Back

CHAPTER I, OPENING

After having been twice driven back by heavy south-western gales, the ship at last sails. The book begins with delay, and weather, not with a discovery.

- Keep "twice driven back" and "heavy south-western gales."
- 9–12.
- Quote the 1845 revision.
- The later chapters are not this first delay.

> *"After having been twice driven back by heavy south-western gales, Her"*
> Chapter I, opening

02

A Ten-Gun Brig, under Fitz Roy

CHAPTER I, OPENING

Her Majesty's ship Beagle, a ten-gun brig, under the command of Captain Fitz Roy, R.N. The ship and the captain are named before the naturalist's fame.

- Keep "ten-gun brig" and "Captain Fitz Roy, R.N." The name Beagle is italic in the file; quote the words.
- 9–12.
- Fitz Roy is not a backdrop only.
- This is the 1845 English.

> *"After having been twice driven back by heavy south-western gales, Her Majesty's ship _Beagle_, a ten-gun brig, under the command of Captain"*
> Chapter I, opening

03

Devonport, 27 December 1831

CHAPTER I, OPENING

They sailed from Devonport on the 27th of December, 1831. The date and the port are exact.

- Keep Devonport, and the date.
- 9–12.
- A sailing, not a later legend of a theory only.
- Quote this revision.

> *"under the command of Captain Fitz Roy, R.N., sailed from Devonport on the 27th of December, 1831. The object"*
> Chapter I, opening

04

The Object: a Survey

CHAPTER I, OPENING

The object of the expedition was to complete the survey of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego. The official work is a survey; Darwin's observations stand inside that work.

- Keep "complete the survey," Patagonia, and Tierra del Fuego.
- 9–12.
- Do not replace the survey with a later slogan only.
- The book will go far beyond these shores; this is the stated object at sailing.

> *"The object of the expedition was to complete the survey of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, commenced"*
> Chapter I, opening

05

The 1845 Revision, a Long Voyage

THE EDITION

Project Gutenberg #3704 is Darwin's Voyage of the Beagle in the 1845 revision of the 1839 Journal. Quote this revision, not a later abridgment or a film. For grades 9–12. The book is long; one map cannot teach the whole voyage. This is not On the Origin of Species; name the work you are in.

- Name 1845, and Fitz Roy.
- A survey first, as he states it.
- Not a film.
- Exact seeing, under a delayed sailing.

> *"After having been twice driven back by heavy south-western gales, Her Majesty's ship _Beagle_, a ten-gun brig, under the command of Captain"*
> Chapter I, opening

A sailing twice delayed | A ship and a captain, named | A survey as the object | A dated departure | The 1845 voyage, in his English

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 9–12

1. Twice driven back by heavy south-western gales; then a ten-gun brig under Fitz Roy sails from Devonport, 27 December 1831.
2. The stated object is to complete the survey of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego. Keep that object.
3. This is Darwin's 1845 revision, PG #3704, for grades 9–12—not a later abridgment, a film, or On the Origin of Species.
4. The book is long; one map cannot teach the whole voyage. The name Beagle is italic in the file.

Quotations are verbatim from the Darwin's English (1845 revision), Project Gutenberg #3704, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/the-voyage-of-the-beagle/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.