

# Biology

## Introduction

Biology isn't all skeletons and specimen jars – it's alive and kicking, and crawling around in the bushes outside! It is the study of life, taking in the animals, plants and the stranger creatures of the world, their inner workings as well as the minuscule cells, proteins and DNA that run them. Life is a strange and marvellous thing. It is also still a great mystery. There could be anything between 1.5 and 30 million species of living things on Earth. We know a lot about the big beasts but are still in the dark about most creepy-crawlies and microscopic bugs.

Charles Darwin was the man famous for monkeying around with our ideas about biology. He made the most startling of suggestions – that species (things like humans, pigeons and daffodils) can change with time. It's a dog-eat-dog world out there; it's also a beetle-eat-dung and lion-eat-man world, and only the fittest survive. Those that are best at surviving when the environment changes live to fight another day. Darwin called this concept natural selection, and it completely changed the way we view the world. Sometimes the simplest ideas are the best!