Young Charles Darwin collected fossils as a naturalist aboard the *HMS Beagle*. Later, Darwin used fossil evidence to support the idea of evolution by natural selection.

“It is impossible to reflect without the deepest astonishment on the changed state of this continent.” —C. Darwin

“...the Toxodon, perhaps one of the strangest animals ever discovered... How wonderfully are the different Orders, at the present time so well separated, blended together in different points of the structure of the Toxodon!” —C. Darwin

[referring to fossil bones of an extinct camelid] “As the guanaco [a modern camelid] is the characteristic quadruped of Patagonia... so in bygone days this gigantic species of the same family must have been conspicuous on the southern plains.” —C. Darwin

“.. at the height of a hundred feet, great beds of an estuary shell, now living a hundred miles lower down nearer the sea...this shows that just before the pampas was slowly elevated into dry land, the water covering it was brackish” —C. Darwin

J. Cole, M. Herron, J. Hughes, Y. Li, K. Potter, & D. Stolte. Thank you for lending fossils for Darwin’s birthday!