Crochet your own Charles Darwin
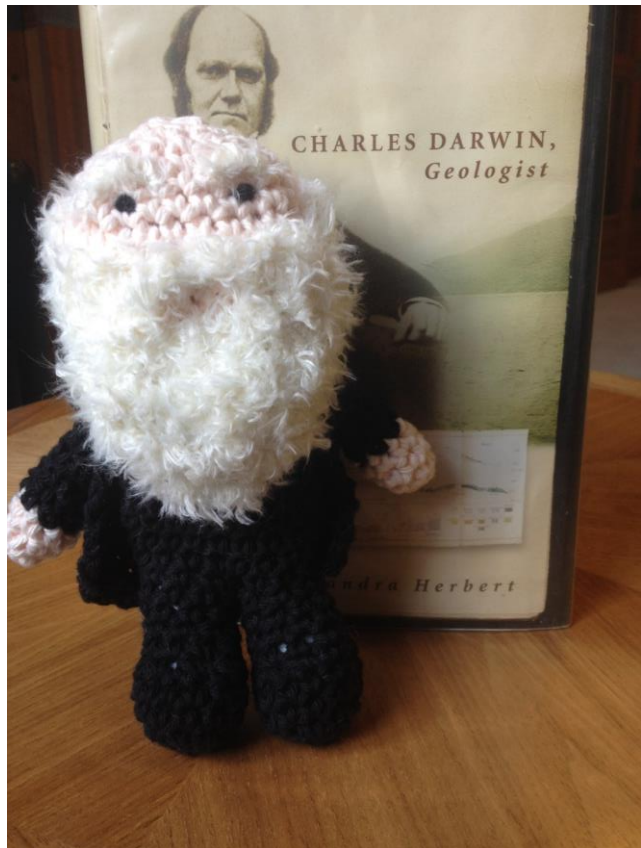
Charles Darwin. Father of evolution, naturalist, geologist and wearer of a magnificent beard. Let's make our own!

You will need:

Darwin contemplates his life

- 3.5mm crochet hook (for the beard, hair and eyebrows), 4.5mm crochet hook (for everything else)
- 4ply yarn in black, and a skin tone. This Darwin was made using Lily Sugar N Cream Solid in black and Lily Sugar N Cream Scents in Camomile Scent. One skein of each is plenty.
- Faux-fur yarn - I used Rico Design Fashion Fur in Cream (001)
- Polyfil or similar stuffing
- Yarn needle
- Locking stitch markers or paperclip
- Preferred method to mark rows when crochet in the round - I use scrap yarn.

Your mini Charles Darwin will measure around 7 inches tall. All crochet terms are UK terminology (ie for Americans, substitute 'sc' for 'dc' throughout).

Techniques used:

- inc: dc two stitches into the same space

- dec: insert your hook into the next stitch, yarn over and pull through, insert your hook into the next stitch, yarn over again and pull though, yarn over and pull through all three loops on your hook.
- Crochet through the back loops only: somewhat self-explanatory, but there's an excellent tutorial [here](#)
- Changing colours: As any colour changes will be either hidden under a beard or not very noticeable, you can use the [simplest technique](#) without needing to create jogless colour changes.
- Crocheting in the round - [many](#) [tutorials](#) [available](#)! This is spiral crochet, so rounds aren't joined at the end, you just continue on.
-

Note on assembly:

The legs, body and head are made in one piece, with everything else made separately and assembled later (see page 7)

Legs - Make 2

Round 1: Using your chosen shoe colour, ch2, dc 4 in 2nd ch from hook (4)

Round 2: inc each stitch (8)

Round 3: *inc 1st stitch, dc in next*, repeat (12)

Rounds 4/5: dc around (12)

Round 6: dc 3, dec 3, dc 3 (9)

Rounds7/8/9/10: switch to leg colour, dc around (9)

Fasten off first leg - leave second leg and follow the next set of instructions to join legs together and start body

One leg.

Joining legs

Step 1: It is usually easier to start this process by clipping the legs together - lockable stitch holders are ideal, but a paperclip would also do. Your unfinished leg should be on the left, with both feet facing you. You should be able to line up two stitches from each leg - clip both.

Step 2: dc 3, so that the stitch on your hook is close to the other leg.

Step 3: Put hook through stitches in place of your back stitch holder, as in photo, right.

Step 4: Pull the loop from the last stitch on the second leg through both stitches on hook.

Step 5: dc 7 around the right leg, up to the front stitch marker.

Step 6: Put hook through both stitches in place of your front stitch holder, as before.

Step 7: Pull the loop from last stitch through both stitches on hook.

Step 8: dc 3 to finish joining legs (16)

Note that I am being a rebel (and making it harder for myself) and not using stitch markers to hold them together.

Body

Round 1: already completed by joining the legs.

Round 2: *dc 7, inc*, repeat (18)

Round 3 *dc 8, inc* (20)

Round 4/5/6/7/8: dc around (20)

Round 9: *dc in next two stitches, dec*, repeat (15)

Stuff legs and lower body

Round 10: *dc in next stitch, dec*, repeat (10)

Round 11: dc around, switch to skin-tone yarn on last st. (10)

Stuff body

Head

Round 1: dc around (10)

Round 2: inc around (20)

Round 3: *inc in next stitch, dc*, repeat (30)

Rounds 4/5/6/7: dc around (30)

Round 8: *dc in next 4 stitches, dec*, repeat (25)

Round 9: *dc in next 3 stitches, dec*, repeat (20)

Stuff head

Round 10: *dc in next 2 stitches, dec*, repeat (15)

Round 11: *dc in next stitch, dec*, repeat (10)

Round 12: dec around. Sl st in first stitch to finish off, use yarn needle to weave in ends.

You should have something that looks like this:

Slightly alien.

Arms (make 2)

Round 1: in skin-tone yarn, ch 2, dc 4 in 2nd ch from hook (4)

Round 2: inc around (8)

Rounds 3/4: dc around (8)

Round 5: switch to clothing colour, dc around. (8)

Rounds 6/7/8/9/10: dc around (8). Sl st to finish, leave a long tail to attach.

Stuff if you want to - depending on your tension and yarn the arm might be sturdy enough without. I didn't stuff the arms as I find it can be easier to pose him that way.

Jacket

Worked back and forth in black:

Row 1: ch 12, turn.

Row 2: Beginning from the second stitch away from the hook, dc 10, ch 2, turn. (10)

Row 3: inc, dc 8, inc, ch2, turn. (12)

Row 4: dc 12, ch 2, turn. (12)

Row 5: inc, dc 10, inc, ch 2, turn (14)

Row 6: dc 14, ch 2, turn (14)

Row 7: dc 14 through back loops only, ch 2, turn (14)

Rows 8-17: dc across, ch 2, turn.

Row 18: dc across, fasten off and weave in this end.

By crocheting through the back loops on row 7 you create a fold in the fabric which forms his collar.

Notes on using faux fur yarn:

This stuff is amazing when finished, but can be difficult to work with as it's nigh on impossible to tell where your stitches were in the row below. Luckily, it's a forgiving

fabric when made up so get it to the right size and any missed or increased stitches will be well hidden in the fuzz.

Darwin's Beard

Worked back and forth in faux-fur yarn

Row 1: ch14, turn.

Row 2: dc across

Row 3: ch1, turn, dc 3, ch 6, (skipping the next 6 stitches) dc 4. There should be a gap that's slightly smaller than your chain - adjust to suit your yarn if needed.

Row 4: ch1, turn, dc across

Rows 5/6/7: ch1, turn, dec, dc to last two stitches, dec

Row 8: ch 1, turn, dec, dec, dec, dc to last 6 stitches, dec, dec, dec. Fasten off.

You are aiming for a sharper decrease on this last row, add or remove decreases to get the shape you want.

Hair

Row 1: ch 16, turn.

Row 2: dc across. (15)

Rows 3/4/5: ch 1, turn, dc across. Fasten off on last row. (15)

Leave a long tail to sew the hair to the head.

Eyebrows - make 2

These are very simple! With faux-fur yarn, ch 3 and fasten off, leaving a long tail to attach.

Assembly (the fun bit)

1. Pin the jacket to the body, under the neck, collar facing out. Pin the arms to the jacket and reposition until happy. Using the same black yarn and your yarn needle, sew the arms to the jacket using the long tail you left after fastening.
2. Flipping the collar up and sewing underneath, sew the jacket to the body - try not to sew it to his head and you can cause the head to tilt backwards too much.
3. Take your rectangle of hair and position appropriately. Using a length of the faux-fur yarn, sew the hair to the head. The fuzzy yarn will disguise any sloppy stitching (thankfully) so you don't have to be too neat.
4. Position the beard across the face, ensuring that the edges meet the hair. Sew across the top of the beard and down the top of one side, allowing the length to hang freely. Sew the top of the other side, sewing into the edge of the hair as well. If you want to, you can fix his mouth into place by sewing round the edges.
5. Eyes: I did french knots, but if you're not comfortable with those a couple of small overlapping horizontal stitches in the right place will work fine.
6. Eyebrows: Take your chain and position over the eyes. Using the long tail, sew under and over along the length of the chain - this attaches it and adds a little more bulk for extra bushy eyebrows. Repeat over the other eye.

Enjoy your mini Darwin!