### Background
A poetry writing and performance project that engaged 14-25 year olds in celebrations to mark Darwin200 in 6 UK cities. Participants worked with a poet and a science educator in each city to produce poetry to read, perform, film and share online. 15 partners took part (including 5 museums, 3 universities, 2 festivals and 5 arts organisations), 75 young people participated and 55 completed the project. 6 poets were recruited to lead the workshops.

### Project Aims/Objectives
- Generate a creative opportunity for young people to engage with Darwin’s work and legacy.
- Create professional development for poets and scientists through an inter-disciplinary exploration of Darwin’s impact and imaginative approaches to its communication.
- Provide an opportunity/resource for non-arts institutions who are running programmes that engage young people with the impact of Darwin’s work.
- Develop high quality, original content for events to mark Darwin200 which provide perspectives and insights from young voices that are often under-represented.
- Stimulate attractive content for online material for YouTube/Myspace that can be linked to partner websites.

### Engagement Outputs
- 1,805 people attended 18 performances
- A Prague radio station broadcast an interview and recording of a poem to 6000 listeners.
- Evolving Words website received 32,334 visits and 62,927 page views.
- Edinburgh Arts held a two-week exhibition in their café (806 footfall)
- Facebook group had 91 members.

### Evaluation Questions
1. Did the poetry residencies generate high quality poetry that reached a wide audience through live performance and online platforms?
2. Did the poetry offer young people thought-provoking perspectives, insights and reflections to Darwin’s ideas and legacy?
3. Did the poets and scientists benefit from the inter-disciplinary experience?
4. Was the project an opportunity for partner institutions to imaginatively use their collections?
5. Did the online spaces work as useful platforms for the project?

### Evaluation Techniques Used
- Questionnaire
  Distributed to all poets, scientists and young participants.
- Verbal feedback and discussions
  With other key partners, film-makers, poets, scientists and young people
- Observation
  Of workshops and performances.

### The Evaluator’s Key Findings/Recommendations
- The young poets found the experience had a positive impact on their writing; it broadened their approach and their interest in science; and met or exceeded their expectations.
- Performances took place in theatres, arts centres and pub poetry events, but also at a scientific conference, a shopping centre, private views of science exhibitions, amongst museum gallery visitors, and for a lecture audience at a zoo.
- With participation being voluntary and the interactive learning with clear, time-based goals and tangible outcomes, those who participated expressed high satisfaction with their experiences.
- The website proved to be a useful and attractive platform for the project participants and other visitors. This and platforms such as Facebook proved ideal for this work.