Wallace (and the) Birds of Paradise
150 years ago...

A theory was published that made biology more than stamp collecting...

Theory of Evolution

by Natural Selection

by Charles Darwin & Alfred Wallace together.
Wallace had other jobs first

THEN

he went to the Amazon

on the way back
the ship sank
and he saved
only his life,
losing all the samples...

he became interested in

Birds of Paradise

with fantastic plumage
BIRDS OF PARADISE were traded... because they live in PARADISE, live on dew and humans only see them when they fall to the ground - dead.

No Europeans had seen them alive.

Wallace was going to explore and hopefully bring one back alive.

A Frenchman reported: like a meteor...
Wallace was in Indonesia...

Living in basic conditions, collecting skins and writing about their beauty — and their unpalatable flesh...

He was suffering from malaria, when he had an idea.

Why so many species of birds of paradise?

Survival of the fittest.
Wallace was in correspondence with Charles Darwin.

He sent the letter to Darwin.

Who had the same idea... what to do?

Both writings were published at the same time...

"I would rather burn my book than people think I stole the idea."

They were the co-creators of our now well-known Theory of Evolution by Natural Selection.
Meanwhile in Asia:

Wallace discovered another species of bird of paradise...

He had now been away for 8 years...

He traveled widely and discovered:

"The Wallace Line"

Separates two different ecozones with distinctly different animals

1863-1860

Borneo

Java

Bali

Lombok

Sulawesi

New Guinea
WALLACE RETURNED...

He sold the birds...

Darwin's book was out...
"The Origin of Species..."

the two men were very supportive of each other.

Wallace wrote a book of his travels:

the Malay Archipelago

You should read it!

Says David.
"It is sad that these creatures should exist only in wild, inhospitable areas..."

-- THANK YOU --
Q & A

What is the situation with the birds now?

The plumes were currency so they were in danger... especially in the wilder parts.

Now... there is conflict and neighbouring villages avoid conflict and hunting!

How can we protect the UK wildlife better?

We are good, but there is more need for housing...

But we are learning to care for it better!
Do you have a favourite bird of paradise?

"The King of Saxony"

The movement on the vine!

What was Darwin studying (specimens)?

He studied many things, the whole of animal kingdom and plants!

Orchids...

Barnacles...

Origin of species