

Who was Joseph Dalton Hooker?

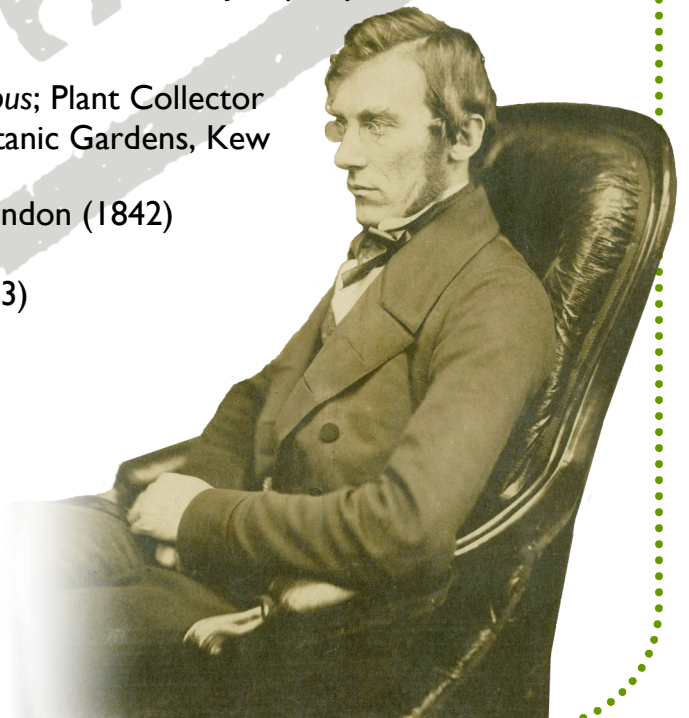
Though you may not know his name, Joseph Dalton Hooker was one of the finest scientists of the 19th century. His father was a well-known botanist called William Jackson Hooker. When Joseph was a young boy he would listen to his father teach students about plants and it made him want to learn about them too. Joseph loved hearing about explorers like Captain Cook and would one day go on expeditions of his own.

He studied medicine at Glasgow University and became a doctor in 1839. He went on many expeditions to places like the Antarctic, Australia, New Zealand, India and Nepal. He was a brilliant plant collector and brought many new plants back to the UK. He was also very interested in why plants grow where they do (called 'plant distribution'). He realised that if he could work out why a plant grows in a certain place then it might also grow somewhere else in the world that was similar. This helped when Britain wanted to grow plants or crops that made money, things like tea plants and the rubber tree.

Joseph Dalton Hooker helped to change how scientists were seen - he made them more like the scientists we know today.

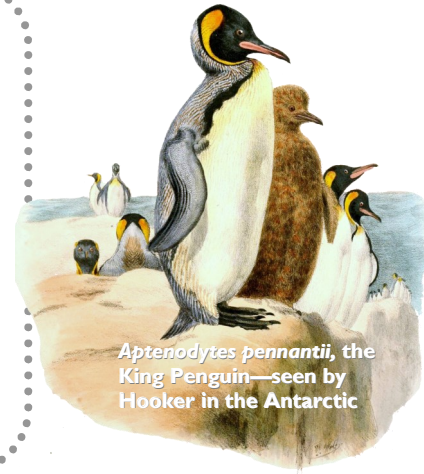
Joseph Dalton Hooker: FAST FACTS

- Name:** Joseph Dalton Hooker
- Born:** 30 June 1817 in Halesworth, Suffolk
- Died:** 10 December 1911 at his house 'the Camp' in Sunningdale. He is buried next to his father in the churchyard of St Anne's Church, Kew
- Education:** Glasgow University, studied Medicine, became a doctor in 1839
- Married:** Francis Harriet Henslow (died 1874); Hyacinth Jardine (died 1924)
- Children:** William Henslow, Harriet Anne, Charles Paget, Marie Elizabeth, Brian Harvey Hodgson, Reginald Hawthorn, Grace Ellen, Joseph Symonds and Richard Symonds
- Jobs:** Assistant Surgeon on the *HMS Erebus*; Plant Collector and Botanist; Director of Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
- Clubs:** Fellow of the Linnean Society of London (1842)
Fellow of the Royal Society (1847)
President of the Royal Society (1873)
- Awards:** Grand Cross Star of India (1887)
Copley Medal (1887)
Darwin Medal (1892)
Linnean Medal (1888)
Order of Merit (1907)
Darwin-Wallace Medal (1908)

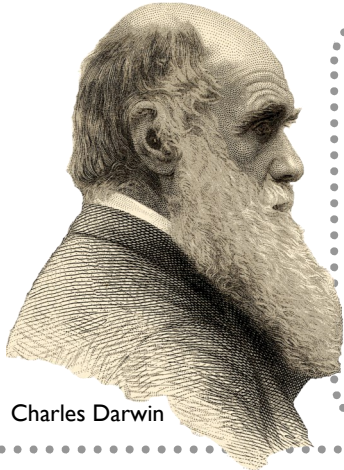


The HMS Erebus

In 1839, when Joseph Hooker was **22** he joined the crew of the ship the *HMS Erebus*. He helped the ship's doctor and also collected botanical (plant) specimens in the Antarctic. They also collected zoological (animal) and geological (rock) specimens. The journey around the frozen Antarctic took four years (they also went to places like Australia and New Zealand). When he returned home, Hooker wrote a book about the plants he found called *The Botany of the Antarctic Voyage*. It made him think about why different plants grow where they do in the world.



Aptenodytes pennanti, the King Penguin—seen by Hooker in the Antarctic



Charles Darwin

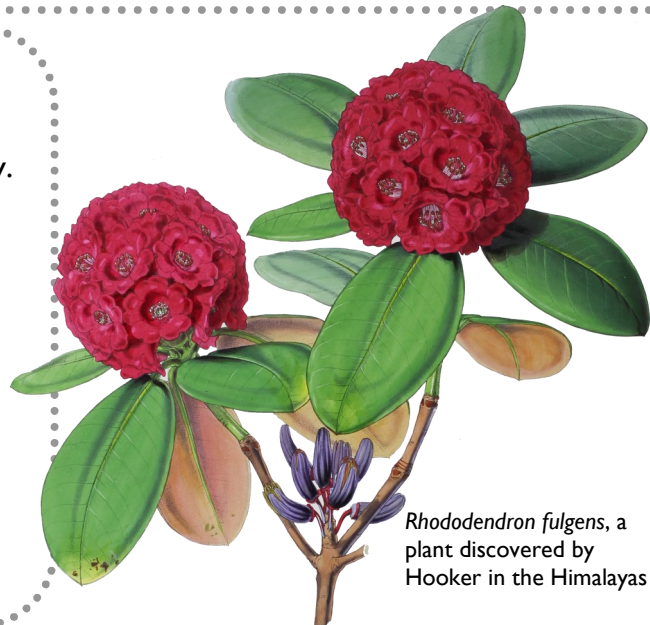
Charles Darwin, Friend

Charles Darwin is famous because of his theory of evolution - he worked out how living things change over time. When Hooker came back from Antarctica he became good friends with Darwin. They would write to each other often, and Hooker would help Darwin with his questions about plants. Hooker's father, William, was now director of The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, so they were able to study the books and plants there.

The Himalayas

Hooker became engaged to Frances Henslow but did not have the money to marry right away. Instead he travelled to places like India and the Himalayas in Nepal and collected over **7,000** plant species. He collected over **31** species of *Rhododendron* - you can still see some of the species he collected in Rhododendron Dell at The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

When Hooker returned from the Himalayas he eventually took over his father William's job as director of Kew Gardens. Later he would also become president of the Royal Society.



Rhododendron fulgens, a plant discovered by Hooker in the Himalayas

A Paid Scientist

In the 1800s many scientists were wealthy gentlemen and did not need to earn money from their scientific work. People believed this would make them more truthful about what they discovered. Joseph Hooker wanted to be a scientist but could not afford to be one without being paid. He would become one of the first people to be paid for his scientific work - by doing this he helped to change the way people thought about scientists.



Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

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