

# Sir Francis Galton Encyclopedia Article

## Sir Francis Galton

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# Sir Francis Galton

**1822-1911**

British gentleman scientist and cousin of Charles Darwin (1809-1882) who studied meteorology and anthropology, but is best known for founding the eugenics movement. Eugenics, a term coined by Galton, refers to the attempt to improve human heredity by rationally influencing or controlling human reproduction. His ideas were largely influenced by Darwin's *Origin of Species* (1859) and the concept of natural selection. Galton advanced his eugenic views, which he and many proponents considered applied science, in *Hereditary Genius* (1869) and other works.