IN the era when GPS can take us anywhere at the touch of a button or phone screen, the skill of being able to read and interpret a map is in danger of being lost. But a century ago it was one of the most vital skills a person could have. Maps were also a form of education, instruction or entertainment that allowed people to understand events from history, to illuminate fascinating stories from ancient times or to transport people to foreign lands or past eras. Maps became a popular feature in newspapers and during WWI they helped people make sense of the complicated news coming from faraway places. Maps like ones showing how Germany threatened other European nations and was a “pistol at the heart of England” helped win the propaganda war, swaying those who doubted how serious the situation was. This is a fascinating visual exploration of the part newspaper maps played in that war.

TROY LENNON

overwhelming evidence of the plants, creatures and geography he encountered suggested creatures from millions of years ago had evolved and adapted to their environments to bring about the world we see today. This stunningly illustrated children’s book tells the story of Darwin’s world-shaking voyage, how he came to conclusions that would be proposed in his book The Origin Of Species, but also how the young Darwin grew into a man and found a purpose.

TROY LENNON

YOUNG Charles Darwin wanted to follow in his dad’s footsteps and become a doctor but was turned off by the sight of blood. He studied to become a clergyman but was unable to shake a fascination with nature. His life changed when his botany professor recommended he accompany Captain Robert FitzRoy aboard the survey vessel HMS Beagle. The journey allowed Darwin to indulge his love of the natural world and changed his views on how that world came to be. The

WHERE ARE OUR BOYS?

Martin Woods, National Library of Australia. $49.99

Charles Darwin’s Around-The-World Adventure, Jennifer Thermes, Abrams, $24.99