**Group №1.**

**Daniel Defoe** **(1660-17311)**

Daniel Defoe [di´fəυ] was a famous English writer of the eighteenth century (век). He wrote his world famous novel “The Life and Strange Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe” [´robinsən ´kru:səυ] when he was nearly 60 years old.

The story of Robinson Crusoe was based (была основана) on the real adventures of a sailor called Alexander Selkirk ['selkə:k], who had lived alone (один) for four years on a deserted island ['ailənd] (необитаемый остров).

When the book was published in 1719, it became very popular. Defoe made his story so realistic (достоверный) that everyone believed it.

Defoe didn’t write his book for children. But every child now knows “Robinson Crusoe”, how he learned to catch goats and to make pots (горшки) and had hundreds of adventures.

Daniel wrote many other books, but for “Robinson Crusoe” he is called “the father of English prose” (его называют отцом английской прозы).

**Group №2.**

**Charles Darwin (1809-1870)**

Charles Darwin was a well-known scientist. He was born at the beginning of the 19th century, in 1809. As a boy, Charles collected all kinds of things: minerals, birds’ eggs, and insects. He carried out chemical experiments (проводил химические эксперименты) in the school garden.

After 3 years of studies at Cambridge University he made a voyage round the world. During this voyage he studied medicine in all parts of the world. His famous theory of evolution opened a new period in biology, the Darwinian period.

Charles Darwin died in 1870 and was buried ['berid] (похоронен) in Westminster Abbey.

**Group №3.**

**Joseph Turner (1775-1851)**

Joseph Turner was the son of a barber ['bα:bə] (парикмахер). At the age of fifteen he exhibited [ig'zibitid] (выставил) his first picture.

Turner was very fond of nature and often went alone on trips through England and Wales (путешествовал один по Англии и Уэльсу). While travelling, he liked to draw ruined abbeys (разрушенные аббатства) and castles [kα:slz] (замки).

Turner was famous for the wonderful colours in his pictures. Most of them were landscapes (пейзажи) and sea pictures.

He was a master of water-colours (акварель).