

Refuting Evolution Part 1: Understanding the Basics (Grades 6-8)

The topic of evolution is complex and produces strong emotions on both sides of the debate about the origin of life. Public schools, TV shows, movies and many secular scientists insist that evolution is a scientific fact. Is evolution true? Did we evolve from non-living chemicals over billions of years? We are going to tackle these questions in three sessions:

Refuting Evolution Series

- Part 1: Understanding the Basics
- Part 2: Natural Selection & Adaptation
- Part 3: The Fossil Record

Let's get started!

Meanings of the word "evolution"

When someone asks you if you believe in evolution, please don't say no. Instead, ask them what they mean by the word "evolution". As you know, words can have several meanings. This is especially true about evolution. During this session, we are going to briefly cover four different meanings.

Exercise: after watching the video, please draw lines to connect the descriptions with the proper terms.

The ability of animals to adapt to changes in their environment.

The belief that all life came from non-living chemicals.

Different breeds of dogs are a great example of this.

This occurs when a creature is unable to relocate or adapt to certain environmental changes.



Genetic variation



Natural Selection



Adaptation



Darwinian evolution

Adaptation

God gave living things the ability to detect and respond to certain environmental conditions by switching “pre-programmed responses” on and off. For example, the coat of an arctic fox turns white in the winter and brown during the summer. This helps foxes hunt for food and hide from predators. The important thing to remember is this: the mechanisms and genetic information for making these changes already reside within the foxes—they did not obtain this ability from random mutations. We will cover this subject in much greater detail during our next session.

Winter



Summer



Genetic variation

According to the book of Genesis, God created living things according to their “kinds”. Animals within a kind can and do have significant variations. For example, even though the dogs shown below are different, they all belong to a taxonomic family called Canidae (i.e., canine kind) and cannot evolve into birds, butterflies, horses, or people! What about dog breeds? Here is what Creation Ministries International (CMI) has to say:

*“It is commonplace for people to mistakenly think of dog breeds as different species, though all dog breeds are in fact the same subspecies—*Canis lupus familiaris*, the domestic dog. Researchers recognize that most of today’s more than 400 breeds of domestic dogs have only arisen in the past 200 years or so as the products of artificial selection.”* Source: <https://creation.com/dog-origins>



Activity: try to match up the puppies with their parents. Note: the parent dogs can be used for more than one puppy.

Parents



Labrador



Poodle

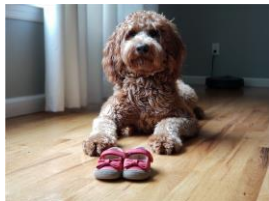


Cocker Spaniel



Golden Retriever

Puppies



Goldendoodle



Labradoodle



Cockerpoo

Natural Selection

When major changes to the environment occur, living creatures have three options (1) adapt quickly, (2) relocate, or (3) perish. Sadly, creatures that are unable to adapt or move to another area often perish. For example, dogs with long, thick hair would have a very difficult time living in a hot desert. If they were unable to adapt or go somewhere else, these dogs would die out. Eventually only dogs with short hair would live in this area. Conversely, dogs with short, thin hair would not be able to survive in cold winter climates.

It is important to note that “nature” isn’t capable of selecting which dogs live and die—it is entirely based upon the ability (or lack thereof) of the dogs to adapt. Despite what you may see in public school textbooks, Natural Selection does not create anything—it eliminates creatures.

Darwinian Evolution

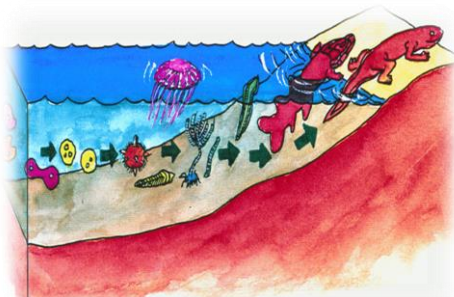
So far, we have talked about adaptation, genetic variation and Natural Selection. All of these fit into the realm of observational science—we can observe them happening and conduct experiments to test our ideas. Darwinian Evolution however, is quite different.

Some people believe that all life arose from non-living chemicals over millions of years. They believe that everything evolved from a single-cell organism through random mutations. Here are some facts about Darwinian Evolution:

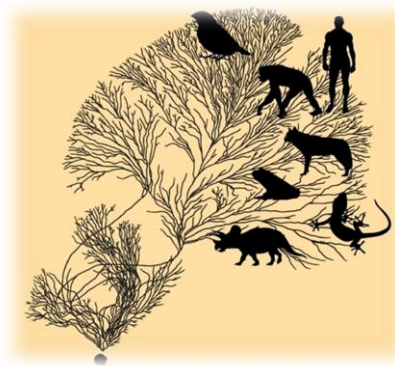
- It attempts to replace God as the Creator.
- It falls into the realm of historical science and cannot be directly observed.
- It violates the Law of Biogenesis (all life comes from life). All attempts to create life from chemicals have failed.
- Living things are incredibly complicated. Even small things like cells demonstrate amazing complexity!
- Mathematical calculations show that it is virtually impossible. However, some evolutionists believe that anything is possible over billions of years.
- All real scientists do not believe in Darwinian Evolution. Over 1,000 PhD scientists have signed a petition stating they have problems with accepting Darwin's ideas (please visit <https://dissentfromdarwin.org>).

Darwinian Evolution

Time + Chance = Life



Time + Mutations = Diversity



Why do some people still believe in Darwinian Evolution? Evolutionists often point to adaptation, genetic variation and Natural Selection as evidence to support their belief in Darwinian Evolution. However, as we have seen, these processes use genetic information that already exists within the creature. This type of complex information had to come from an intelligent source! Creationists believe that God created everything. People who believe in Darwinian Evolution believe that everything somehow created itself.

Belief in Darwinian Evolution requires faith. It starts with the assumption that God does not exist so everything we see around us somehow created itself.

Magic words in the textbooks?

Secular textbooks often contain “magic words” to describe how complex biological features were formed. Here are a few of them:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeared | <input type="checkbox"/> Radiated into |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emerged | <input type="checkbox"/> Modified itself |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arose | <input type="checkbox"/> Became a miracle of evolution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gave rise to | <input type="checkbox"/> Was making the transition to |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burst onto the scene | <input type="checkbox"/> Manufactured itself |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evolved itself | <input type="checkbox"/> Evolution’s way of dealing with |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Derived | <input type="checkbox"/> Derived emergent properties |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Was on the way to becoming | <input type="checkbox"/> Was lucky |

Source: Dr. Randy J. Guliuzza, Clearly Seen, page 10

Questions:

1. Do you think these words scientifically describe how the complex biological features that we see in animals and plants were created? Why or why not?

2. Do you think these words are based upon untestable assumptions? Please explain your answer.

Final thoughts

Please remember: people who believe in Darwinian Evolution are not our enemies—they are people who have been snared in the net of one of Satan’s biggest lies. As Christians, our job is to always be prepared to witness to them with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15).



“For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day.” Exodus 20:11

Refuting Evolution Part 1: Understanding the Basics

G U R R S W S C N H R R T T T F B C S G J W O A
X Q U A S E Y U K O T H U X F B C K I Q P A B D
R Q M L U I W R P Q U Z B M K F N Z S Q F I C A
F I J B G W S M U F H Y D D U A A Z E Y X A D R
S Y G M F Z Y E F Y F H J N D Y T C N B Y G P W
P H Q W P W S M N N F B M R W D U V E R D H W I
Y S B L U E I T G E J O R M D D R B G V N L T N
S U I R T R O I W L G N E X W T A Q P V S M K I
A J G P V P S M K I Q O E M H M L M R D Z T A A
T T J C O Z W T Y C N G I S F W S W O J K T Y N
B X N G Z H F H W O L H K B C E E G Q R C R F E
R W O O C M S A Q M Z Z M H H N L H O S R O M V
D S I T S V Y T P J L I H L O Y E P K I X U S O
D C T J H C U G P Q U I M Y J A C B S D N I K L
O I A K X P N U D K W C M U T A T I O N S G F U
G E T U L Q Q E P A C O F S A F I V D U C U D T
S N P D F S T Z W F L W B F B A O U Y W D I E I
O T A M J A L B K J X E D G R L N I X K Y U Q O
S I D C E Z I Y S A J C A Q W R B Z W X P R M N
H S A R W U H U J M T P H T U W Z P U G R Z Y O
J T C J I N O I T A I R A V C I T E N E G F A I
S S N C V M E Y Q U R V R E I W V F R T M U Q X
A B W X D V M F E V K N A H U W K G G K B Y D Q
Z A B Y N M X O F C I T C R A T E S V C K H A N

Words to find

Adaptation

Arctic Fox

Biogenesis

Created

Darwinian Evolution

Dogs

Genesis

Genetic Variation

Kinds

Mutations

Natural Selection

Scientist