

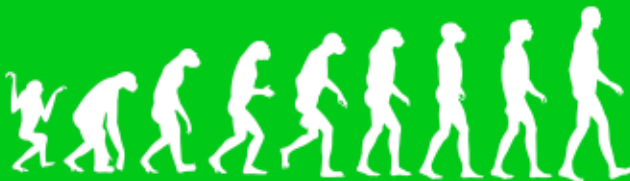
DISCUSSION TOPICS:

ISN'T EVOLUTION JUST A THEORY?

WE BELIEVE IN MICROEVOLUTION ADDING UP TO CHANGES IN A SPECIES, BUT MACROEVOLUTION (CHANGE FROM ONE SPECIES INTO ANOTHER) HAS NOT BEEN OBSERVED.

WHERE ARE THE SO-CALLED MISSING LINKS THAT ACTUALLY DEMONSTRATE EVOLUTION WITH EVIDENCE?

YOU CAN'T EXPLAIN FROM WHERE THE FIRST LIFE CAME.



IEAAH
INLAND EMPIRE ATHEISTS, AGNOSTICS & HUMANISTS



Freethinkers Around Redlands



Desert Atheist Community



Victor Valley



Atheists & Agnostics

EVOLUTION

AN ATHEIST
DISCUSSES EVOLUTION

Isn't evolution just a theory?

"Evolution" generally means 'change over time'. We need to be careful with scientific jargon used colloquially. We prefer to say, "The scientific theory of biological evolution through natural selection." (Multiple selection pressures [kin, group, sexual, artificial etc.] but natural selection tends to be the main event.) A mouthful, but helpful to preclude confusion. "Theory" in science has a very different meaning than in casual conversations. Usually synonymous with "guess" in everyday usage. When a professional scientist says "scientific theory" they are talking about a field of study.

The scientific theory explains the facts; in the hierarchy of certainty, a scientific theory outranks a fact. Every fact discovered so far supports the scientific theory of biological evolution through natural selection as the only workable model to explain the diversity of life on earth. Not one fact has ever suggested otherwise. Even if the scientific theory of biological evolution couldn't explain the variety of life on earth, this would have no bearing on your religions' supernatural claims being factual. One claim doesn't get demonstrated as accurate merely by showing another to be wrong.



We believe in microevolution adding up to changes in a species, but macroevolution has not been observed.

Tantamount to saying - "I believe pennies add up to dimes, but dimes adding up to thousands of dollars has never been observed." If biological evolutionary scientists use "micro/ macro" in discussions about biological evolution (some don't use the terms because they aren't in official peer-reviewed literature) they are simply differentiating between levels of conversational abstractions.

The same process is described on different scales like addition and multiplication are both terms to describe arithmetic processes of 'making small numbers bigger'... We don't observe an event in the past; we find evidence the event left behind. In the same way, we don't need to see someone walk across fresh snow to have a high degree of certainty it happened by observing footprints.

The fossil record, geologic column, DNA, genetic drift, descendent allele variation, vestigial characteristics and several other complementary types of evidence are observable, and they all map perfectly together (with absolutely zero "alternative facts") to point towards common ancestry of all living creatures on earth.



Where are the so-called missing links that actually demonstrate evolution with evidence?

Lucy is the 40% complete specimen of *Australopithecus afarensis*. There are literally thousands of transitional fossils – ones that show features in common with distinct later species. I like Tiktaalik the best, an ugly brute with some fishy gills, land-loving lungs, and some bits that were in between (a wrist joint connecting to fins). A simple Google search will reveal many thousands of animals as well as some human lineages with many transitional links. Only "recently" have we humans begun looking for and cataloging these "missing links" so there are many more waiting to be found.

You can't explain from where the first life came.

Correct, this is called 'abiogenesis' which is a separate subject from biological evolution. The beginning of life is not currently known; this doesn't mean anyone with a supernatural claim about it gets to be right by default (including you or your religion).

