

Moral Theory and Frameworks

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Theory of Evolution

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Introduction

what is the evolution theory ?



Is the theory proposed by Charles Darwin that seeks explanation for the origin of life on Earth and the origin of different species. This theory proposes that all of the millions of organisms present today, including humans, evolved slowly over billions of years, from a common ancestor by way of natural selection

The theory of evolution plays a very important role in the study of biology. hundreds of years ago most scientist believed in a supernatural creator of the world and this theory has come to revolutionize biologist's whole perspective about the world, has change the way we see ourselves, and has turned biology upside down.

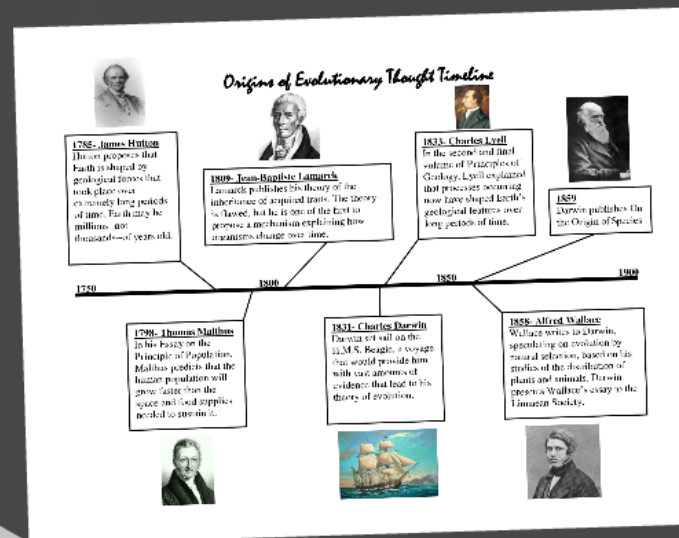
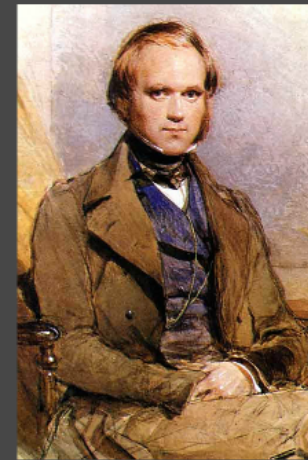
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History of Evolutionary Thought

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Charles Darwin

The English naturalist Charles Darwin stated the evolution theory in 1859, Charles Darwin is considered to be by many the "father" of evolutionary thought, but Darwin was not the first with the idea that species changed over time into new species that life evolves. He was in fact aided and guided by the works of many scientists before him.



The Idea of Evolution

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- Charles Darwin was the first to formulate a scientific argument for the theory of evolution by means of natural selection.
- during his 5 weeks long visit to the Galapagos Islands he made the observations that eventually led him to comprehend what causes plants and animals to evolve, but he apparently did not clearly formulate his views on this until 1837.
- At the time he left the Galapagos Islands, he apparently still believed in a traditional Biblical creation of all life forms. Darwin later accepted the development of new types of organisms from preexisting organisms over time called evolution
- In 1858, Charles Darwin and Alfred Russell Wallace published a new evolutionary theory that was explained in detail in Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* (1859).
- Darwin proposed common descent and a branching tree of life, meaning that two very different species could share a common ancestor. The theory was based on the idea of natural selection, and it synthesized a broad range of evidence from animal husbandry, biogeography, geology, morphology, and embryology.

Ideas of Darwin's time

In Europe in the 18th century, most scientists thought that all species were permanent and unchanging, and they thought the earth was only thousands not billions years old. Even Charles Darwin before his trip to Galapagos islands he apparently still believed in a traditional Biblical creation of all life forms. In 1844 the Scottish publisher Robert Chambers anonymously published an extremely controversial but widely read book entitled Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation. This was very criticized by scientific community. This book proposed an evolutionary scenario for the origins of the Solar System and of life on Earth. Scientist begun researching more about the earth and discovered new evidence. During the eighteenth century great labors were dedicated to the collection, preservation, and cataloging of flora and fauna.

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Lamarck's ideas on evolution

The French biologist Jean Baptiste Lamarck also supported the idea of population of organisms change over time. Lamarck thought that simple organisms could rise from non-living matter. He also thought that simple forms in life inevitably developed into more complex forms. He proposed that individuals could acquire traits during their lifetimes as a result of an experience or behavior, and then they could pass on those traits to their offspring. Lamarck's idea was called "the inheritance of acquired characteristics". His ideas were rejected by many scientists on their time and have not been supported by modern scientific study.

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Darwin's ideas

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The ideas of Darwin suddenly turned all of biology upside down in 1859 with the publication of the Origin of Species,

The ideas of Charles Darwin and the concept of evolution by natural selection continue to have a profound influence on modern biology – they permeate almost every area of scientific exploration. Darwin essentially argued that living things are engaged in a 'struggle for existence' and that any features they possess which affect their survival and reproductive potential will be subjected to continuous selective pressure. This means that through time those features which confer an advantage in the struggle for life will be retained and those that constitute a handicap will be lost. Not for individuals but for the race. So the composition of the population or species changes through time, eventually producing such widely divergent forms that cannot interbreed, and are so called separate species.

Descent with Modification

It was used to describe the process of evolution. Descent with modification is a theory that was used by Charles Darwin. It meant that different species could inherit traits from common ancestors. These traits are passed through the genes and over time these genes can be modified so that after thousands of generations, descendants are completely different to their ancestors.

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