

Course 101: The Fossil Record vs. Evolution

Student Lecture Notes

SECTION 1: Creation or Evolution: Does It Really Matter?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson: Introduction to 101

- Matthew 7:15
“Watch out for _____ . They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.
- 1 Timothy 4:1
The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.
- Presbyterian Church USA (the largest US Presbyterian denomination with 2.5 million members) says:
 - There is no contradiction between evolutionary theory and the doctrine of God as creator.
 - The Bible is not the inspired word of God
 - Abortion and homosexual rights are social causes that should be supported.



Lesson: The Creation Worldview

- Are there limits to change in the animal kingdom?
 - The Bible says that animals reproduce “after their _____.”
 - Scriptures: _____.
- Acceptance of evolution in spite of the clear teaching of Genesis enables people to allegorize any part of the Bible and say, “that’s not what it _____.”
 - This leads to the justification of homosexuality and other forms of immorality.
- Questions asked at Point Loma Nazarene University:
 1. Do you believe in evolution?
 2. Is the creation account in Genesis metaphorical or factual?
 3. Do you think current scientific evidence supports evolution or creation theory?
 4. Do the professors here tend to give more credibility to creationism or evolution?

Lesson: Signs of the Times - Point Loma Nazarene University

- Even at this Christian university, more people seemed to believe in evolution than in creation.
- More people think of Genesis as metaphor rather than fact, and this allows people to justify any behavior they want.
- There is much published as “evidence” for evolution; but, the more you study, the more you understand there must have been some type of intelligent design in the origin of life.
- Surprisingly, at this Christian university, many PLNU teachers hold the view of evolution rather than intelligent design or special creation, or they try to embrace both views.
- The last girl interviewed said that she still believed in creation rather than evolution because of how her dad had educated her, exposing her to both creation and evolutionary views, which allowed her to see the fallacies of evolutionary claims.
- “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not _____ from it.” (Proverbs 22:6, ESV)



Lesson: Ardent evolutionist Bill Nye says creationists shouldn't be allowed to vote.

- Bill Nye tries to brainwash people with statements like the following:
 - “When you have a portion of the population who doesn't believe in [evolution], it holds everybody _____.”
 - “Evolution is the _____ idea in all of life science, in all of biology.”
 - “Your world just becomes fantastically _____ when you don't believe in evolution.”
 - “If you want to deny evolution ... that's fine. But don't make your kids do it. ... We need scientifically literate voters and taxpayers for the future.”
 - “In another couple centuries, that worldview [the creationist worldview] I'm sure ... just won't _____.”
- The problem for creation isn't a lack of evidence. It's that people aren't aware of the real evidence.
- The creationist worldview is not a matter of intelligent people vs. unintelligent people.
 - Dr. Purdom has a _____ in molecular genetics from Ohio State University.
 - Dr. Menton has a PhD in cell biology from _____ University.

Lesson: What killed Dawkins' faith?

- Dawkins calls _____ the most unpleasant character in all of fiction.
 - When Dawkins learned of the “magnificently ... stunningly elegant” theory of Darwinian _____, this concept was the excuse he needed to finally rid himself of his remaining religious faith.
- Evolution is a big problem because it is in direct contradiction to the Scriptures, and it causes people to _____ the Bible.
 - If evolution is true, we should believe it; but if it's not, we should get rid of it.
- Dawkins left his faith because evolution gave him an _____. Is it a big deal that half the kids at PLNU think evolution is true?
 - Yes. Not enough people are sharing and giving a rational defense of the fact that Biblical history is true. Can you?
 - Luke 10:2: “He told them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are _____. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’”



Richard Dawkins
Aggressive Atheist Author



- Colin Patterson, senior paleontologist at the British Museum of Natural History, asked, “Can you tell me anything you know about evolution, any one thing that is true?”

- The audience responded with _____.

Lesson: How do you know evolution is true? Is it faith or science?

- 2 Timothy 4:3-4:
“For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own _____, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to _____.”
- Richard Lewontin said that he and others side with science even when it doesn't make sense because they have a prior commitment to absolute m _____. Materialism is life without the supernatural.
 - They cannot allow a _____ foot in the door.

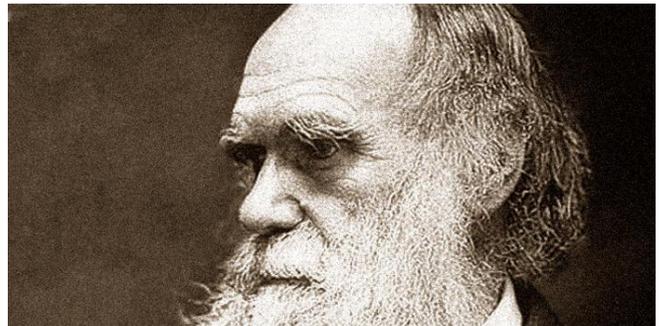


**Atheist, Evolutionist,
Scientist - Richard Lewontin**

- This translates to, “Even if science proves God is real and that he created everything, I still won’t believe in God.”
- To prove something scientifically (i.e. by the scientific method), it must be repeatable, testable, measurable, and _____.
- Can the idea that God created everything be proven scientifically? _____
- What about the idea that wolves changed into whales? _____

Lesson: Just add time.

- No one has seen one kind of animal change into another. This has never been observed. The idea that random mutations plus natural selection can change one family of animal into another is a _____ (something assumed without proof as a basis for reasoning) which currently has no scientific support. It cannot be repeated, observed, or measured.
- Darwin offered a criterion by which his theory could be falsified:
 - “If it could be demonstrated that any organism could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, _____ modifications, my theory would absolutely _____.”
- What would normally be considered a ridiculous idea (like a worm becoming a man) can seem credible by expanding the amount of _____.
- One of the more difficult problems that evolutionary theory must overcome in the fossil record is, the lack of _____ forms (missing links) showing one kind of animal changing into another.
 - One supposed missing link between fish and land animals was called Tiktaalik. However, it was soon realized that Tiktaalik was not a link.



Lesson: Are unique animals like the mudskipper evidence of evolution?

- What is so unique about the mudskipper is that it can walk on land and breathe air as well as breathe underwater.
- While some use the mudskipper’s unusual dual-breathing system as evidence for evolution, this is not evolution evidence because no one has observed a mudskipper changing into a _____.
- Unique animals are not _____ of evolution.

- Nobody has witnessed the mudskipper evolve from normal fish, and nobody has witnessed lizards evolve from something like the mudskipper. For this reason, it is not evidence of the actual process of evolution.
- A similar non-link is the extinct dinosaur-like bird called Archaeopteryx.
- Though the duck-billed platypus is an interesting animal with unique features, there is no evidence that it has changed from, or is changing to, another kind of animal.
- Interpreting animals like these as proof of evolution is an _____, or **speculation** based on faith in a naturalistic view of the origin of animals.
- Dr. Colin Patterson of the British Museum of Natural History has seven million fossils in his collection.
 - When asked about examples of fossils that show one _____ of animal changing into another, he answered, “There is not _____ such fossil for which one might make a water-tight argument.”

Read Article #1 – *The Duck-billed Platypus*

Take Article #1 Quiz – *The Duck-billed Platypus*

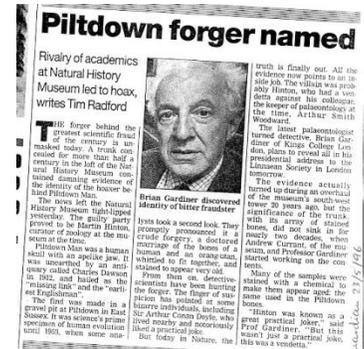
Take Quiz #2 over Section 1: Creation or Evolution: Does It Really Matter?

SECTION 2: Creation: A History of Mistakes

Lesson: Ram, Java, Lucy, and Piltdown

- Ramapithecus
 - Found in Nepal in 1932.
 - Claimed for _____ years to be a transitional form in the line of humans.
 - Recognized as an extinct orangutan in the 1960s.
 - Reconstructed from one fragment of a jaw bone.
 - _____ Man (Homo Erectus)
 - Discovered in Java by Eugene Dubois in 1891.
 - Later found to be a gibbon monkey skull combined with a human leg bone.
 - It took over 100 years for evolutionists to admit it was not a missing link.
 - Lucy
 - Lucy’s skeleton (or _____ % of it) was found by Don Johanson in 1974.
- According to the Chicago Field Museum, “ _____ [i.e. smart people] agree” that humans came from an ape ancestor by the evolutionary process.

- On the contrary, the website “A Scientific _____ From Darwinism” lists hundreds of PhD scientists who doubt the sufficiency of evolution to account for life.
- Lucy was called a missing link because they thought her hip and knee joints revealed that she walked upright, but:
 - some modern monkeys walk upright, and that proves nothing.
 - the knee joint was found far away from the rest of the skeleton.
- Piltdown Man
 - Found in 1912 in England
 - Not just a gross misinterpretation/exaggeration, but an _____
 - Piltdown Man consisted of a human cranium combined with an orangutan jaw on which the teeth had been filed down.
 - Believed to be a missing link for _____ years

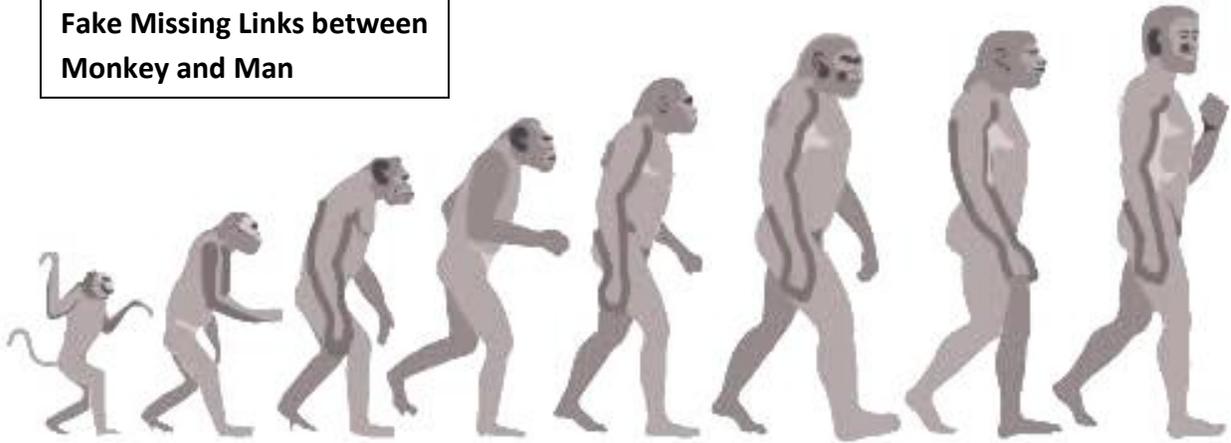


Lesson: Nean, Neb, Ida, and Ardi.

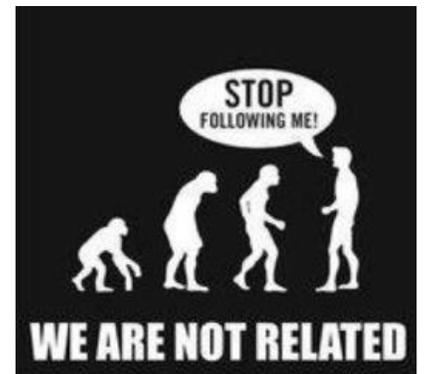
- Neanderthal
 - First discovered in 1856, before Darwin’s theory was published, but quickly reinterpreted as supporting evidence for human evolution
 - It was later discovered that some Neanderthal men stooped because of rickets.
 - Now classified as normal humans
 - Nebraska Man
 - A single tooth found in Nebraska by Harold Cook, claimed to have belonged to a missing link in the line of humans.
 - Rescinded in 1927, when it was admitted to be an extinct _____ tooth.
- Differing characteristics such as skull size and shape **do not support evolution.**
 - There are all kinds of skull shapes and sizes among people alive today.
- Ida
 - Lemur fossil found in 2009; rejected as a link in _____.
 - Ardi
 - Discovered in 1992; in 2010, supposed to be the oldest hominid fossil.

- o Rick Potts of the Smithsonian said it is “hard to draw conclusions about how the species relates to Lucy and modern humans.”

**Fake Missing Links between
Monkey and Man**



- The theory that evolutionists have come up with in order to compensate for the lack of transitional forms in the fossil record is: _____ equilibrium. This involves one kind of animal suddenly giving birth to another kind.
- Because it is now a known scientific fact that life cannot originate from non-life, many evolutionists believe that life on earth originally came from _____. (panspermia).



Lesson: Read Article #2 – *What’s a Missing Link?*

Take Quiz#3 on Article #2 – *What’s a Missing Link?*

Lesson: Change or No Change?

- Do animals actually change from one kind to another?
 - o The Bible says that animals stay within their kind.
- Louis Pasteur’s discoveries led to the law of biogenesis, which states:
 - o All life comes from _____ life.
 - o Each being reproduces after its own _____.
- But most atheists believe that all life evolved from a completely different type of animal.
 - o Percentage of experiments showing organisms changed into fundamentally different kinds: _____%
 - o Percentage of experiments showing organisms with no fundamental change: _____%

- An experiment was performed on 50,000 generations of bacteria. What kind of organism was produced at the end? _____
 - This many generations is similar to _____ years of human evolution.
- A Lazarus Taxon is something that disappears from the fossil record (and is presumed extinct) for long ages, but then reappears later as though it has risen from the dead.
 - Examples such as the Wollemi pine, the shrimp, and the coelacanth show _____ change over the alleged millions of years that they have been around.

Lesson: Evolution versus God

- Interview Video: Evidence for Darwinian Evolution
 - The interviewer repeatedly asks people to give him an example of a change of k_____.
 - He asks one college student for observable evidence of evolution, and the student says that it took millions of years. He then admits that because of this, it is not _____.
 - The man in the pink shirt says that there are _____ of such examples, but he has trouble giving just one.
 - The man in aviators initially denies having faith, but he soon admits that evolution is a b_____.
 - The Galapagos finches are not the kind of example the interviewer is looking for, because despite changes in beak size, the birds are still _____.
 - When he asks many different students for **any observable evidence** of Darwinian evolution, their response (similar to Colin Patterson’s audience) is: s_____.
 - The chemistry major says that if even the biology department can’t offer any evidence, then there is n_____.
 - “Faith is the great cop-out, the great excuse to evade the need to _____ and evaluate evidence.” –Richard Dawkins
 - The interviewer asks people who don’t believe Intelligent Design whether they could make him a single r_____ from nothing.
 - Dr. Gail Kennedy asks the interviewer why he thinks no one teaches Intelligent Design at UCLA. He responds: “Because they’re not _____ to.”
 - The legal staff of Freedom _____ Religion convinces educational institutions that it is constitutionally illegal to sponsor the “sectarian activity” of Intelligent Design. If they are still not persuaded, they _____ them and usually win.

- Nobel Prize winner Professor Sir Ernst Chain described the theory of evolution as a “hypothesis based on _____ evidence and _____ with the facts.”



- John 3:19-20:
“This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved the darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.”
 - Choosing evolution over God is often not an intellectual issue, but a _____ issue.

Take Quiz #2 over Section 2: A History of Mistakes