# EVOLUTION AND NATURAL SELECTION



### HISTORY

- Before evolution, the prevailing theory was <u>creationism</u>- the idea that all life was created by a deity (God) in a static (unchanging) form.
- This idea was based on a 6000 year old earth. This was eventually shown to be way too young by geologists.
- Scientists started thinking organisms changed over time.
- Jean-Baptiste Lamarck- 1809, presented the idea that organisms change over time and can inherit changes.

### LAMARCKIAN EVOLUTION



- People knew that children inherit their parents' traits...kids look like their parents.
- Lamarck said that Animals evolve due to adaptations being passed down from parents.
- Parents acquired adaptations by changing in their lifetime
- GIRAFFE EXAMPLE: stretches its neck to reach higher leaves. This extends vertebrae in neck, and the giraffe now has a longer neck.
- Passes this trait on to offspring

### LAMARCKIAN EVOLUTION



- Lamarck was proven wrong easily.
- If your dad has a leg cut off, does that mean his kids will be born with I leg? If he's muscular, are you?
- He was right about one thing: organisms do change, just not in one lifetime.

### CHARLES DARWIN

- \*Darwin sailed on the HMS Beagle for a 5year round the world trip at the age of 22.
- Darwin was a <u>naturalist</u>-a person who studies the natural world.
- \*Initially questioned whether the natural world was perfect, as creationism said. He wondered, "Why is there so much waste in nature?" Contre



**Control yourselves, Lad** 

### EVOLUTION- CHARLES DARWIN

\*Perceived waste- thousands of pollen grains are made, but only a few end up making new flowers. Hundreds of eggs are laid by insects, but only a few survive to adulthood.



### THE BEAGLE'S VOYAGE



#### EVOLUTION- CHARLES DARWIN \*In the Galapagos, Darwin observed many diverse organisms and fossils





ook into his eyes..

### EVOLUTION- CHARLES DARWIN

On each island were finches that were

very similar, must be closely related.

Each island had its own kind of finch.

Each type of finch had distinct characteristics. Beaks were major difference





**Epic Beard** 

### EVOLUTION- CHARLES DARWIN

Returned home, with lots of information.

- \* Why did the finches change their beaks from one island to the other?
- \*Different foods on different islands.



\* Used writings by Malthus (an economist) which said that population growth is suppressed by limiting factors (not enough food, water, disease)

He has a sensitiv side, too.

### EVOLUTION

Darwin developed his theory of The origin of species by natural selection.

Origin of species-organisms are descended from a common ancestor.

\*Darwin **never** used the term evolution. He said "descent with **modification**". Why do we care about this terminology?



"Shhhh. Don't speak."

### DARWIN'S TIMELINE

- Sailing on the HMS Beagle from 1831-1836
- Developed the mechanism for evolution as Natural Selection by December 1938
- Published Origin of the Species on November 24, 1859
- February 19, 1872, Darwin releases the 6th edition of his work, including a section to address many "objections" made by other scientists about his theory.

### EVOLUTION- EVIDENCE

### Evidence for Descent with Modification:

\*Homologous Structures: Studefeatures that share a similar structure due to shared ancestry.





Guess I'll just sit here and look pre



### EVOLUTION- EVIDENCE <u>\*Vestigial Structures</u>-

structures that have lost most or all of their ancestral purpose.





Control yourselv Ladies.

### EVOLUTION- EVIDENCE **Biggest evidence of all:**

## \*All living things have DNA, and the same type of DNA.

\*<u>WHY: the original ancestor of all species</u> had DNA. It's a **homologous** structure.



### EVOLUTION- NATURAL SELECTION

- Natural Selection- This is what Darwin proposed as the driving force behind evolution.
- "INDIVIDUALS THAT ARE BETTER ADAPTED TO THEIR ENVIRONMENT ARE MORE LIKELY TO SURVIVE AND REPRODUCE THAN MEMBERS OF COLOR. THE SAME SPECIES."

#### 5 POINTS OF NATURAL SELECTION

- \* 1.Populations have variation
- \* 2. Some variations are favorable
- \* 3. More offspring are produced than will survive
- 4. Organisms compete, and those with more favorable traits will survive.
- \* 5. Populations change over time.



### EXAMPLE: DARWIN'S FINCHES.

- \* 1.3 beak types (thick, medium, thin)
- \* 2. Thick ones crack nuts easier, thin ones catch insects better, medium eat seeds and fruit faster
- \* 3. A drought comes and takes out all fruit and seeds.
- \* 4. Birds with thick beaks and thin beaks can crack nuts and insects more easily. Medium have less food, and some die.
- \* 5. Birds reproduce, and more thick and thin beaks are present in the next generation.



### ANOTHER TYPE OF SELECTION: SEXUAL SELECTION



- Some organisms don't get picked based on their fitness for the environment
- They are picked based on securing more mates through performance in mating rituals, flamboyant displays, dances, body features, fighting, ect.
- Male-male competition, female choice

#### **ARTIFICIAL SELECTION:** DOMESTICATION HUMANS Gray wolf (Common ancestor) North イトト Europe China India America GANISMS $\supset R$ SΕ 16 fm 🐂 [ST] $R\Delta I$ ΔΙ ARE DESIRABLE.

#### IMPORTANT POINTS ABOUT DESCENT WITH MODIFICATION BY NATURAL SELECTION

- THE ENVIRONMENT DETERMINES SUCCESS.
- IF THE ENVIRONMENT CHANGES, A GOOD TRAIT CAN BECOME A BAD ONE, AND VICE VERSA.
- THE SUCCESS OF A SPECIES IS OFTEN TIED TO DIVERSITY.
- MORE DIVERSITY IN A POPULATION=SUCCESS
- LESS DIVERSITY IN A POPULATION=EXTINCTION

### COMMON QUESTIONS

- IF WE HAVE DESCENT WITH MODIFICATION, WHERE DOES ALL THIS VARIETY COME FROM? SHOULDN'T THINGS GET LESS COMPLEX OVER TIME?
- WHAT CONTROLS WHETHER AN ORGANISM RECEIVES A FAVORABLE TRAIT OR AN UNFAVORABLE ONE?
- WHY DON'T SOME ORGANISMS JUST EVOLVE INSTEAD OF GOING EXTINCT?
- **DOES EVOLUTION DISPROVE GOD?**
- DOES EVOLUTION AFFECT US? CAN THE EVOLUTION OF ONE ORGANISM AFFECT ANOTHER?
- = IF THEY LOOK SIMILAR, ARE THEY EVOLVED FROM EACH OTHER?
- Does evolution mean becoming more advanced?