

Microevolution vs. Macroevolution

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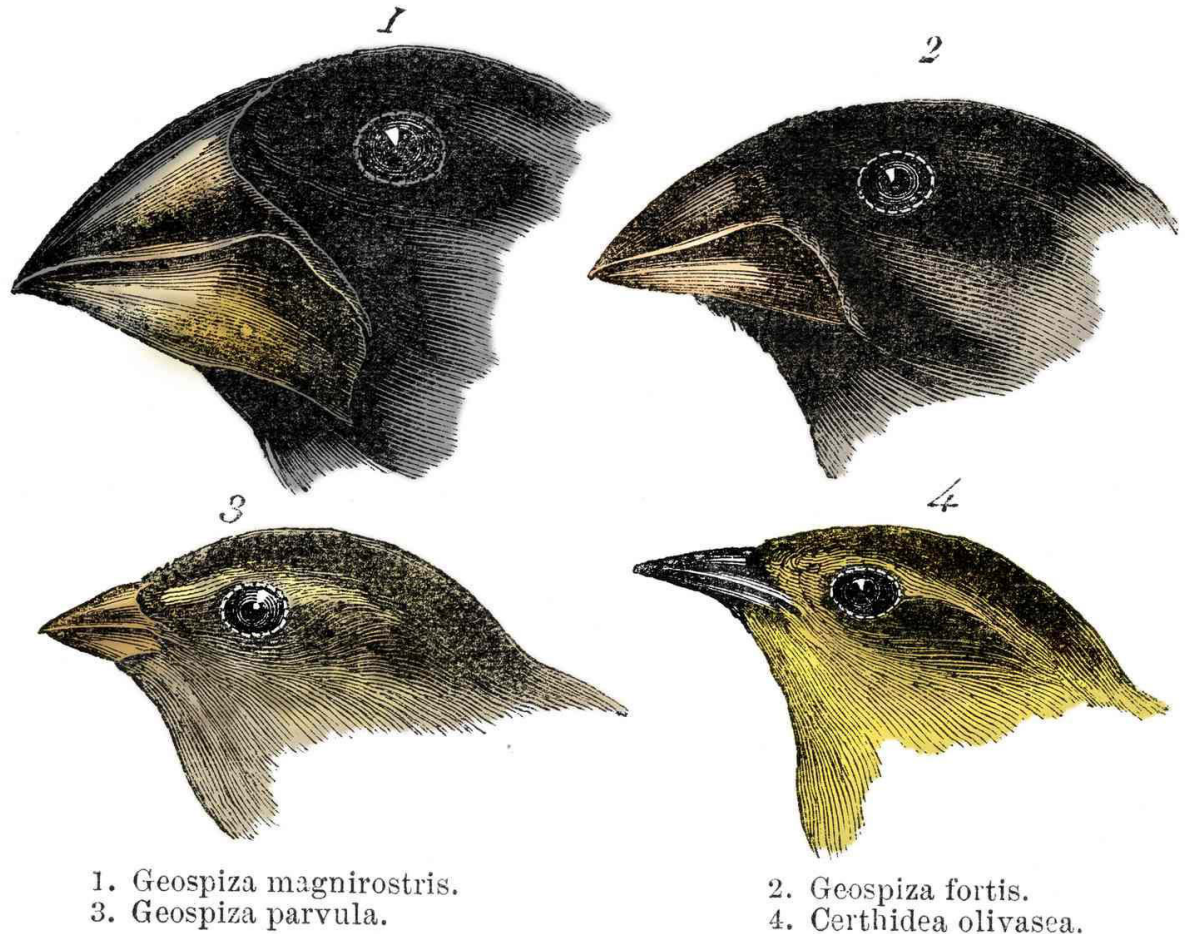
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Evolution is a term that can be approached from many different angles. According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, the word "evolution" has six definitions in the English language. In the scientific sense of the word, it has a varying meaning based on who gives the definition and their opinion on it. One way of defining evolution is by classifying it into two distinct types, which some creationists refer to as microevolution and macroevolution. When Darwin pioneered evolution as a hypothesis, he saw microevolution as the reason macroevolution was logical. However, this is not the case. Microevolution is adaptation. It is when a species, through reproduction and natural selection, creates a more specialized version of itself. The birds now known as Darwin's finches are an example of this.



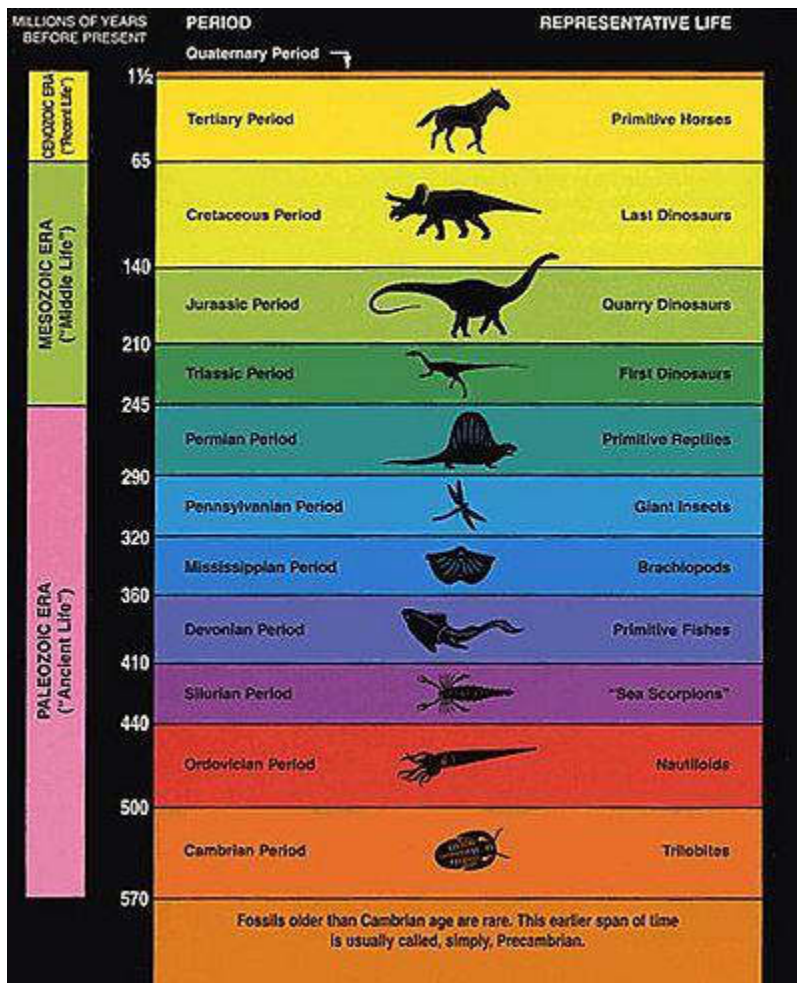
<https://www.thoughtco.com/charles-darwins-finches-1224472>

Some birds adapted to have stout beaks to crack open nuts. Other birds, through the process of microevolution, grew to have thin beaks suitable for consuming the insects that they eat. The original species of finches became several species of finches, each more specialized for its eating habits. Microevolution dictates that small changes may make several specific species from one general species. In contrast, macroevolution states that those small changes could add up even more significantly until a general species evolved into a completely unrelated species. Although Darwin saw macroevolution as the next step after all the evidence pointing toward microevolution, modern research has revealed the answer to be much more complicated.

While a creationist may divide evolution into the two categories of microevolution and macroevolution, someone who believes both would make a different distinction. A macroevolutionist would be more likely to divide evolution into two other classifications: Neo-Darwinism and punctuated equilibrium. These are the two main opinions on the process through which macroevolution supposedly occurred. A person who supports Neo-Darwinism, also called a Gradualist, would explain that species evolved over long periods of time through mutations in their genetic code. Eventually, a species would become so different from its ancestors that scientists would have to classify it as something incredibly different. This is the way, Gradualists suppose, that a common ancestor could give rise to both a dog and a horse, through millions of years of genetic mutations. Those who believe in punctuated equilibrium, sometimes called Punctuationists, also believe that mutations cause the vast differences in various species. Where Gradualists and Punctuationists differ, though, is in the timing they assign to the mutations. Gradualists claim that the mutations happened somewhat steadily, and slowly built up to where they are today. Punctuationists say that the mutations occurred during radioactive or chemical events, therefore concentrating the mutations to a few generations of fast mutations followed by many with little to no change in the species. Although they are divided on one of the fundamental principles of their beliefs, all macroevolutionists can agree that there is no way creationists are right.

Some pieces of evidence surrounding the creation versus evolution debate are merely matters of perspective. One such example is that of the geological column. The geological column shows that certain types of animals typically appear in certain layers of rock, or rock strata. It shows that most fossils of "complex" organisms tend to be nearer to the surface than "simple"

organisms. What this means is that deep rock should be filled with bacteria and small sea creatures, and surface rock is likely to contain fossils of horses, humans, and other complicated mammals. The macroevolutionist reasoning states that this means the "simple" organisms found deeper in the rock are older and they then evolved into the newer, more "complex" organisms nearer the surface. Although often cited as proof of evolution, the geological column is not the firm foundation it first appears to be for a few reasons. The geological column is an estimation. There is nowhere in the world where all the fossils will appear in a clean stack as shown in the geological column.



http://creationwiki.org/Geologic_column

Therefore, the order of the strata as shown in the image is only a well-formed approximation of what the strata and their characteristic fossils would look like if they all appeared together. Also, about 95% of fossils found are clams or similar aquatic animals. They are found everywhere on the planet, in every stratum of rock. So the geological column is an estimation based on 5% of the data or else it would be a useless figure. It would be clams all the way down!

Macroevolutionist scientists have also assigned year ranges to each of the rock strata. They say that their dates reflect the time required to build up that many layers of rock through erosion, silt movement, and other related processes. The problem is that those are not the only way rock layers can form. After the eruption of Mount Saint Helens, layers upon layers of strata formed in less than 8 hours. So the geological column can not be used as the final point in any argument, because it is based on many assumptions, and could have been formed in two drastically different ways. Macroevolutionists can scientifically believe that it formed slowly over millions of years. Creationists can scientifically believe it was formed quickly during the Great Flood as described in Genesis. Both are justified in their opinion through the scientific method in regard to their interpretation of the geological column. It is simply a matter of perspective.

Some people will stick to their opinions no matter what, and will support them with whatever evidence they find, even if it is flawed. Fossils claimed as missing intermediate links between species are few and far between. Several devoted macroevolutionists will admit that there should be more intermediate links in the fossil record than have been found. And the ones macroevolutionists cling to as the few examples of intermediate links may not be what they seem. Often quoted as a link between humans and apes, the fossil known as Lucy is an interesting specimen. The bone fragments found together make up 40% of a skeleton. All the

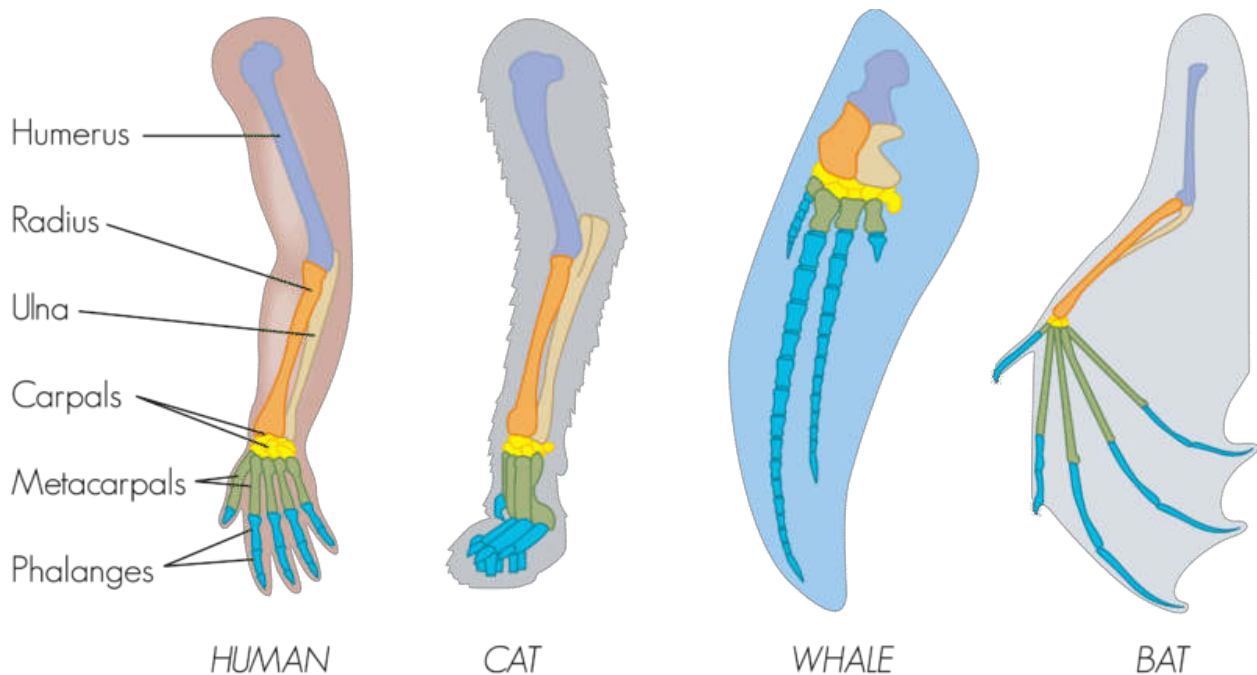
bones are characteristic of an ape. However, the pelvic bones would have allowed the creature to walk upright. Many evolutionary scientists say this means Lucy was a missing intermediate link. Creationists disagree. Lucy's wrist construction is made for walking on all fours, not bipedalism. Scans of the ear structure of other fossils in the same genus as Lucy also revealed that she did not have the balance necessary to be a habitual bipedal walker. Though she may have occasionally walked upright, she was an ape, not an ancestor to humans. In one quite extreme case, it seemed to many people that solid evidence had been set forth for macroevolution. Scientists uncovered fossilized bone near some ancient tools. Articles detailing the find were accompanied by descriptions of an intermediate link between humans and apes. Often accompanied by sketches of the supposed ape-man, it appeared evolution was the only explanation.



https://www.wayoflife.org/reports/lying_evolutionary_art_nebraska_man.html

This was far from the truth. Determined people who investigated the evidence behind the stories found that the fossils compiled to form the basis of the sketch were not a full skeleton. They weren't even a full skull. The entire sketch had been based on one tooth! And people were even more outraged when testing showed that the tooth was actually from a type of small pig, far from the picture that had been painted in newspaper articles about the ape-man now infamously known as the Nebraska Man. Macroevolutionists were so desperate to find an intermediate link that they invented one from a pig tooth near a pile of old tools.

All the evidence discussed so far has put doubt on evolution and shown a need for something else but has not given any clues to what that would be. Structural homology not only disrupts the evolutionary idea, but it points to a divine creator. Structural homology is the term used to describe the similarities found in the bone structure of different species. The figure below shows examples of this phenomenon.



<https://www.sanibelseaschool.org/experience-blog/2020/6/24/homology-and-analogy-a-lesson-in-biology>

Darwin thought that structural homology was excellent evidence for his hypothesis of evolution. After all, if all creatures had a shared ancestry, then it would follow they would also have shared features. Unfortunately for those who believe Darwin, modern studies of DNA have revealed a different truth. The similarities found in animals are actually coded for by entirely different sets of genes! This would not be the case if they had evolved that way. The same genes would code for the same parts of the bone structure. This is not the case. Instead, the striking similarities point to a creator, a God who made a design that was effective and modified it to meet the needs

of each individual creature. This display of a designer God is consistent with the creation account in the Bible.

The geological column has many layers. Cambrian rock is one of the deeper layers. In fact, it is the deepest layer with a significant number of fossils. Therefore, according to macroevolution, it is very old and should contain only very "simple" organisms. This is not always true. In the 1980s, scientists found something intriguing: fossils from Cambrian rock, thousands of them, that from an evolutionary perspective should not have existed. Representatives from every major phylum of animals were present in rock that the geological column says has only "simple" creatures. However, this is not the most incredible part. The scientists did not find them out on a dig site. They found them in a lab. In the early 1900s Charles Walcott had made this discovery which would be earth-shaking to the evolutionary point of view. He then proceeded to write a few low-profile articles and pack all the fossils away. His incredible find lay unnoticed and unknown for nearly a century. Fossils that evolution says should not co-exist in the same strata. Yet they do.

Genetics is an incredible, complex field of study. During reproduction of animals, the offspring show traits of both parents. Darwin recognized the differences that could occur in the offspring. Two incredibly similar parents could have a child that was strikingly different from them in all appearances. This was, in part, what inspired Charles Darwin's evolutionary ideas. Although he was a careful scientist, no one at that time truly had anything other than a very basic understanding of genetics. The man known as the father of genetics, Gregor Mendel did not begin his work until much of *The Origin of Species* was written, and Mendel's work went

unnoticed until after the first world war. What Mendel discovered is the basis of modern genetic studies, and his understanding of reproduction explains the difference between microevolution and macroevolution simply. Microevolution is made of changes within an organism's genetic code while macroevolution is made of changes outside an organism's genetic code. An organism's genetic makeup contains all the information about the creature, its functions, and its traits. However, some of these genes go unused as what are called recessive genes. Recessive genes submit their power if other genes are present. So a rabbit may have a recessive gene for blue eyes, but not have blue eyes because they also have a gene for brown eyes. If that rabbit were to reproduce with another brown-eyed rabbit with a recessive blue-eyed gene, they could have a blue-eyed child. Because offspring take one gene from each parent, our example rabbit could end up with a blue-eyed gene from its mother and one from its father. Therefore, two brown-eyed rabbits could logically have a blue-eyed baby. With no understanding of genetics, it would seem as though the offspring randomly had an eye color that came from neither parent, but with an introductory knowledge of Mendelian genetics, the correct explanation is obvious. Darwin did not have access to that introductory knowledge. He saw the changes in offspring that seemed to come from neither parent and thought that it could continue indefinitely. He saw microevolution and thought that it could lead to macroevolution. We now know how starkly different they really are. For macroevolution to occur, information from neither parent must appear in the offspring's genetic code. There is no way in nature that this has ever been known to occur. As mentioned earlier, both Gradualists and Punctuationists say that mutations caused the addition of information to species which led to macroevolution. There are no examples of mutations being capable of this. Mutations are inaccuracies in the DNA of a creature. Even mutations that are beneficial to the creature are actually destroying parts of the genetic code.

Some bacteria with a resistance to antibiotics are just bacteria with a mutation that prevents them from absorbing nutrients quickly. This lack of genetic knowledge on the efficient absorption of the nutrients which it needs to survive is beneficial when those bacteria are exposed to antibiotics. Because their intake of nutrients is slow, the antibiotics, which are absorbed the same way, are not concentrated enough to kill the bacteria. Mutations can be useful, but they are not responsible for adding information to the genetic code, rather, they take it away. Our understanding of genetics now allows us to understand some mysteries which baffled scientists for centuries.

God created the creatures of the world to be distinct. He used His divine knowledge, foresight, and creativity to use similar structures coded for by different genes. He also allowed for variation within species to let adaptations benefit species and cause even more diversity in His glorious creation. He set genetic boundaries so that His creatures remained unique and different from each other. He knew everything before it happened and created humans to reign over the rest of creation. We are different from monkeys. We do not share a common ancestor with apes. We are special in God's creation as the only things He states as made in His image. God gave us the choice and free will to make our own decisions. Humans will always try to explain Him out of the story He wrote. We write fantasies like that of the Nebraska Man to understand our existence while rejecting the One who made us. Many of us refuse to acknowledge our Author. But He loves us regardless, because we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

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