

Christian Evidences

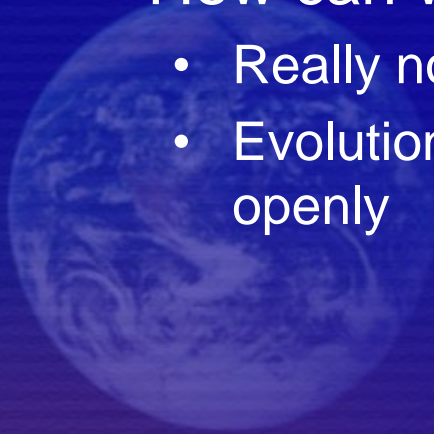
Lesson 11:

Creation vs. Evolution (Part II)



“... Then god saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good ... thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.” (Gen. 1:31-2:1)

- The Bible is quite plain about God’s work in creation
 - Not a point of debate
- To the unbeliever, question of origins hotly debated
 - Evolution the assumed answer
 - To question it often brings ridicule
- How can we defend the truth against evolution?
 - Really not that hard
 - Evolution can easily be refuted when examined honestly and openly

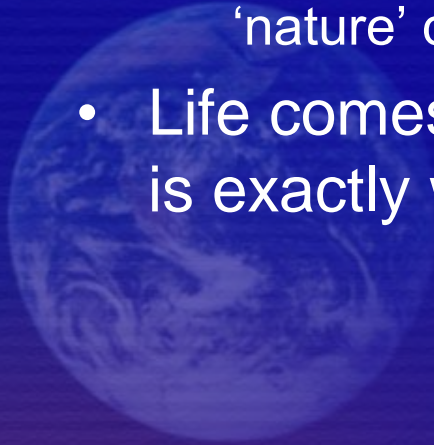


Spontaneous Generation

- Law of Biogenesis
 - Life comes only from previous life of its own kind
 - See this law play out everyday
 - The truthfulness of this law documented by thousands of scientists
- Louis Pasteur
 - His work dealt a crushing blow to the notion of spontaneous generation
 - What is “spontaneous generation”?
 - The idea that life arises on its own from nonliving sources
 - Teachers and professors talk about the importance of Pasteur’s work
 - However, often go on to tell their students that evolution has occurred as a result of spontaneous generation

Spontaneous Generation

- Evolution could not have occurred without some form of spontaneous generation
 - Scientists have concocted experiments in an attempt to create life from nonliving substances
 - Life never has been created from something nonliving
 - If scientists have *designed* carefully planned experiments to create life from something nonliving, and yet have failed miserably every time, how can we be expected to believe that 'nature' did it using accidents, chance, and blind forces?
- Life comes only from previous life of its own kind, which is exactly what the creation model teaches

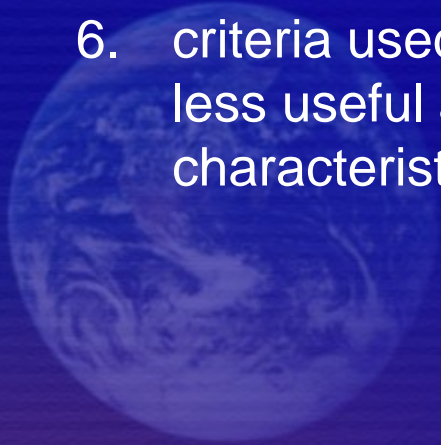


The Fossil Record

- Dr. LeGros Clark, a renowned evolutionist, said:
 - “That evolution actually did occur can only be scientifically established by the discovery of the fossilized remains of representative samples of those intermediate types which have been postulated on the basis of the indirect evidence”
- If the theory of evolution is true, the record of gradual development of plant and animal forms to higher forms should be found imbedded in the crust of the Earth in successive layers
- Before evaluating the fossil record, what do we expect to find?
 - Predictions would be quite different depending on one’s belief: evolution or creation

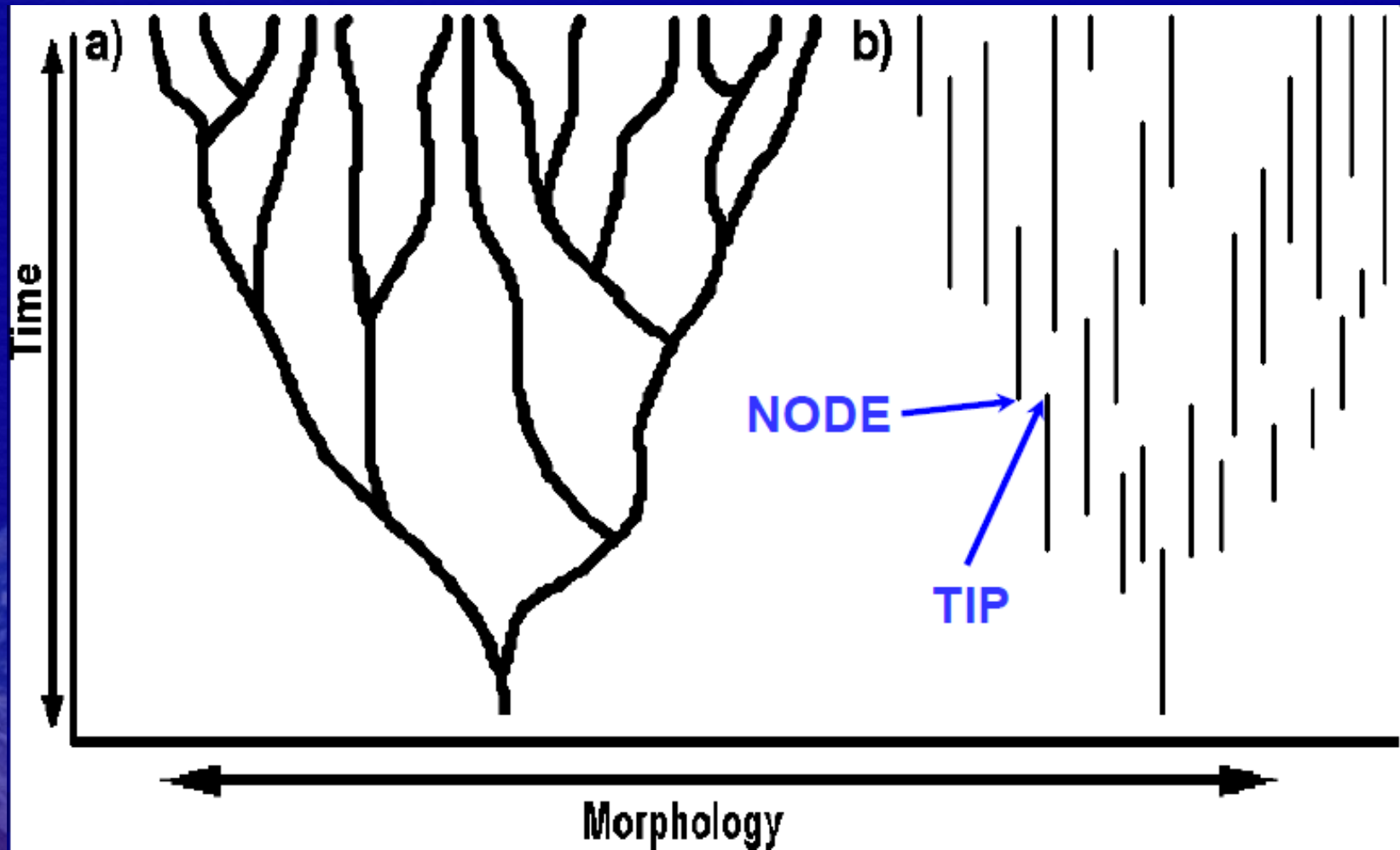
Predictions – The Evolution Model

1. oldest rocks would contain the most primitive forms of life
2. younger rocks would contain evidence of more complex forms of life
3. a gradual change in life forms from simple to complex
4. huge numbers of transitional forms
 - Darwin: “The number of intermediate and transitional links between all living and extinct species must have been inconceivably great.”
5. boundaries between types blur as we look back in fossil history
6. criteria used to classify plants and animals today would be less and less useful as older and older fossils show the in-between characteristics of presumed common ancestors for different groups



Predictions – The Evolution Model

... Expect to see the phylogenetic tree in fossil record



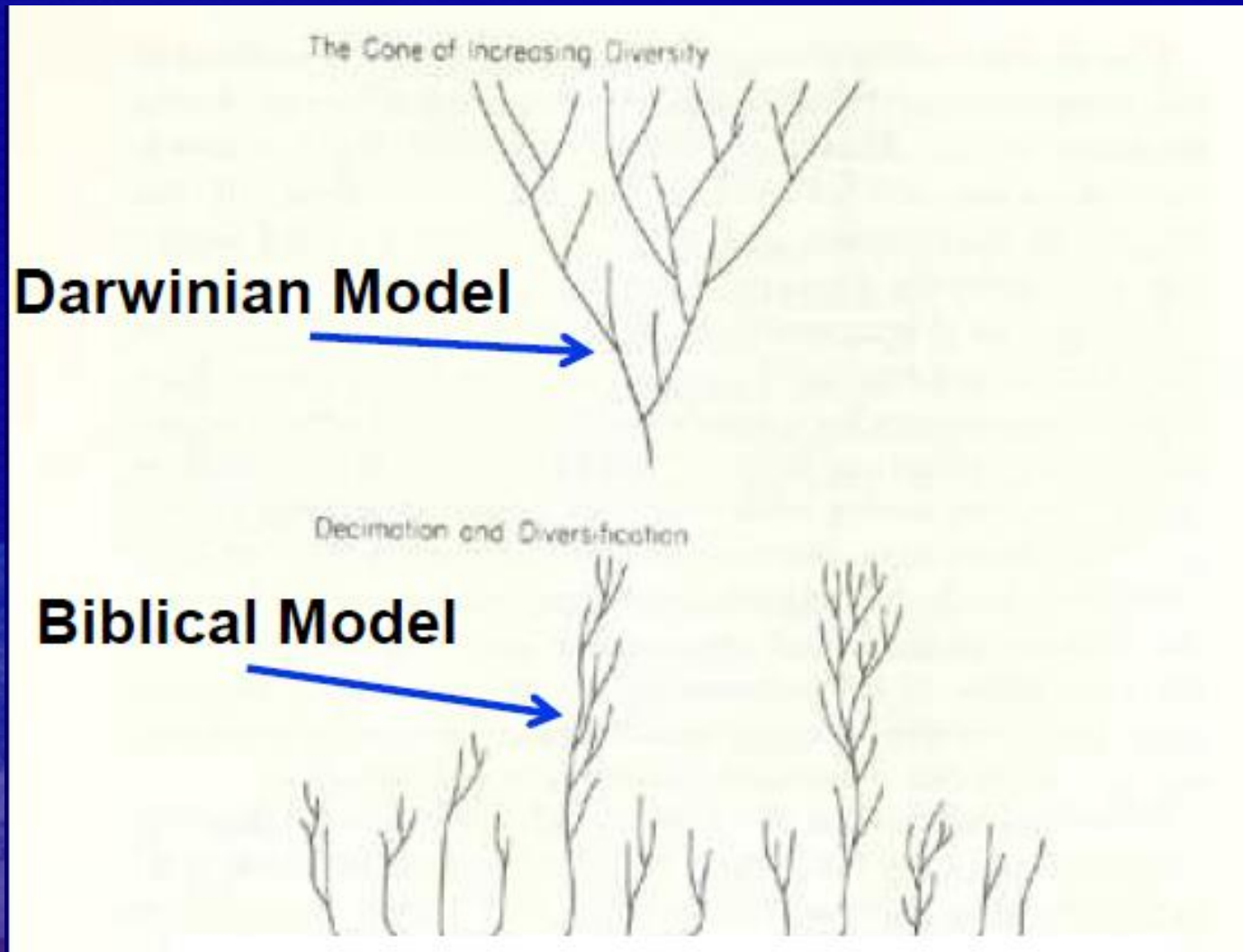
Predictions – The Creation Model

1. fossil record would show a sudden and explosive appearance of very diverse and highly complex forms of life
2. would not be a gradual change in life forms from simple to complex
3. would be a regular and systematic absence of transitional forms since there were none
4. variations of the types created would be found with extinction evident among some
5. the same kind of criteria used to classify plants and animals today ought to work just as well with fossils



Predictions – The Creation Model

... Expect to see something different in the fossil record



An “Explosion” of Life

- What do we find in the fossil record?
- Evolutionists classify various sedimentary layers with corresponding periods of evolutionary history
 - We’ll use these terms accomodatively
- Pre-Cambrian layer
 - Very little is found
 - Some marine blue-green algae near Australia
 - Some invertebrates such as soft-shelled jellyfish
- Cambrian layer



- An “explosion” of life
- Millions of fossils of highly complex forms of life have been found:
- Sponges, corals, jelly fish, worms, mollusks, crustaceans, etc.
- Every one of the invertebrate forms has been found as well as some vertebrates

An “Explosion” of Life

- John Klotz:
 - “It is hardly conceivable that all these forms should have originated in this period; and yet there is no evidence for the existence of many of them prior to the Cambrian period.”
- The creation model predicts such an explosive appearance of these highly diversified forms.
- The fossil record actually yields facts in strong disagreement with the evolution model!



Absence of Transitional Forms

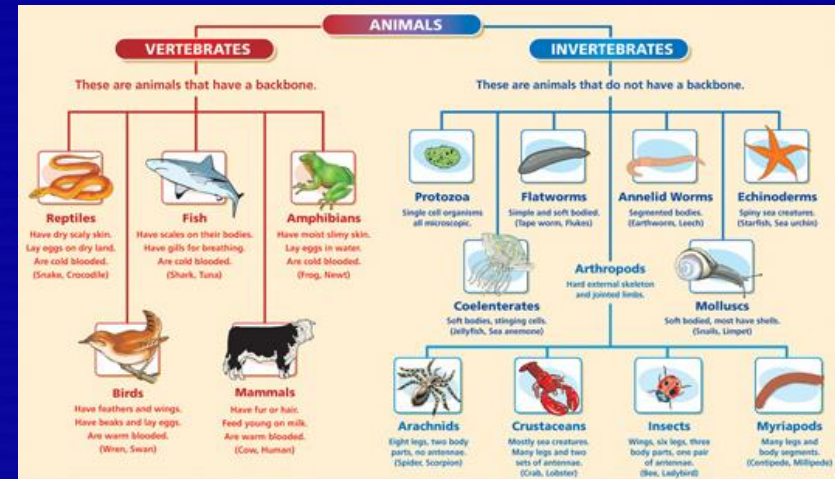
- Darwin claimed the fossil record would reveal ‘transitional forms in inconceivably great numbers.’ Where are they?
 - It’s been over 150 years since that claim; extensive archaeological & paleontological research has been conducted
 - The ‘transitional forms’ have proven to be quite elusive
 - In fact, absent altogether!
- Quotations from evolutionists regarding the paucity of the fossil record in this regard:
 - ‘... I still think that to the unprejudiced, the fossil record of plants is in favor of special creation’ (E.J.H. Corner)
 - ‘This regular absence of transitional forms is not confined to mammals, but is an almost universal phenomenon, as has long been noted by paleontologists. It is true of almost all orders of all classes of animals, both vertebrate and invertebrate. A fortiori (with even more certainty), it is also true of the classes, and of the major animal phyla, and it is apparently also true of analogous categories of plants.’ (G.G. Simpson)

Absence of Transitional Forms

- Quotations from evolutionists (continued):
 - ‘It is a feature of the known fossil record that most taxa appear abruptly.’ (G.G. Simpson)
 - ‘Despite the bright promise that paleontology provides a means of ‘seeing’ evolution, it has presented some nasty difficulties for evolutionists, the most notorious of which is the presence of the ‘gaps’ in the fossil record. Evolution requires intermediate forms between species, and paleontology does not provide them.’ (David Kitts)
- The ‘transitional forms’ which must be in the fossil record if evolution is to be true are simply not to be found!
- The creation model predicts:
 - The abrupt appearance of highly complex and diverse forms of life
 - No evidence of transitional forms between these basic forms of life
 - The fossil record reveals exactly that!

Classification Criteria

- Creation is also supported by the ability to use the same criteria to classify both
 - Living plants and animals
 - As well as those found as fossils
- Even among extinct types
 - No 'in-between forms'
 - Nor forms any harder to classify (when the fossil evidence is complete enough) than plants and animals living today
- Most people assume that fossils and evolution go hand in hand
 - Some even think that 'believing' in fossils is almost the same as 'believing' in evolution
 - Educational materials and entertainment constantly tout evolution



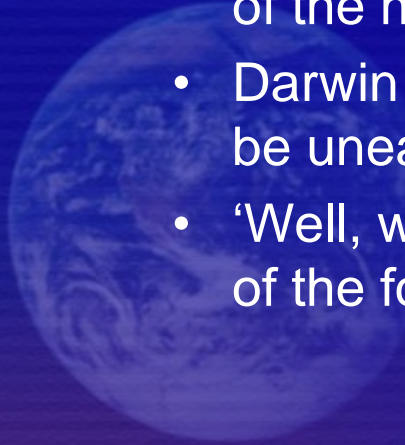
Classification Criteria

- Charles Darwin wrote the following:
 - ‘Intermediate links? Geology assuredly does not reveal any such finely graduated organic change, and this is perhaps the most obvious and serious objection which can be urged against the theory.’ ... He blamed the conflict between fact and theory on ‘the imperfection of the geologic record.’



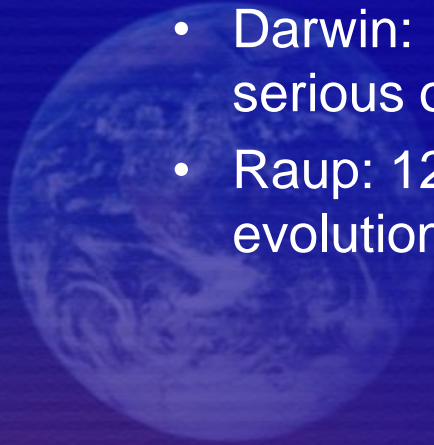
The Fossil Record – Summary

- Now over 150 years since Darwin made that statement
- What does the evidence show?
- David Raup (curator of the famous Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago):
 - From ‘Conflicts Between Darwin and Paleontology’:
 - ‘Most people assume that fossils provide a very important part of the general argument made in favor of Darwinian interpretations of the history of life. Unfortunately, this is not strictly true.’
 - Darwin expected those gaps in his theory, those missing links, to be unearthed by future discoveries
 - ‘Well, we are now 120 years after Darwin (1982), and knowledge of the fossil record has been greatly expanded.’



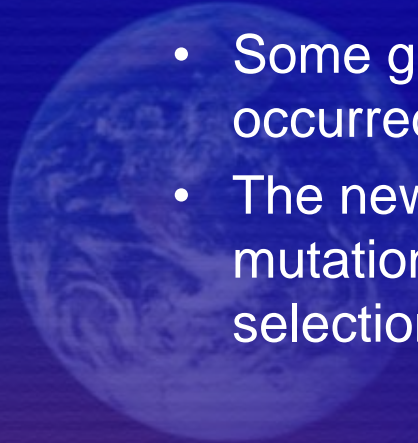
The Fossil Record – Summary

- David Raup (cont.):
 - ‘... ironically, we have *even fewer examples* of evolutionary transition than we had in Darwin’s time. By this I mean that some of the classic cases of Darwinian change in the fossil record, such as the evolution of the horse in North America, have had to be *discarded or modified* as a result of more detailed information.’
- What a statement!
 - Darwin: the fossil evidence was perhaps the most obvious and serious objection against his theory
 - Raup: 120 years of research have made the case for Darwinian evolution *even worse*

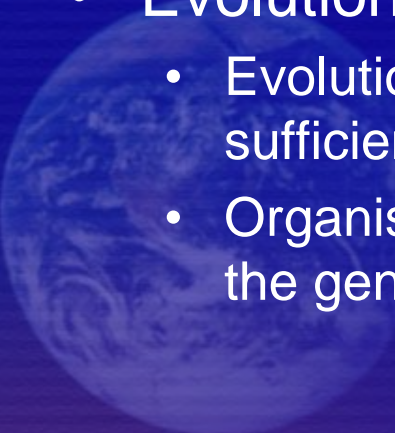


Genetics as Evolution's Mechanism?

- Darwin:
 - Argued that species are always changing, the result of natural selection
 - His concept – descent with modification, with continual and gradual change
 - Modes of evolution – geographical distribution and natural selection
- Science of genetics at turn of the century:
 - Some geneticists came to believe that variation and change occurred by *genetic mutations*
 - The new idea, in regard to evolution, was that species arose by mutations which were incorporated into the system by natural selection

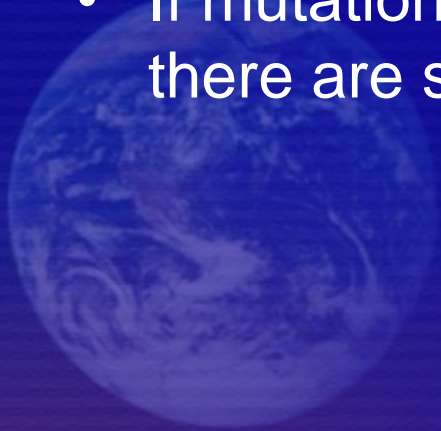


Genetics as Evolution's Mechanism?

- Today:
 - The alleged mechanism of Neo-Darwinism is *genetic mutations plus natural selection*
 - Theodosius Dobzhansky, renowned evolutionary geneticist):
 - 'The process of mutation is the only known source of the new materials of genetic variability, and hence of evolution.'
 - Evolution without a mechanism is like a car with no engine
 - Evolutionists realized that natural selection alone was not a sufficient mechanism
 - Organisms would not change from one species to another unless the genetic material somehow changed
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Genetics as Evolution's Mechanism?

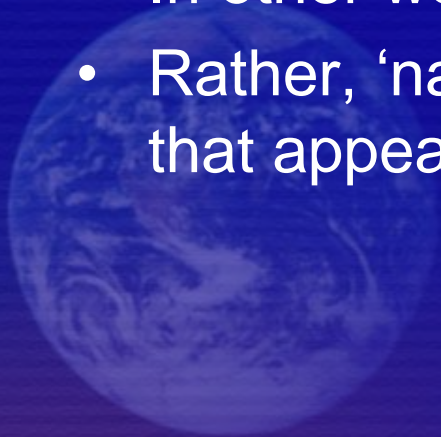
- Mutations
 - Hereditary changes caused by alterations of the original genetic material
- Supposedly, 'nature' has 'selected' beneficial mutations and incorporated them into various organisms, eventually causing those organisms to change from one kind to another
- If mutations are the 'only known mechanism for evolution,' there are some very serious problems



Problems with Mutations:

#1 - They are random

- C.H. Waddington (evolutionary geneticist):
 - ‘It remains true to say that we know of no way other than *random* mutations by which hereditary variation comes into being ...’
- Henry M. Morris agrees:
 - ‘There is no way to control mutations to make them produce characteristics which might be needed. Natural selection must simply take what comes.’
- In other words, ‘nature’ isn’t selecting at all.
- Rather, ‘nature’ is pressed into accepting whatever it is that appears



Problems with Mutations:

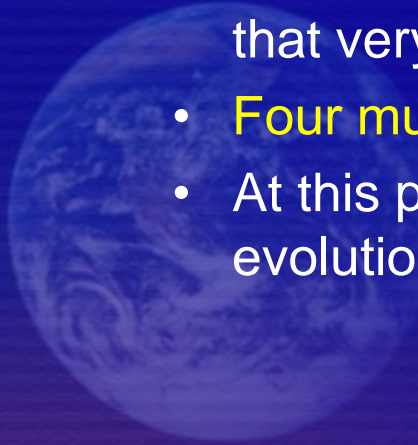
#2 - They are very rare, not common

- How often do random mutations occur?
- Dr. F.J. Ayala (evolutionary geneticist):
 - 'It is probably fair to estimate the frequency of a majority of mutations in higher organisms between one in ten thousand and one in a million per gene per generation.'
- Getting a *series of related* mutations presents a mathematical problem for evolution
 - Odds of getting two mutations that are related to one another – one in a hundred trillion
 - Any two mutations might produce no more than a fly with a wavy edge on a bent wing
 - A long way from producing a truly new structure,
 - Certainly a long way from changing a fly into a different organism

Problems with Mutations:

#2 - They are very rare, not common

- Getting a *series of related mutations* (cont.):
 - Three mutations in a row? One in a billion trillion (10^{21})
 - The ocean isn't big enough to hold enough bacteria to make it likely to find a bacterium with three simultaneous or sequential related mutations
 - Four mutations? 10^{28}
 - **1 in 10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000**
 - The earth isn't big enough to hold enough organisms to make that very likely
 - **Four mutations don't even make a start toward real evolution**
 - At this point some evolutionists give up the classic idea of evolution, because it just plainly doesn't work



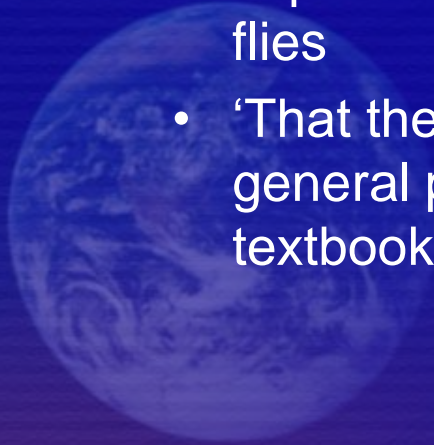
Problems with Mutations:

#3 - Good mutations are very, very rare

- Three types of mutations: bad, good, and neutral
- How often do good mutations occur?
- Dr. H.J. Muller (Nobel laureate in genetics):
 - ‘Accordingly, the great majority of mutations, certainly well over 99%, are harmful in some way, as is to be expected of the effects of accidental occurrences.’
- Dr. Dobzhansky:
 - ‘Most mutants which arise in any organism are more or less disadvantageous to their possessors...’
- Dr. C.P. Martin (an evolutionist):
 - ‘Accordingly, mutations are more than just sudden changes in heredity; they also affect viability, and, to the best of our knowledge, invariably affect it adversely. Does not this fact show that mutations are really assaults on the organism’s central being, its basic capacity to be a living thing?’

Conclusion on Mutations

- Dr. Simpson:
 - ‘Unless there is an unknown factor tremendously increasing the chance of simultaneous mutations, such a process has played no part whatever in evolution.’
- Harvard’s Stephen Gould (1977):
 - ‘Evolution involves profound structural transitions’
 - ‘Mutations produce only minor variations, like we see in experiments with flies in bottles, that start as flies and end up as flies
 - ‘That theory [orthodox neo-Darwinian extrapolationalism], as a general proposition is effectively dead, despite its persistence as textbook orthodoxy’ (1980)



Conclusion on Mutations

- Gould (cont.):
 - Believes our knowledge of genetics is now sufficient to completely reject the explanation of evolution as the slow, gradual selection of small mutational changes
 - He prefers to believe instead that evolution occurs in giant steps, radical restructuring of whole DNA sets producing what he himself calls 'hopeful monsters'
 - He admits that no such hopeful monster has ever been observed



Facts behind the arguments are the important things,
Not the false interpretations of those facts!

The Facts

- Life comes only from previously existing life
- No transitional forms of half-and-half organisms exist in the fossil record
- Similarities sometime show common ancestry, but also can show common design
- Mutations are random, rare, and usually harmful

The Theory of Evolution

- Life comes from nonliving sources
- There should be millions of transitional forms
- Similarities show common ancestry, differences must be ignored
- Only theorized mechanism for evolution is mutations (and in 'giant' steps – hopeful monsters)

Conclusion

- Facts are stubborn, impartial things that refuse to budge for people of high estate or low degree
- The concepts of creation and evolution stand on opposite sides
- The facts stand behind only one of them
- Which is it?

