

Presuppositions and Influences of Evolution

Lecture 12:
Daniel Janosik
AP401

"What a Wonderful World" Creation or Evolution?



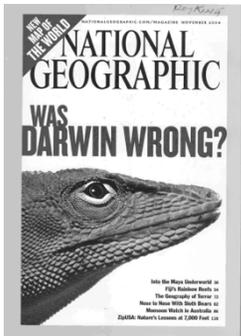
Daniel Janosik
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Richard Dawkins in a book review:
"So to the book's provocation, the statement that nearly half the people in the United States don't believe in evolution. Not just any people but powerful people, people who should know better, people with too much influence over educational policy. We are not talking about Darwin's particular theory of natural selection. It is still (just) possible for a biologist to doubt its importance, and a few claim to. No, we are here talking about the fact of evolution itself, a fact that is proved utterly beyond reasonable doubt.

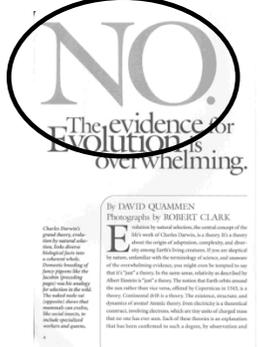
Richard Dawkins in a book review:
To claim equal time for creation science in biology classes is about as sensible as to claim equal time for the flat-earth theory in astronomy classes. Or, as someone has pointed out, you might as well claim equal time in sex education classes for the stork theory. It is absolutely safe to say that if you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution, **that person is ignorant, stupid or insane** (or wicked, but I'd rather not consider that)."

April 9, 1989, Sunday, Late City Final Edition Section 7; Page 34, Column 2; Book Review Desk

How do we deal with this?



How do we deal with this?



Know the EVIDENCE!

Or
this?

This textbook contains material on evolution. Evolution is a theory, not a fact, regarding the origin of life and things. This material should be approached with an open mind, studied carefully and critically considered.

**RULED
ILLEGAL**

**A. ALL PEOPLE HAVE
PRESUPPOSITIONS/
"FILTERS"**

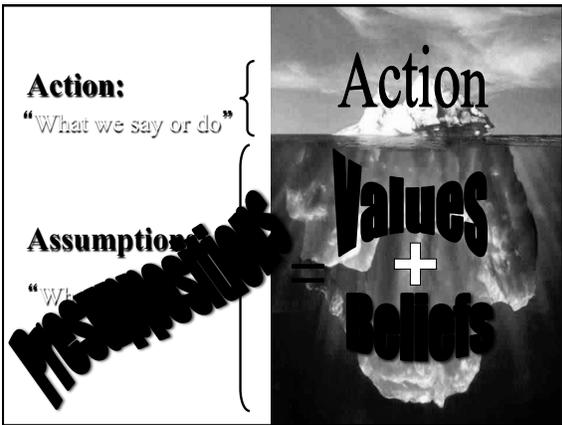
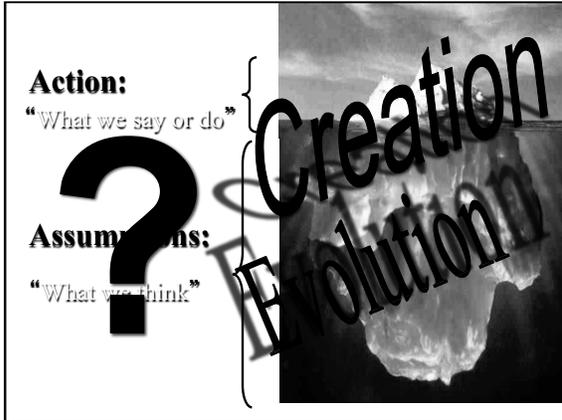
- **1. Different people, holding different presuppositions, could logically come to different conclusions with the same data.**

- **2. Science: The search for knowledge by observation and experimentation (data).**

- **3. For most scientists, however, evolution is accepted as a fact not on the basis of data, but rather on the basis of the naturalistic presupposition.**

- **4. These scientists have abandoned the true purpose of science and have become chained to the naturalistic process. The true purpose of science is to explain as well as possible the processes that exist in nature. When scientists refuse to abandon their "filter" of naturalism, they limit their ability to observe the evidence objectively.**

• 5. We must understand that our presuppositions often control our beliefs, and, even in the area of science, we interpret data through our presuppositions.



B. THE FOUR MAJOR PRESUPPOSITIONS/ FILTERS:

1. Naturalistic Evolutionism

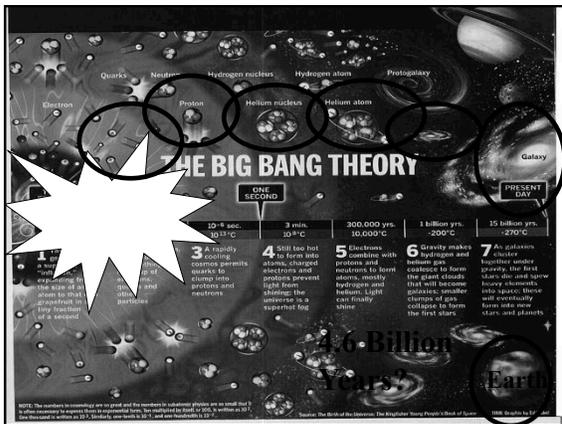
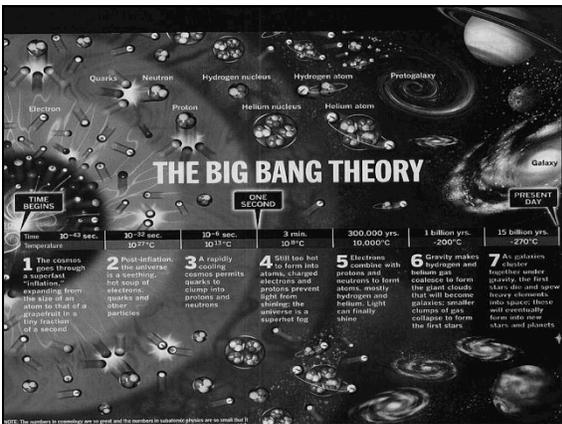
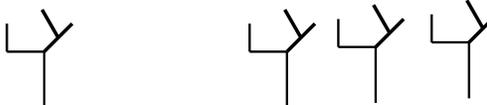
- a. God does not exist, or if he does exist, he was not active in origins or the process of evolution.

• b. Living systems have a chemical origin brought about by chance combination of amino acids in an environment that promoted formation of structure (Increased order).

• c. Gradual change between forms, or a concept of rapidly-occurring evolutionary "episodes" must have occurred in order to produce the development of amoebas to Man.

• d. The earth is about 5 billion years old, and has undergone periods of extensive geologic upheaval, which generally coincide with the appearance of new major life forms.

• e. The origin of life occurred by monophyletic (one origin), or by polyphyletic (many origins and ancestral lines).



Fatal Flaws of the Big Bang

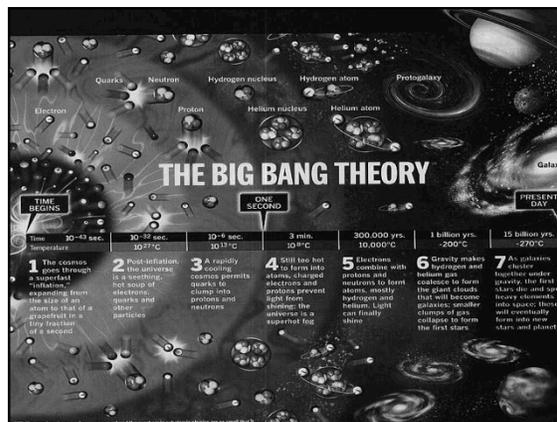
- Where did the initial energy come from?
- Where is the necessary “Dark Matter” and the “Dark Energy”?
- How did the gas clouds form into stars and planets?
- In fact, the Big Bang actually counteracts itself in a number of areas.

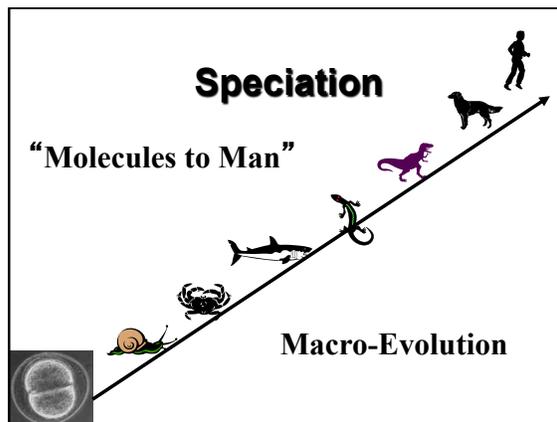
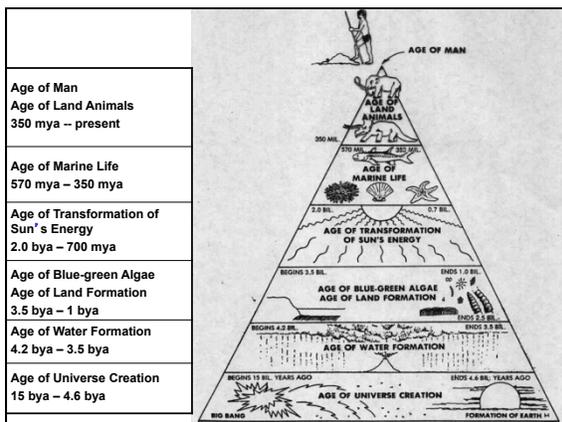
2. Theistic Evolutionism

- **a. God does exist, and was active in the creation of matter, initial biological structure, and the establishment of natural law.**

- **b. God directed evolution via evolutionary mechanisms, such as mutation, adaptive radiation and survival of the fittest (not necessarily the strongest!).**

- **c. The creation account in Genesis 1 and 2 assumed to be allegorical. It contains moral and religious truths about man and God, but has little bearing on the physical act of creation.**



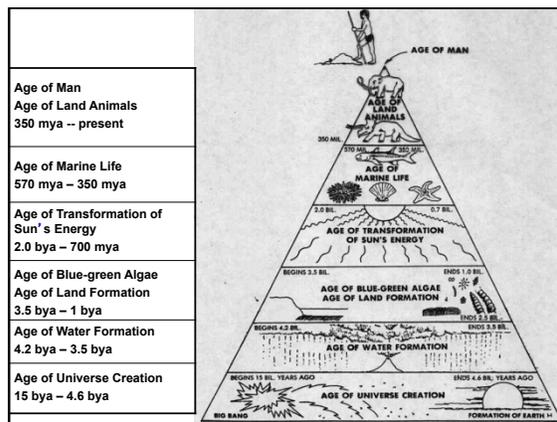
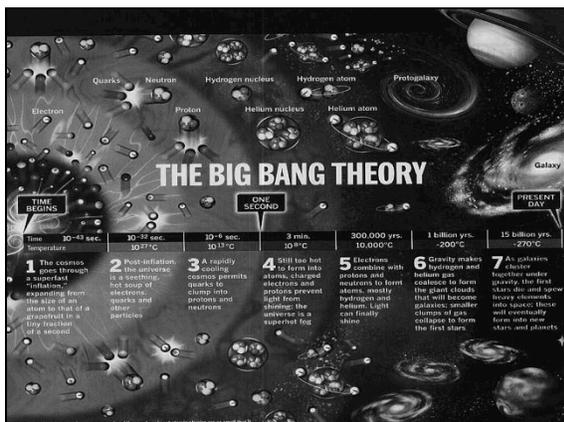


3. Progressive Creationism

- a. God exists and was actively involved in the cosmological, physical, and biological origins.

- b. The creation took place "progressively" over long periods of time, with God "creating" at various points in time.

- c. God created *ex nihilo* (out of nothing) the original ancestors of large groups of plants and animals (created "kinds"), which morphologically diverged over a long period of time to produce the vast extinct and extant (living) assemblage of life we recognize today.



Problems with Progressive Creation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POSITION • Centinal Creation: • Big Bang: a universe billions of years old. • Noah's Flood was local • Man-like animals • Death and Suffering Always • Dual Revelation on equal footing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PROBLEM • Yom (mOy) seems to be a 24-hour day; • Flood "covered the whole earth" • Man created on 6th day • contradicts Scripture in regard to saying that there was death before sin (cf. Romans 5:12) • Salvation is only through Jesus Christ

4. Recent Creationism

• a. **God exists and was actively involved in the cosmological, physical, and biological origins.**

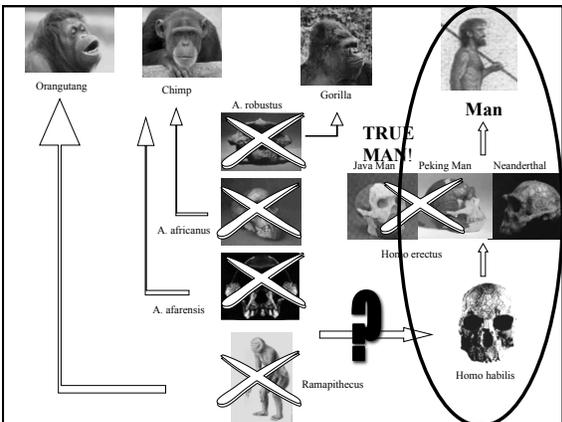
• b. **The six days of creation mentioned in Genesis 1 and 2 are assumed to be literal, successive days of creation in which God created all the major kinds of animals and plants.**

• c. The earth is relatively young (usually estimated at less than 10,000 years old).

• d. There are biological limits to change within created "kinds."

• e. Most Pre-Cambrian rocks were created in the beginning; much of the Cambrian to present age rock sequence and the fossils in them were formed by a universal flood.

GEOLOGIC COLUMN	2	QUATERNARY	CENOZOIC
	65	TERTIARY	
	144	CRETACEOUS	MESOZOIC
	208	JURASSIC	
	245	TRIASSIC	
	286	PERMIAN	PALEOZOIC
	360	CARBONIFEROUS	
	408	DEVONIAN	
	438	SILURIAN	
	505	ORDOVICIAN	
57C	CAMBRIAN		



Problems with Recent Creation?

- What about radiometric dating and the billions of years that is estimated for the earth?
- How do you account for the immense age of the universe and the distance between the earth and the visible stars?
- How do you interpret the "days" of Genesis 1?

Creation VS Evolution

A Comparison

**Why Is This Subject So
Vital for Today's World?**

How pervasively has evolution invaded our lives?

The following philosophies are based on naturalistic beliefs:

Abortion We are just the end stage of animal evolution; therefore, let only the "fit" or the "wanted" survive.

The following philosophies are based on naturalistic beliefs:

Atheism No God is needed for the world to be here.

The following philosophies are based on naturalistic beliefs:

Behaviorism We are a product of learned evolutionary chemical responses.

The following philosophies are based on naturalistic beliefs:

Communism A society evolving without the need for God.

The following philosophies are based on naturalistic beliefs:

Euthanasia When animals live beyond their usefulness, a “good death” is a blessing. After all, why prolong an ultimately meaningless existence in the face of pain!

The following philosophies are based on naturalistic beliefs:

Freudianism Our psychological motivations and desires are a result of evolutionary processes.

The following philosophies are based on naturalistic beliefs:

Materialism This world is all there is – so grab for all the gusto you can!

The following philosophies are based on naturalistic beliefs:

Nihilism If there is no ultimate meaning, then why deal with the pain and suffering? Ultimately life is absurd – a cruel joke at best!

The following philosophies are based on naturalistic beliefs:

New Age We are in the process of evolving back to becoming God.

The following philosophies are based on naturalistic beliefs:

Progressivism Society is getting better!

The following philosophies are based on naturalistic beliefs:

Neo-Orthodoxy As people evolve, their understanding about the nature of God and the Universe should also change. Humans become their own “omega point” and end up taking the place of God.

The following philosophies are based on naturalistic beliefs:

Freudianism
Progressivism
New Age
Atheism
Euthanasia
Communism
Behaviorism
Abortion
Neo-Orthodoxy
Nihilism
Materialism

Michael Denton, *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis*, p. 66:

“As far as Christianity was concerned, the advent of the theory of evolution and the elimination of traditional teleological thinking was catastrophic. The suggestion that life and man are the result of chance is incompatible with the biblical assertion of their being the direct result of intelligent creative activity. Despite the attempt by liberal theology to disguise the point, the fact is that no biblically derived religion can really be compromised with the fundamental assertion of Darwinian theory. Chance and design are antithetical concepts, and the decline in religious belief can probably be attributed more to the propagation and advocacy by the intellectual and scientific community of the Darwinian version of evolution than to any other single factor.”
(Emphasis mine)

Creation VS Evolution

What Difference Does It Make?

What Difference Does it Make?

If Evolution is True...

- Then there is no need for God
- Then there is no sin and no need for a Savior

What Difference Does it Make?

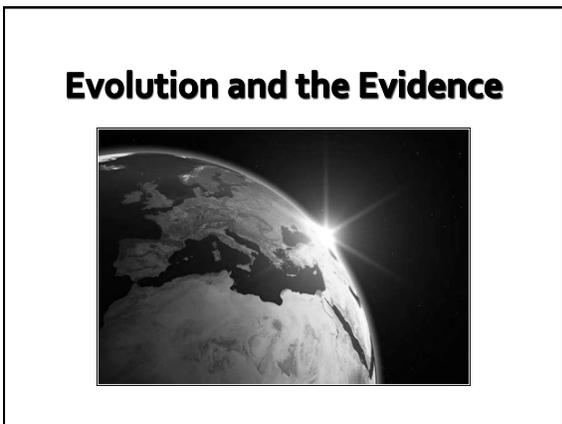
- Then Moral Values have no basis and Life has no Purpose
- Then Man is not Responsible for his Actions

What Difference Does it Make?

- **Then the Bible is Unreliable and Christianity is False**

“The Fool Says in His Heart, ‘There is No God.’”
Psalm 14:1

Is Evolution Supported by the Evidence? Are Problems with Evolution Real?



Creation VS Evolution

A Comparison

Evidence:

Evolution Evolution	Creation
1. Planets and stars are the result of a big explosion of compressed matter/energy	1. Planets and stars are the result of God creating them out of nothing.

Evidence:

Evolution Evolution	Creation
2. Life began by chance as a single cell from non-living matter.	2. Life and non-living matter were created separately by God

Evidence:

Evolution	Creation
3. All living organisms have developed from simpler forms of life.	3. God created separate groups of living organisms, each to reproduce "After its kind."

Evidence:

Evolution	Creation
4. Man is the ultimate result of the process of Evolution.	4. Man is the product of a special creative act by God.

Evidence:

Evolution	Creation
5. The earth is at least 4.6 Billion years old. (requires long age)	5. The earth was probably created some 6-10 thousand years ago (though a longer age is possible)

Creation VS Evolution

The Tally Sheet

PREDICTIONS VS. EVIDENCE

PREDICTIONS:	EVIDENCE:
creation ** Eternal omnipotent Creator evolution ** Eternal matter	Universe had a beginning; matter degrades; life highly ordered
e Natural laws and character of matter unchanging e Matter and laws evolve	Laws constant; matter constant; no new laws
e Trend toward degradation e Trend toward order	Second law of thermodynamics (energy is running down)
e Creation of life the only possibility e Spontaneous generation probable	Biological improbabilities
e Life unique e Life-matter continuum	Life-matter gap (vitalism); bio-chemicals formed naturally from non-life
e No current creation e Continual creation	First law of thermodynamics ("neither created nor destroyed")
e Life eternal e Life began	Law of Biogenesis
e Basic categories of life unrelated e All life related	Law of Biogenesis; reversion to type; fossil gaps
e World catastrophe e Uniformity	Fossils; sedimentary strata; frozen muck; present uniformity
e Organs always complete e Gradual evolution of organs	Organs always fully developed; natural selection culs
e Mutations harmful e Mutations can improve organisms	Mutations vitiate; laws of information science
e Language, art and civilization sudden e Civilization gradual	Archeology and Anthropology show civilization sudden
e Man unique e Man an animal	Man-ape similarities; also great gap; art, language, religion
e Design manifest e Naturalism	Life complex and highly ordered; natural synthesis

Tally Sheet

	Creation	Evolution
1st Law of Thermodynamics	✓	✗
2nd Law of Thermodynamics	✓	✗
Law of Cause and Effect	✓	✗
Law of Biogenesis	✓	✗

Laws of Science

PREDICTIONS VS. EVIDENCE	
PREDICTIONS:	EVIDENCE:
e Universe had a beginning; matter degraded; life highly ordered	Second law of thermodynamics (entropy increasing)
e Spontaneous generation	Biological improbability
e Life arose from non-life	Life-matter gap (valleys naturally from non-life)
e Continuum of life unrelated	Law of Biogenesis
e All life related	Law of Biogenesis
e World catastrophic	Fossil, sedimentary, and geological records
e Uniformity	Geological record of fossils, fossils, fossils, fossils
e Organ always complete	Gradual evolution of organs
e Mutations harmful	Mutations can improve organisms
e Language, art and civilization sudden	Civilization gradual
e Man unique	Man unique
e Design manifest	Life complex and highly ordered; natural synthesis
e Naturalism	

THE EVIDENCE IS ON OUR SIDE!

SEVEN EVIDENCES THAT SUPPORT CREATION

THE DESIGN OF THE UNIVERSE

- **1. THE DESIGN OF THE UNIVERSE:**
The design in nature demands a Designer.

THE DESIGN OF THE UNIVERSE

- 1. Distance of sun and moon (freeze or boil)
- 2. Ozone layer (8 killer rays)
- 3. Liquid water (very rare in the Solar system)
- 4. Amount of oxygen (excess: the earth would burn up; insufficient amount: life could not exist)
- 5. Gravitational force (always divisible by exactly two. Any deviation in this would lead to eventual catastrophic decay)

2. BEGINNING OF THE UNIVERSE:

- The First Law of Thermodynamics (which states that matter is neither created nor destroyed) requires a beginning for the universe and precludes its eternal existence.
- Creation points to a definite beginning for the universe.
- Evolution cannot account for the existence or the beginning of matter.
- The leading scientific evidence demands a beginning for time, space and matter.
- "In the beginning God... or hydrogen?"

3. THE SECOND LAW OF THERMODYNAMICS:

- This law states that all things left to themselves always tend to go from a complex state to a simple one, from the organized to the disorganized.
- Evolution requires the opposite -- the building up of a more complex form from a simpler one.
- Creation supports the trend toward degradation which is substantiated by the evidence.

4. LAW OF BIOGENESIS:

- This law states that "life always comes from life."
- Creation supports this law.
- Evolution is based on spontaneous generation, which requires "life from non-life."
- Louis Pasteur disproved the possibility of spontaneous generation in the mid-1800's.
- Today all scientists, creationists and evolutionists alike, agree that spontaneous generation cannot occur.
- But for the evolutionists, it must have occurred . . . "in a time long ago."

5. MUTATIONS:

- Neo-Darwinian evolutionists claim that mutations can improve a species.
- Creationists say that mutations are harmful. Research shows that 99.9% of all mutations are harmful.
- The frequency of viable mutations actually restrict viable variation or microevolution.

6. FOSSIL RECORD:

- "By this theory [evolution] innumerable transitional forms must have existed, why do we not find them imbedded in countless numbers in the crust of the earth?"
- (Charles Darwin, Origin of the Species, 1859, p. 157).

6. FOSSIL RECORD:

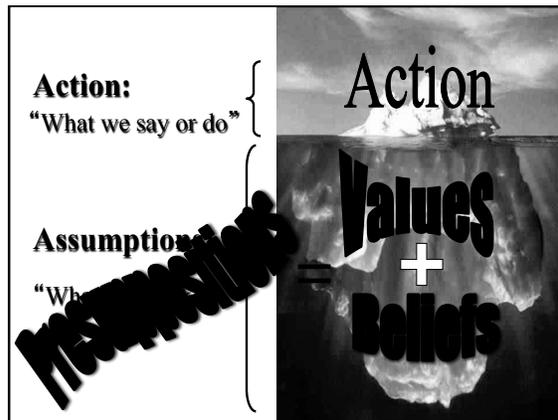
- If evolution were true there should be thousands of intermediate links in the fossil record.
- The lack of any transitions and the abrupt appearance of organisms in the fossil record supports the fiat creation (creation out of nothing) of all life by a supernatural Creator.

7. SHORT-AGE EVIDENCE:

- Out of 79 methods for determining the age of the earth, only 3 yield an age over 500 million years;
- 26 give an age of 10,000 years or less.

7. SHORT-AGE EVIDENCE:

- 1. Meteoritic dust -- 10,000 years
- 2. Decay of the magnetic field -- 10,000
- 3. Disintegration of short term comets -- 10,000 years or less
- 4. Decay of the sun -- 10,000 years



Creation			Evolution		
1	2	3	3	4	7
4	5	6	SAME EVIDENCE		
7	8	9	3	6	9
EVIDENCE			EVIDENCE		
Design Purpose			Chance No Purpose		
God			Man		

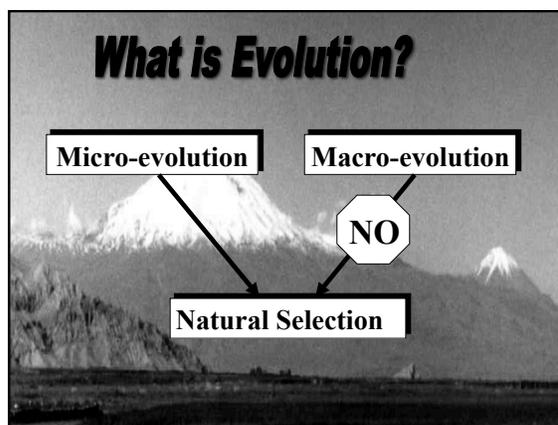
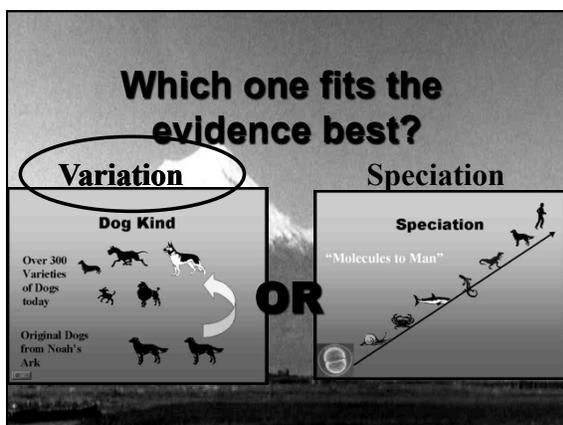
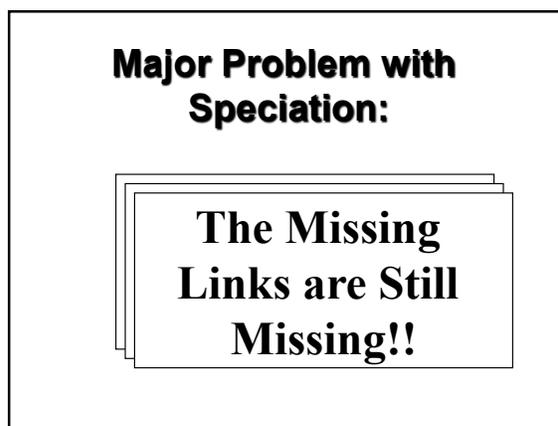
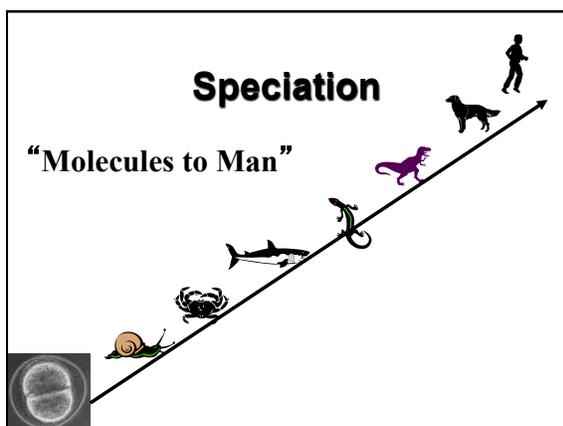
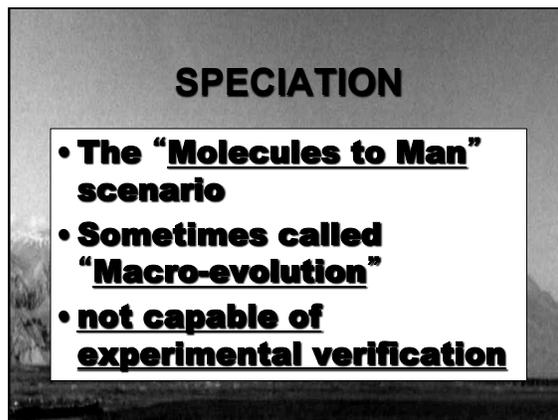
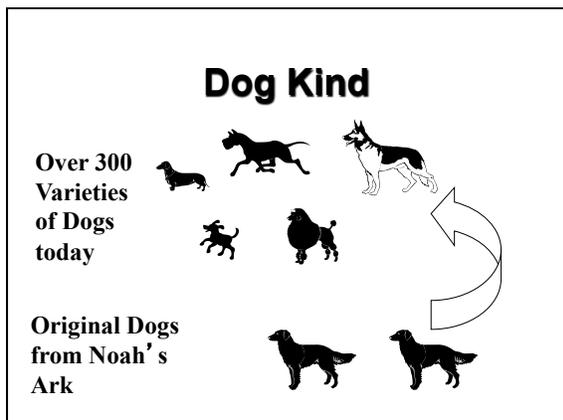
Evolution must be considered on TWO LEVELS

VARIATION within a Biblical Kind

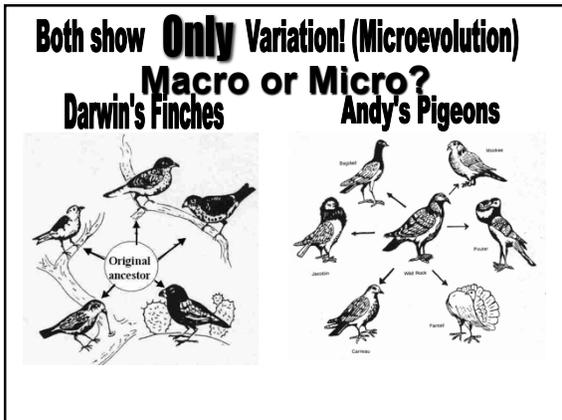
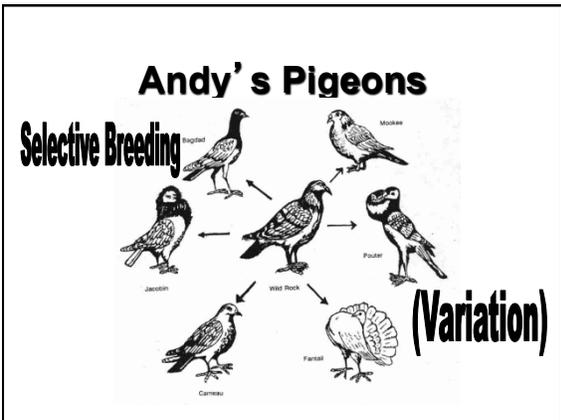
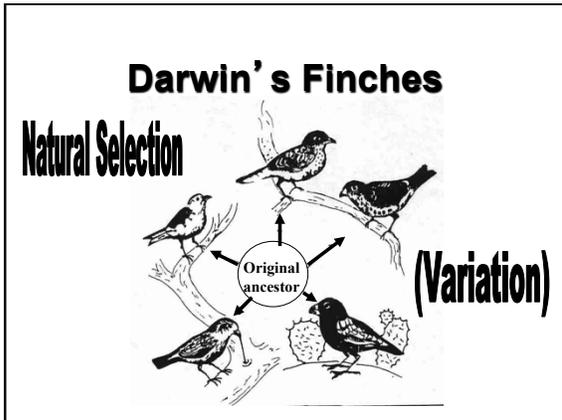
- **Individual Variation** refers to the individual differences found within a single family or population.
- **Population Variation** is variation among different populations of the same species. (The variation among all the races of people is an example of this).
- Sometimes called "**micro-evolution**"
- Supported by the Evidence and considered **scientific fact**

VARIATION within a Biblical Kind

- **Example:**
- **The Dog Kind**
- **There are over 300 varieties of Dogs today**
- **Where did they all come from?**



Did You Know that Darwin's Best Evidence Supports what Creationists Believe?



- Three Major Theories of Evolution:**
- 1. Darwinian Evolution**
 - 2. Neo-Darwinian Evolution**
 - 3. Punctuated Equilibrium**

Darwinian Evolution

Primary Mechanism:

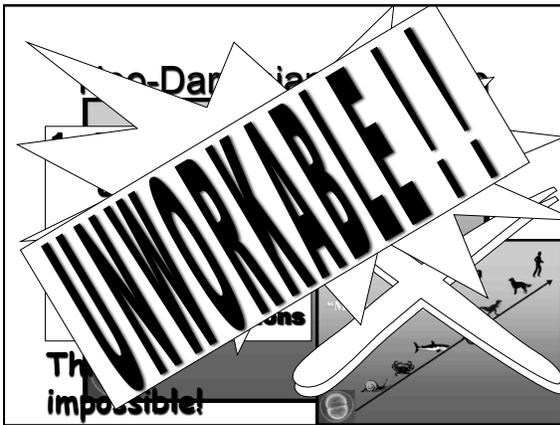
- **Natural Selection and Survival of the Fittest**



Neo-Darwinian Evolution

Primary Mechanism:

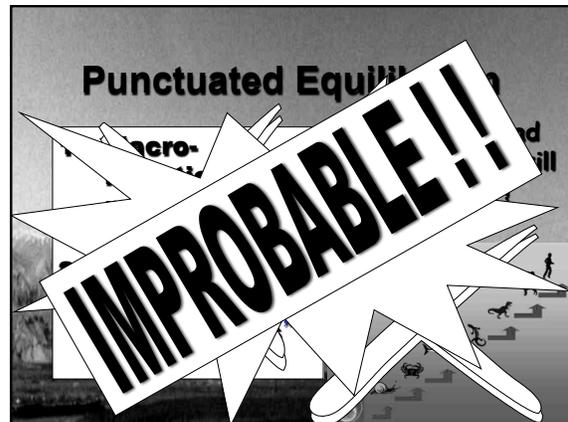
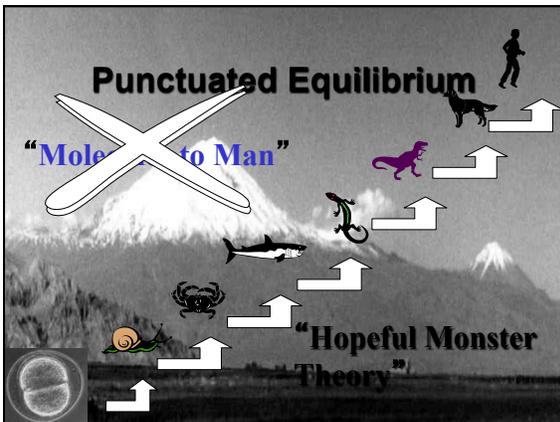
- Mutations



Punctuated Equilibrium

Primary Mechanism:

- Macro-Mutations



**Evolution Does
Not Have a
Workable
Mechanism!**

Apply the "Tally"
Creation ✓ ~~**Evolution**~~

**THE EVIDENCE IS
ON OUR SIDE!**