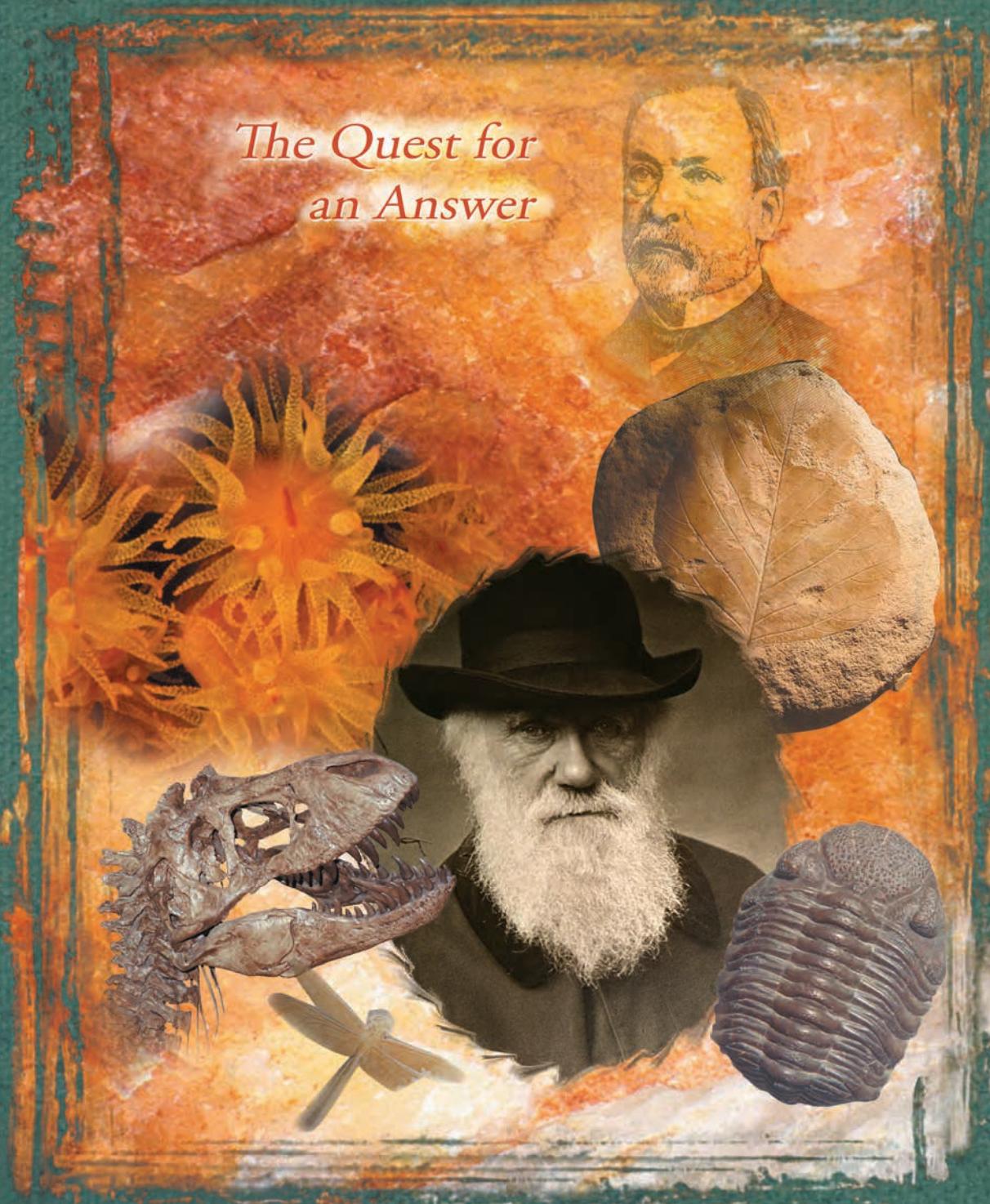


*The Quest for
an Answer*



EVOLUTION: THE GRAND EXPERIMENT Vol. 1

— Dr. Carl Werner —

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1

<i>The Origin of Life: Two Opposing Views</i>	1
The Origin of Life	3
Americans Are Split on Their Beliefs	4
Do You Believe In Evolution?	6
Evolution: Scientists Can't Agree	8
Evolution and Education	9
What Should Be Taught?	10

CHAPTER 2

<i>Evolution's False Start: Spontaneous Generation (322 B.C.–1859 A.D.)</i>	11
First "Proof" of Spontaneous Generation: Mice from Underwear	12
Second "Proof" of Spontaneous Generation: Maggots from Rotting Meat	15
Third "Proof" of Spontaneous Generation: Scum from Clear Pond Water	17
Spontaneous Generation Finally Disproved	22

CHAPTER 3

Darwin's False Mechanism for Evolution:

<i>Acquired Characteristics (Antiquity–1889 A.D.+)</i>	23
Darwin Never Succeeded in Understanding Inheritance of Traits During His Lifetime	24
Acquired Characteristics Example #1: Muscle Building	25
Acquired Characteristics Example #2: Neck Stretching	26
Acquired Characteristics Example #3: Sun Tanning	27
Acquired Characteristics Example #4: Disuse and Shedding Body Parts	28
Darwin's Belief That Acquired Characteristics Were (Partly) Responsible for Evolution Continued Throughout His Lifetime ..	29
The Experiment That Ended Acquired Characteristics.....	30

CHAPTER 4

<i>Natural Selection and Chance Mutations</i>	31
Natural Selection: Darwin's Major Mechanism for Evolution	32
Natural Selection and the Limits of Variability	34
If Natural Selection Does Not Produce New Traits, How Do They Come About?.....	35
The Modern Theory of Evolution: New Traits Come from Accidental Mutations	36
Could Accidental Mutations Eventually Result in New Body Systems?	37
Adaptation.....	38

Should the Word “Adaptation” Be Removed from Our Vocabulary?	39
Could a Whale Evolve by Chance?	40
Chances or Odds Can Be Calculated by the Number of Possibilities.....	51
Calculating the Odds of a Hyena Mutating Into a Whale	52

CHAPTER 5

<i>Similarities: A Basic Proof of Evolution?</i>	55
Many Scientists Believe That Similarities in Animals Are Evidence for the Theory of Evolution.....	56
Many Times, Scientists Have Been Proven Wrong Using “Similarities” As Evidence for Evolution.	58
Similarities Are Subject to Observer Bias	60
Why Do Unrelated Animals Also Have Similarities?.....	62
Unrelated Animals with Dorsal Fins.....	63
Unrelated Animals with Wings	64
Unrelated Animals with Eyes	66
Unrelated Animals with Duckbills	67
Unrelated Animals with Eye Rings	68
Unrelated Animals with Head Crests	69
Which of These Three Animals Do Evolution Scientists Believe Are Most Closely Related?	70
Since Darwin’s Time Until Now, Scientists Have Debated the Meaning of Similarities in Animals	72

CHAPTER 6

<i>The Fossil Record and Darwin’s Prediction</i>	73
Darwin Recognized That the Fossil Record in His Day Did Not Match What His Theory Predicted	74
What Should the Fossil Record Show if Evolution Is True?	75
What Should the Fossil Record Show if Evolution Is False?	76
Since Darwin’s Time, Hundreds of Millions of Fossils Have Been Collected	77
The Fossil Record: Soft-bodied Organisms	78
The Fossil Record: Invertebrates	80
The Fossil Record: Vertebrates	82
What Are Scientists Today Saying about the Fossil Record?	84
How Good Is the Fossil Record?	86

CHAPTER 7

<i>The Fossil Record of Invertebrates</i>	87
What's the Problem with Trilobites?	88
Darwin's Enigma: No Ancestors	93
Did Invertebrates Evolve?.....	94

CHAPTER 8

<i>The Fossil Record of Fish</i>	95
Proposed Fish Evolution.....	96
500,000 Fish in Museums.....	97
Dr. Long's Comments on the Evidence for Fish Evolution.....	98

CHAPTER 9

<i>The Fossil Record of Bats</i>	99
No Evolutionary Ancestors of Bats Have Been Discovered!	100
An Amazing 1,000 Fossil Bats Have Been Discovered!	103
Is There Evidence That Bats Evolved?	104

CHAPTER 10

<i>The Fossil Record of Pinnipeds: Seals and Sea Lions</i>	105
Sea Lions	106
What Animal Evolved into a Sea Lion?.....	108
Scientists Have Not Found the Proposed Evolutionary Ancestors for Sea Lions	109
Seals	111
What Animal Evolved into a Seal?	112
The Proposed Evolutionary Ancestors of Seals Have Not Been Found	112

CHAPTER 11

<i>The Fossil Record of Flying Reptiles</i>	113
Nearly 1,000 Pterosaurs Have Been Collected	114
Despite a Rich Fossil Record, Not a Single Ancestor of Pterosaurs Has Been Found!.....	116

CHAPTER 12

The Fossil Record of Dinosaurs	117
<i>Tyrannosaurus rex</i>	118
<i>Triceratops</i>	121
<i>Apatosaurus</i>	124
How Many Direct Ancestors of Dinosaurs Have Been Found?	126
Museum Diagrams Demonstrating Dinosaur Evolution	127

CHAPTER 13

The Fossil Record of Whales	129
How Did Whales Get Here? How Good Is the Evidence?	130
Not All Scientists Agree	132
The First Step: The Land Mammal	133
Meat-Eating Teeth or Plant-Eating Teeth?	134
The Missing Hippo Fossil Problem	136
The Second Step of Whale Evolution: <i>Ambulocetus</i> , a Walking Whale?	137
The Eye Problem of <i>Ambulocetus</i>	138
The Third Step: <i>Rodhocetus</i> — Legs, Flippers and a Whale's Tail	139
New Details Are Beginning to Emerge about the <i>Tail of Rodhocetus</i>	140
New Details Are Beginning to Emerge about the <i>Flippers of Rodhocetus</i>	142
The Last Step: <i>Basilosaurus</i>	144
Summary: The Fossil Evidence for Whale Evolution	145

CHAPTER 14

The Fossil Record of Birds — Part I: <i>Archaeopteryx</i>	147
Bird Evolution and <i>Archaeopteryx</i>	148
<i>Archaeopteryx</i> Fossils	150
<i>Archaeopteryx</i> : A Scaly Head?	152
The Significance of the Wing Claws of <i>Archaeopteryx</i>	154
The Significance of the Tail of <i>Archaeopteryx</i>	155
The Significance of the Teeth of <i>Archaeopteryx</i>	156
Newer <i>Archaeopteryx</i> Models Look Similar to Modern Birds	157
Does the Skeleton of <i>Archaeopteryx</i> Appear More Dinosaur-like Than These Other Bird Skeletons?	158
The Dinosaur Ancestor for Birds Is Unknown!	160
Did <i>Archaeopteryx</i> Even Evolve from a Dinosaur?	161

Conclusions	162
Postscript: <i>Archaeopteryx</i> Found with Fossils of Modern Animals	164

CHAPTER 15

<i>The Fossil Record of Birds — Part 2: Feathered Dinosaurs</i>	165
Bird Evolution and “Feathered Dinosaurs”	166
Feathered Dinosaurs from China	167
Chinese “Feathered Dinosaurs” Are the Wrong Age To Be the Ancestors of Flying Birds	169
Are the Chinese Fossils Even Real?	170
Dr. Rowe Scans First Chinese “Feathered Dinosaur” Specimen	171
Dr. Rowe Scans Second Chinese “Feathered Dinosaur” Specimen and Finds Fraud	174
Postscript: Who Carried Out the Hoax?	178
Is It Scientific to Add Feathers to Dinosaurs If None Have Been Found?	179
Problems with Museum Interpretations of the Fossils	180
Evolution’s “Best Proof” is Under Attack from Top Scientists!	182
Does the Promotion of “Feathered Dinosaurs” Involve Financial Gain?	184

CHAPTER 16

<i>The Fossil Record of Flowering Plants</i>	185
Darwin’s “Abominable Mystery”	186
The Origin of Flowering Plants Remains a Mystery Today	187
A Plethora of Fossil Flowering Plants Has Been Found	188
Despite a Seemingly Abundant Fossil Record, the Evolution of Flowering Plants Is Still Not Well Understood by Scientists! ...	190

CHAPTER 17

<i>The Origin of Life — Part 1: The Formation of DNA</i>	191
DNA: A Necessary Component for Life	193
The Structure of DNA	194
Calculating the Length of DNA for a Single Protein	195
The DNA Length Problem	195
The Total Amount of DNA for Life to Begin	195
The DNA Order Problem	196
The DNA Shape Problem	198
Could DNA Form Naturally to Start Life?	198

CHAPTER 18

<i>The Origin of Life — Part 2: The Formation of Proteins</i>	199
Proteins: A Second Necessary Component for Life	200
Proteinoids: A Proposed Bridge to Proteins	201
The Sequence Problem	203
Criticisms of Proteinoids	204

CHAPTER 19

<i>The Origin of Life — Part 3: The Formation of Amino Acids</i>	205
Amino Acids: A Third Necessary Component for Life.....	206
Criticisms of the Stanley Miller Experiment	207
Summary of Origin of Life Problems	208
The Proposed First Form of Life	209
Could Life Begin Spontaneously?	210

CHAPTER 20

<i>Conclusions — Evolution: Points of Controversy</i>	211
Evolution: More Questions Than Answers?	222

APPENDIX

<i>Appendix A: The Number of Fossils</i>	223
<i>Appendix B: Dinosaur Evolution Chart</i>	229
<i>Appendix C: Fish Evolution Chart</i>	234

GLOSSARY

<i>Glossary</i>	235
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BIBLIOGRAPHY

<i>Bibliography</i>	238
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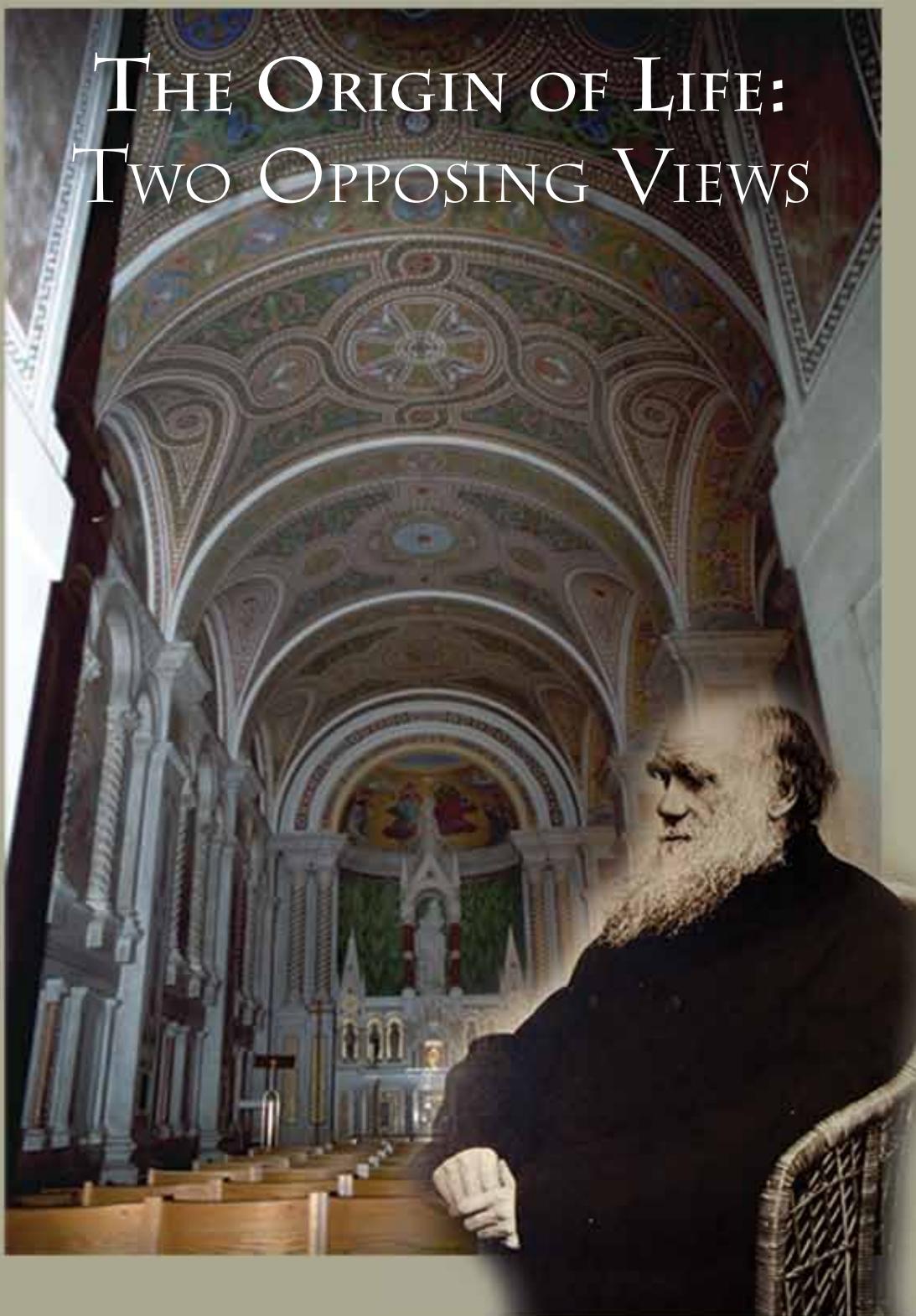
PHOTO CREDITS

<i>Photo Credits</i>	256
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INDEX

<i>Index</i>	258
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THE ORIGIN OF LIFE: TWO OPPOSING VIEWS



How Did Life Begin?

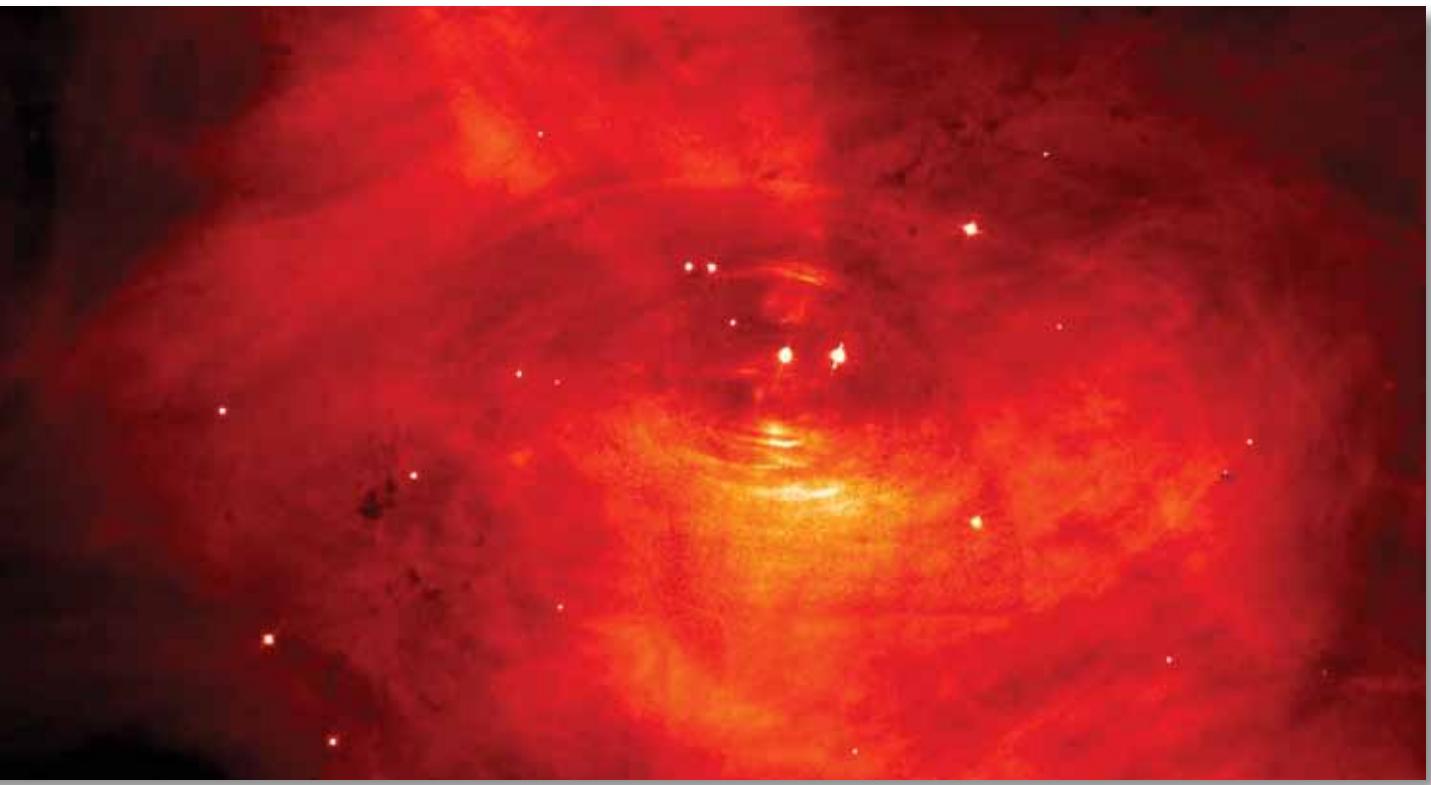
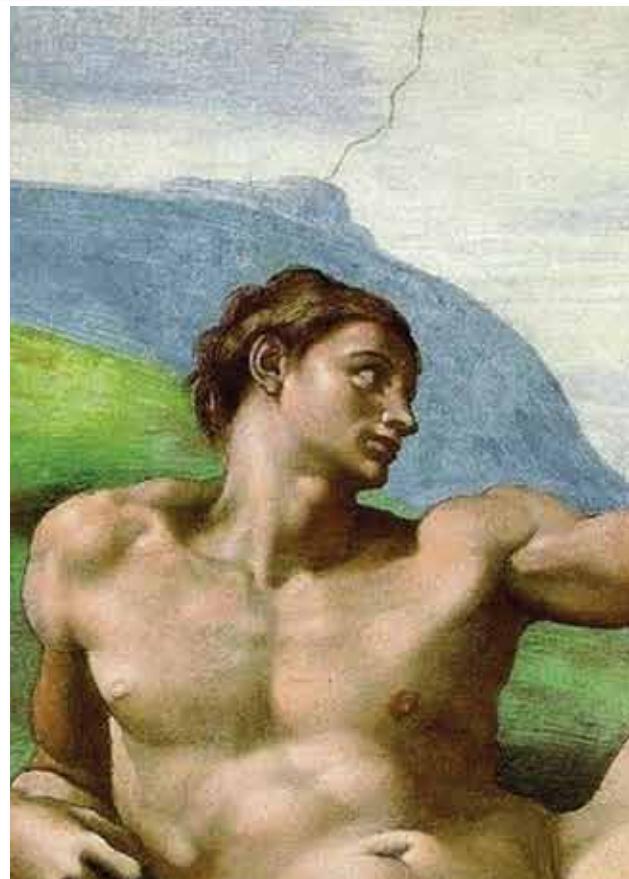


Photo depicting the idea of an explosion in space. Evolution teaches that the universe, and eventually life itself, came about as a result of the big bang.

What are we to believe?

How did life begin? One view is that an all-powerful God created the universe and all forms of life. Another view proposes that the universe began billions of years ago as a result of the big bang. Later, life in the form of a bacterium-like organism arose spontaneously from a mixture of chemicals. Subsequently, this single-cell organism slowly began to evolve into all modern life forms. A third view is that life evolved but God formed the first living organism and then helped the process along.



The Origin of Life

How life came about has been the subject of debate for almost as long as mankind has existed. Did life originate as a result of the intervention by a supernatural deity? Or did life come about as a result of natural laws acting over time? Scientists continue to search for definitive answers to these questions.

The publication of Darwin's theory of evolution in 1859 was a significant catalyst in propelling man's search for a natural understanding of past and present life. Unraveling the mystery of how life began and how life may have changed over time has been the focus of many scientists. Since Darwin's theory was first made public, scientists have collected over 200 million fossils, described

the structure of DNA, and identified how genes are passed on to the next generation. These major scientific developments provide us with relevant and thought-provoking information. They lead us to pause and examine our ideas in view of today's ever-increasing and heated debate over the history of life on earth.

The purpose of this book is to address these important scientific discoveries and present the reader with rare and remarkable facts concerning the origin of life — from spontaneous generation, through Darwin's ideas on evolution, to the present-day understanding of mutations and natural selection.

Michelangelo's painting depicting God creating man (from the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel)



Americans Are Split on Their Beliefs.

According to a Gallup poll taken in 2006, many Americans believe that God created man in the last 10,000 years. This is surprising given the fact that scientists have been teaching evolution for more than a century.

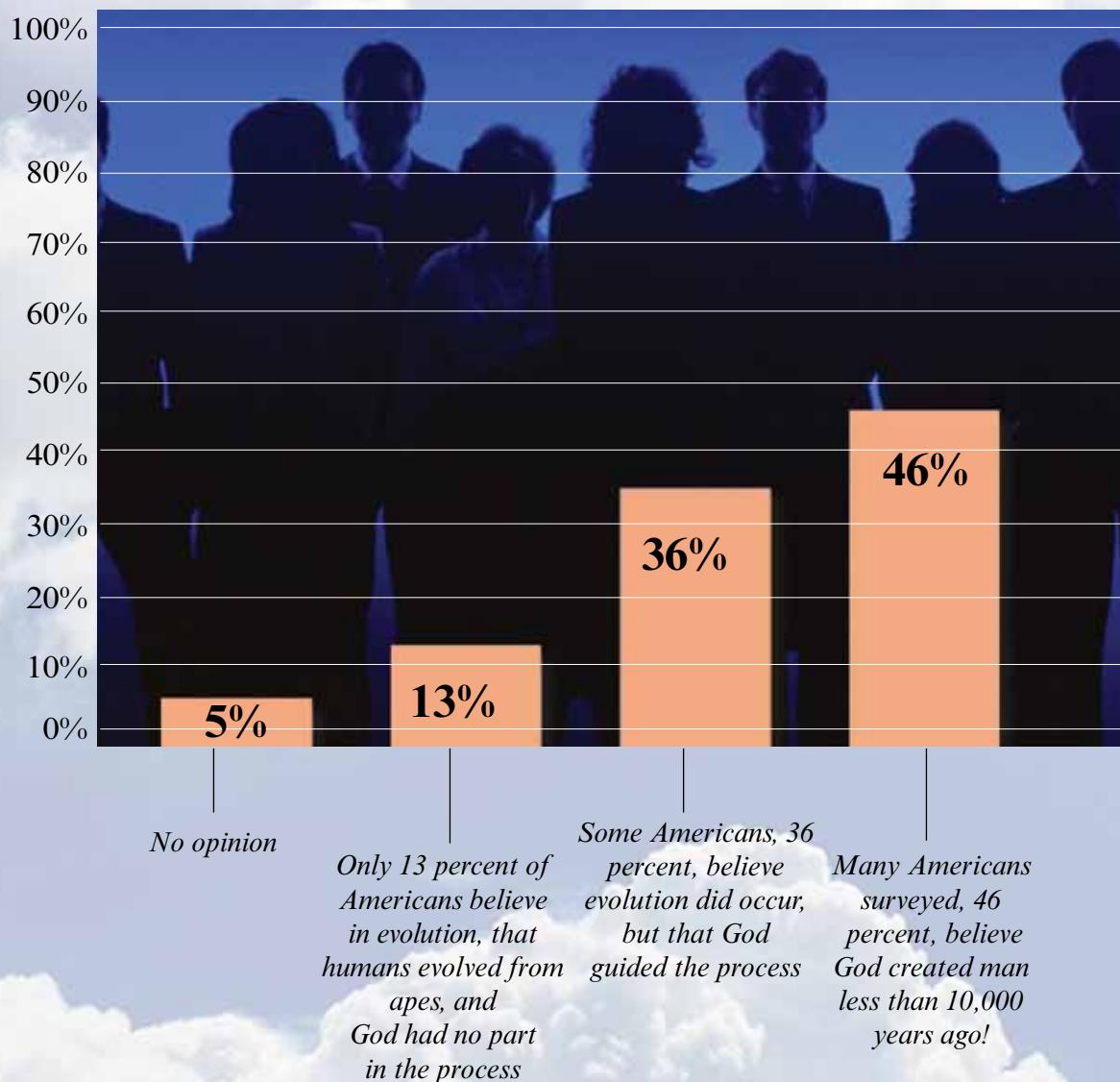
Do most Americans not believe the theory of evolution because it is implausible? Do they not believe evolution because of their religious views? Or, do they not believe in the theory because they are unfamiliar with its concepts?



What Do You Think?



Many Americans Surveyed Don't Believe Darwin's Theory.



Source: Gallup poll, May 2006



TWO OPPOSING VIEWS

Do You Believe in Evolution?

Con



No, I don't believe in evolution at all. I think if you just look at the facts, it's pretty clear; it just can't be.

Did we come from monkeys?

I don't know. There is evidence for it, but there is also some stuff missing, so making that leap with a missing link there, I have some problems with that.



From what I've seen and heard, we have not evolved from apes for the simple fact that apes are still around. I mean, if we evolved from them, why are they still here?

Interviews from *Evolution: The Grand Experiment* video series



What Do You Think?

Pro



Yes, I do believe in the theory of evolution because I think that we had to come from some place and you know from ape to man to what we are today. I definitely believe in evolution.

I think it's a very sad thing that we're getting religious views mixed up with governmental involvement with education. I think it's a sad comment on how people are trying to fix what they see as social problems in today's world by falling back on religious dogma.



Evolution: Scientists Can't Agree

Ever since Darwin's time there have been scientists who strongly disagree with the theory of evolution. But since the middle of the twentieth century, there have been a growing number of scientists who reject the theory of evolution based on the discovery of processes and structures of which Darwin was unaware. These scientists cite multiple "lines of evidence" that evolution did not occur, including gaps in the fossil record, problems with the big bang theory,

the amazing complexity of even the simplest organisms, and the inability of scientists to explain the origin of life using natural laws.

Scientists who support evolution state that the evidence for the theory is clear and overwhelming. They offer observations of natural selection in action, the evolution of birds from dinosaurs, the evolution of whales from a land animal, and the evolution of man from apes, as some of the most convincing proofs for evolution.

From the video series

Evolution: The Grand Experiment



Dr. Duane Gish, Biochemist,
Institute for Creation Research

"Life could not have created itself. Theories on the origin of life, that is the evolutionary origin of life, are modern-day fantasies; they are fairy tales."¹

— Dr. Gish

Con

"You really have to be blind or three days dead not to see the transitions among these. You have to not want to see it."²

— Dr. Padian

Pro



Dr. Kevin Padian, Paleontologist, UC Berkeley

