

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*The Principles, Theories & Precepts  
of Biology  
Chapter 1, Section 1*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_



## **DARWIN AND THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION**



*You are making progress! Answer the following questions.*

*Circle the correct answers or fill in the blanks with words, letters or numbers as each question indicates. Check your answers from the Answer Key. Correct all errors, then complete your next goal.*

1. Charles Darwin's theory of \_\_\_\_\_ by **natural selection** holds that life evolved from a primordial soup at its earliest beginnings to the marvelous, complex diversity that exists today.
2. The catastrophist theory supports all of the following statements, **except**: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  - (a) The Earth experienced a succession of creations of animal and plant life.
  - (b) A sudden catastrophe destroyed the original creation.
  - (c) All species share a common ancestor.
  - (d) Created species changed very little over time.
3. Charles Darwin's work sparked debates between catastrophists and evolutionists. \_\_\_\_\_
  - (a) True    or    (b) False
4. According to the text, Darwin's work: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  - (a) sparked a rapid growth in biological research
  - (b) was flawless
  - (c) had little impact on biological research
  - (d) caused a halt in scientific advancement
5. Darwin was born in \_\_\_\_\_ as the fifth child of a wealthy and sophisticated family.
6. After graduating from the elite school at Shrewsbury in 1825 and dropping out of the University of Edinburg, Charles Darwin proceeded to: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  - (a) Cambridge University to become a clergyman
  - (b) his home to be a china and pottery entrepreneur
  - (c) teach the biological sciences at the elite school at Shrewsbury
  - (d) study medicine at Cambridge University

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7. In 1831, Darwin was taken aboard the *HMS Beagle* to study as a **naturalist**. What is a naturalist? \_\_\_\_\_

- (a) a student of evolution
- (b) a student of religion
- (c) a student of nature
- (d) a journalist

8. Darwin's theory was first announced in a **paper** presented at the same time as one by \_\_\_\_\_, a young naturalist who also proposed the theory of natural selection.

9. Which of the following would be most favored by **natural selection** in an aquatic environment? \_\_\_\_\_

(a) fish



(b) frog



(c) human



(d) boat



10. Darwin's book, *On The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*, is often referred to as "\_\_\_\_\_."

11. What infamous person put Darwin's teaching of "favored races" into practice? \_\_\_\_\_.

12. Darwin's theory consists of two major parts: the concept of evolutionary \_\_\_\_\_ and the concept of natural selection.

13. Darwin accepted the catastrophist theory. \_\_\_\_\_

- (a) True    or    (b) False

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14. According to Darwin:\_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) change is the rule
- (b) organisms have descended by gradual change from ancient ancestors
- (c) creatures do not exist now as they have since the beginning
- (d) all of the above

15. Darwin believed that:\_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) living things equally share food and space
- (b) predators and disease do not concern most living things
- (c) all living things are equally likely to survive in all environments
- (d) life is a competitive struggle to survive

16. According to Darwin, individuals with favorable characteristics for survival would pass these characteristics to their offspring; therefore, the population would soon contain only individuals with favorable traits for survival. \_\_\_\_\_

- (a) True or (b) False

17. A central component of the evolutionary theory is that all living organisms, from microscopic bacteria to plants, insects, birds and mammals, share a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.

18. Essentially, Darwinism claims that humans evolved from non-living materials. \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) True or (b) False

19. Many biological and geological discoveries have been made since the announcement of Darwin's theory. Because of these discoveries:\_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Darwin's theory has been proven
- (b) Darwin's theory has been modified
- (c) debates between the evolutionists and catastrophists have ceased
- (d) none of the above

20. According to L. Harrison Matthews, evolution could be described as:\_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) an unproven theory
- (b) a faith
- (c) the backbone of biology
- (d) all of the above

21. Write the **Life Principle**:

"

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_."

