

# What Is Truth? Darwinism or Intelligent Design?

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## Understanding the Many Definitions of “*Evolution*”

### Darwinism in Brief:

- Charles Darwin, 1859, *Origin of Species*: Claimed life evolved through natural selection acting on random variations.
- This idea removed God from the equation.

### Six Definitions of Evolution:

1. **Change over time**: True, but trivial (species change slightly over generations).
2. **Change in allele frequency (microevolution)**: True, e.g., peppered moths changing color with pollution. Not meaningful for creating new organs.
3. **Adaptive variation**: True, e.g., finch beaks. Limited to small variations.
4. **Speciation** – False. There is no evidence for new species with genuine innovation. Only separated breeding groups.
5. **Universal common descent** – False. The fossil record displays a complete lawn of life. Not a tree.
6. **Macroevolution** - False; no observed evidence for new complex organs or new organisms.

### Key Insights:

1. Change over time, change in allele frequencies in a population, and microevolution occur, but they do not explain the origin of new species, organs, or complex systems.
  2. Don't answer a question with the word “evolution” in it. Define terms carefully and use them consistently.
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## Problems with the Fossil Record

- Fossils do not show gradual transitions; species appear fully formed (“poof!” moments).
    - Examples: First fish, insects, land animals, flowering plants, mammals, birds, and more all appear suddenly.
  - Observed pattern: Diversity exists within “kinds,” but no transitions between major groups.
  - Conclusion: The fossil record is as “un-Darwinian” as it could possibly be.
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# Information and Complexity in Life

## Proteins and DNA:

- Humans have ~42 trillion cells made of 42 million proteins each.
- Proteins are chains of amino acids drawn from a set of 20 types. A protein of 1,159 amino acids could theoretically have about  $10^{1507}$  **possible amino-acid sequences**. This illustrates the enormous size of “protein sequence space” and why questions about the origin of functional biological information are an important topic in discussions of evolution and intelligent design.
- Where did the information content come from to define the amino acid sequence for each protein? Information (when we know the causal sequence) always comes from authors.
- Orphan genes: Genes unique to a species show no evolutionary lineage.
- DNA stores information (sequence) to code for proteins. It also contains much more information that biologists are working hard to determine function for. DNA cannot explain the blueprint and the assembly instructions for organisms. It cannot explain **how proteins assemble into cells, tissues, organs, and organisms**.

**Marching Band Analogy:** Proteins must go to the right place, in the right order, like a marching band following instructions. Those instructions are information. Information comes from authors. Life requires not just parts (DNA) but also blueprints, assembly instructions, and tools.

## Irreducible Complexity & Multipart Systems

- **Irreducible complexity:** Some systems cannot function if any part is missing. Examples:
  - **Eye:** Needs all parts to see – including the eye, it’s muscular control, the optic nerve, the brain, and the software in the brain to create images from signals. Partial systems fail.
  - **Bacterial flagellum:** A tiny motor with bearings, rotors, propeller – requires all parts at once.
  - **ATP synthase (mitochondria):** Converts energy; requires all components to work.
  - **Blood clotting cascade:** 19-step process; partial steps are nonfunctional and deadly.
  - **Male and female reproductive systems:** Must evolve together in the same place on Earth at the same time to function.
- **Embryonic Lethals:** Early mutations needed for large macroevolutionary change, but early mutations are lethal.
- **Developmental gene regulatory networks:** Order in protein assembly matters; early DGRN mutations can be catastrophic. One wrong step → death.

## Conclusion:

- Single-step Darwinian evolution cannot explain multipart systems.
- Life’s complexity requires planning, coordination, and information beyond random mutation. Natural selection does not help much either because selection does not define innovation and systems are multi-part.

## Macroevolution Is Not Observed

- Speciation creating new families, organs, or body plans has **never been documented**.
  - Observed evolutionary changes are minor, adaptive variations, not new structures.
  - Almost all microevolution comes from devolution—destroying genes, not creating genes. This shows some novelty but is not an explanation for macroevolution.
  - Where evolution is true, it's not very interesting. Where it's interesting, it's not true.
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## Evidence for Intelligent Design

- Life demonstrates:
    - Cascading processes
    - Feedback and control systems
    - Multipart, interdependent structures
    - Coherent, information-rich systems
  - Only one plausible explanation: **God as the intelligent designer**.
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## Takeaways

1. **Define evolution clearly** – six definitions exist; only trivial ones are true.
2. **Fossil record contradicts Darwinism** – species appear suddenly without transitions.
3. **Life requires complex information** – DNA alone cannot account for it.
4. **Irreducible complexity and multipart systems** prove design.
5. **Science supports Intelligent Design** – God is the only author of life's complexity.

### Bottom line:

- Evolution explains small changes, not the origin of complex life.
- Observing complex systems in nature points to intelligent design
- Markers for intelligent design are complex specified information, coherent interdependent systems, multi-part systems, and innovation. When we see complex specified information, we are seeing the efforts of an author. When we see multi-part systems, we are observing the action of an engineer. When we see innovation, we are seeing the action of an inventor.
- There was only one person around at the time—**God did it**.

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