

# The ORIGIN of LIFE DEBATE

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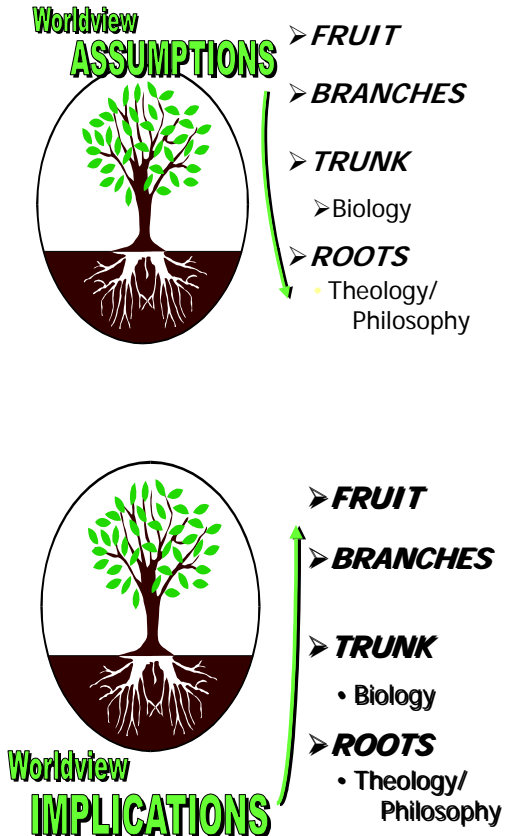
## Defining Terms: SCIENCE or SCIENTISM?

"The goal of science is to seek naturalistic explanations for phenomena...within the framework of natural laws and principles..."

- *Science and Creationism: A View from the National Academy of Sciences*, p. 26.

"HE WHO MAKES THE RULES, WINS!"

Carl Sagan: "The Cosmos is all that is, or ever was, or ever will be."



"... The *Origin of Species* introduced a mode of thinking that in the end was bound to transform the logic of knowledge, and hence the treatment of morals, politics, and religion."

- John Dewey, *The Influence of Darwin on Philosophy* (1910)

## Evolution's IMPLICATIONS

### ***WEBSITES RELATED TO SCIENCE AND ORIGINS***

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**The Access Research Network:** [www.arn.org](http://www.arn.org) - This is the flagship site for the "Intelligent Design" movement. Click on "authors" to view articles related to major new developments refuting macroevolution and affirming irreducible complexity. In addition to downloading articles, you can order books, tapes and videos, as well as the journal, *Origins and Design*. The site also contains origins quotes and graphics that can be used for writing papers or raising issues in class. Nancy Pearcey's articles are especially insightful for the average reader.  
(<http://www.arn.org/pearcey/nphome.htm>)

**Leadership University:** [www.leaderu.com](http://www.leaderu.com) - This site is a "one-stop shopping superstore" with a ResourceBASE containing thousands of articles, reviews, research papers, essays, books & book chapters, commentaries, video & audio files, poems and more. Sponsored by Christian Leadership Ministries, the faculty outreach and training arm of Campus Crusade for Christ International, Leadership U includes resources from the high school to research levels, with an emphasis on the scholarly to help reach professors, students and other thinkers with the best in Christian thought on a variety of compelling issues. Search by keyword or subject, or click on the "Sciences" link for articles related to the origins debate.

**Talk Origins Archive:** [www.talkorigins.org](http://www.talkorigins.org) - Not for the fainthearted, this newsgroup is devoted to the discussion and debate of biological and physical origins. Most discussions in the newsgroup center on the creation/evolution controversy, but other topics of discussion include the origin of life, geology, biology, catastrophism, cosmology and theology. The primary reason for this archive's existence is to provide mainstream (evolutionist) scientific responses to the many frequently asked questions (FAQs) and frequently rebutted assertions that appear in talk.origins. Recommendation: read the FAQ's first.

**Probe Ministries:** [www.probe.org](http://www.probe.org) - A good collection of articles written by Probe staff on a wide range of current issues, including the area of science and origins, with links to other Christian worldview sites.

**Answers in Genesis:** [www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org) - Especially helpful is the article on *Arguments we think creationists should NOT use* at [http://www.answersingenesis.org/home/area/faq/dont\\_use.asp](http://www.answersingenesis.org/home/area/faq/dont_use.asp).

Recommended books for older teens through adults:

- Evolution: A Theory in Crisis*, Michael Denton, 1986.
- Darwin On Trial*, Phillip E. Johnson, 1991.
- Reason in the Balance: The Case Against Naturalism in Science, Law & Education*, Phillip E. Johnson, 1995.
- Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution*, Michael Behe, 1996.
- Intelligent Design: The Bridge Between Science & Theology*, William Dembski, 1999.
- Icons of Evolution: Science or Myth?*, Jonathan Wells, 2000.

Recommended for younger teens:

- What's Darwin Got to Do With It?: A Friendly Conversation About Evolution*, Robert Newman, 2000.



Access Research Network

ARN Library Files

<http://www.arn.org/docs/pbsevolution/tenquestions111501.htm>

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## Ten Questions to Ask your Students about the PBS *Evolution* Series

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By Casey Luskin of the IDEA Club ([idea@ucsd.edu](mailto:idea@ucsd.edu))

1. **EYE EVOLUTION (Episode 1).** Zoologist Dan-Eric Nilsson claims to have created a model to evolve the human eye in a step-by-step manner -- but what evolutionary jumps are shown during his demonstration of the eye-evolution model?
2. **ORIGIN OF BODY PLANS (Episode 2).** If special master control genes can be used to "manipulate" "packets of information" to evolve new body plans, exactly what are these "packets of information" and how did they originate?
3. **MUTANT FRUIT FLIES (Episode 2).** If induced mutations on fruit flies are deadly, weakening, or disadvantageous for survival (i.e. legs growing out of the head), what are the implications for the statistical chances of advantageous mutations arising in the wild?
4. **TRANSITION TO HUMANS (Episode 2).** The evolutionary transition which led to humans is said to be the same as all the others. What fossils are shown documenting the alleged evolutionary transition from the chimp-like ape ancestor to humans?
5. **EXTINCTION! (Episode 3).** Conservationist Alan Rabinowitz claims that "evolution is going on all around us." What exactly is this evolution and what are its implications for the origin of new species?
6. **THE EVOLUTIONARY ARMS RACE (Episode 4).** Humans with the special gene to fight off HIV are said to have lost receptors on their immune-system cells. What degree of change is typically necessary to bring about anti-biotic resistance in microorganisms or disease-resistance in large animals?
7. **WHY SEX? (Episode 5).** People are said to find some features attractive (smell, facial features) because they are linked to actual fitness for survival. What aspects of human intellectual or artistic ability might there be which would confer no selective advantage for survival?
8. **THE MIND'S BIG BANG (Episode 6).** What is the primary difficulty presented by the archaeological record for the supposed hundreds of thousands of years that are given as necessary for the evolution of the precise wiring giving intelligence to the human brain?
9. **CINEMATOGRAPHY AND TYPECASTING (Episode 7).** In "What about God" (episode 7), what cinematic techniques, narrator diction, or excerpts from interviews are used to typecast opposition to evolution as anti-intellectual?
10. **OPTIONS FOR RELIGIOUS PEOPLE (Episode 7).** Besides anti-intellectual young-earth creationism or full acceptance of evolutionary theory, what other scientific and religious options of belief about evolutionary theory, which are not portrayed in *Evolution*, are possible for a person?

"An Abridged PBS *Evolution* Viewer's Guide & Summary" is available at:  
<http://www.arn.org/docs/pbsevolution/pbssummary111501.htm>

For a more complete review of the PBS series, obtain "Getting the Facts Straight: A Viewer's Guide to PBS's *Evolution*" by the Discovery Institute. To download this guide for free or order the guide, visit the Discovery Institute website at: <http://www.reviewevolution.com/>.

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