

Critique of Evolution

Theory of Evolution taught in public schools	Scientific Research Facts and Findings
1. Evolution is a fact. It has been proven over several decades by scientists in many fields.	1. A fact is defined by science as “a truth known by actual experience or observation.” The origin of life was not observed and has never been experienced. Change over time is a fact, and evolution is a theory of how it might have happened, but the scope of common descent for all living forms, however, is too immense to have anything approaching scientific confirmation.
2. Life is formed from a continuous chain back to one or a few original forms. Life began with a single cell and over millions of years gradually changed from one species to another.	2. If life was formed from a continuous chain, the fossil record should show a great number of fossils from forms between the species, or “transitional forms”. The fossil record shows an absence of transitional forms. Darwin himself, said that the lack of transitional forms was “the most obvious and gravest objection which can be urged against my theory.” Many paleontologists acknowledge that the lack of transitional fossils cannot be dismissed as a result of the sparseness of samples found.
3. All species of plants and animals are the result of mutations that have most efficiently adapted to their environment.	3. Almost all observable mutations are harmful; many are lethal. No known mutation has ever produced a life form having greater complexity. Many committed evolutionists reject mutation and selection as inadequate mechanisms for evolutionary theory.
4. The atmosphere of the early earth was “a reducing one”, that is, it was without oxygen, made up of poisonous gases like methane, ammonia and ethane. The formation of early life would require an absence of oxygen in the earth’s atmosphere.	4. The atmosphere of the early earth is now widely acknowledged to have contained oxygen when the first life is thought to have formed. In scientific discussions like the 1993 annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, origin of life researchers acknowledge that a reducing atmosphere, necessary for the first development of life, never existed.
5. Scientists have created many basic building blocks of life in the laboratory. By combining the simple gases present in the atmosphere of the early earth and subjecting them to various energy sources such as ultraviolet light and electrical discharges (simulating sunlight and lightning), amino acids and other biological compounds have been created.	5. Laboratory simulation experiments which yield amino acids and other biological compounds have many problems, such as: 1) the experiments could not have taken place in the presence of oxygen. Oxygen would cause molecules to repel each other rather than bind together. Oxygen was in fact, present in the atmosphere when the first life is thought to have formed (see Fact #4). 2) the experiments require the use of special “traps” to shelter newly formed polymers, preventing their breakdown by the same energy sources which drove the reactions to form them. These “traps” were created in the laboratory and do not occur in nature. 3) the compounds obtained in simulation experiments fail to exhibit the sequencing necessary for the formation of functional protein or DNA. Research scientists acknowledge this. For example, researcher Klaus Dose follows a discussion on information and sequencing problems by saying: “The difficulties that must be overcome are at present beyond our imagination.” ¹
6. Darwinian theory holds that living forms develop by numerous successive slight modifications.	6. Cells have irreducible complexity, that is, they require several interacting parts to function, where if you remove or destroy one of the parts, then the function is also destroyed. Therefore, the changes required, on a cellular level to produce a new species cannot be successive and / or slight. Darwin said, “If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed, which could not possibly have been formed by numerous successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down.” ²

¹ K. Dose, 1988. “The Origin of Life: More Questions Than Answers” *Interdisciplinary Science Reviews*, 13, 351.

² Charles Darwin, “The Origin of the Species”

<p>7. Evolution can be seen even today in the formation of new species. These new species are developed in response to the pressure of natural selection, or adaptation to a new physical or ecological environment. For example, some stickleback fish have adapted to living in salt water rather than fresh water; some fruit flies have adapted to breeding on apple trees rather than hawthorn trees.</p>	<p>7. The adaptation of a species, like the examples of the stickleback fish or fruit flies is vastly different than the formation of a new species. Adaptation is the result of a reduction of the gene pool. Evolution requires an addition to the gene pool with greater complexity. Experimental results do not support ;the idea that the loss of genetic information can scientifically substantiate a theory requiring vast increases of genetic information.³</p>
<p>8. New species emerged gradually over long periods of time. New phyla were produced by the gradual divergence of species over millions of years.</p>	<p>8. Fossil evidence in the “Cambrian Explosion” (earth’s strata that contains the sudden appearance of many diverse forms of life) indicates that in an instant of geological time, almost every animal phylum, seemingly popped into existence from nowhere with no trace of any evolutionary history. This is the opposite of what Charles Darwin, and neo-Darwinism predicted. After the Cambrian Explosion, almost no new phyla appear in the fossil record. Discoveries in 1992 and 1993 have shrunk the explosion’s estimated duration from 40 million to about 5 million years.⁴</p>
<p>9. <i>Australopithecus afarensis</i> is the oldest erect-walking human ancestor. The best preserved specimen of which is “Lucy”, 3.5 million years in age. Tool-using humans have been around for only about 1.7 million years. From the earliest to the most recent, early humans are dated as follows: <i>Homo Habilis</i> 1.7 million – 800,000 yrs. In age; <i>Homo Erectus</i> 1.2 million – 250,000 yrs. In age; <i>Neanderthal</i> 130,000 – 30,000 yrs in age; & <i>Cro-Magnon</i> 30,000 – 10,000 yrs. in age.</p>	<p>9. There is sharp contention among leaders in many areas of paleontology. Richard Leakey, Stern & Sussman⁵ completely reject “Lucy” as having anything to do with human ancestry. Many scholars believe that <i>homo erectus</i> skull shape is remarkably similar to that which is typical among today’s Eskimos and Aleutus. Numerous discoveries contradict previously accepted conclusions. For example, the homo erectus specimen discovered in Indonesia, dated at 1.8 million years in age, before humans were suppose to have been in existence; or the elbow joint found in strata dated at 4.4 million years old which is indistinguishable from modern humans.⁶</p>

³ A. Moya, A. Galiana, and F. Ayala, 1995. “Founder-effect speciation theory: Failure of experimental corroboration” *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., USA*, 92,3983-3986.

⁴ S. Bowring, et al., 1993. *Science*, 261,1293.

⁵ Stern, J.T. Jr. and Susman, R.L. (1983), The locomotor anatomy of *A. afarensis*: *Am. J. Phys. Anthropol.* 60:279-318

⁶ Howells, W.H. (1981), *Homo erectus* in human descent: ideas and problems. In: Sigmon, B.A. and Cybulski, J.S., eds. *Homo Erectus: Papers in Honor of Davidson Black*: Toronto, Univ. of Toronto Press.