

6.4 Creation or science: conflicting or complementary?

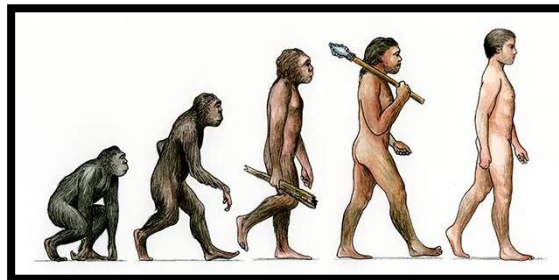
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Key Vocabulary

Word	Definition
Theory	A reasonable, widely accepted – but not always proven - explanation for why something happens
Big Bang	The theory that the universe originated at a fixed point billions of years ago in a cosmic explosion
Creation Theory	The religious belief that nature, the universe, Earth and life was created by God
Cosmology Theory	The theory that the physical universe originated from the Big Bang and all living things evolved
Evolution	The theory that describes how all life forms developed from a simpler life form over millions of years
Genesis	The first book of the Old Testament – the beginning or origin of something
Conflicting	Incompatible or at variance
Complementary	Combining in a way that enhances or emphasises the qualities of each other

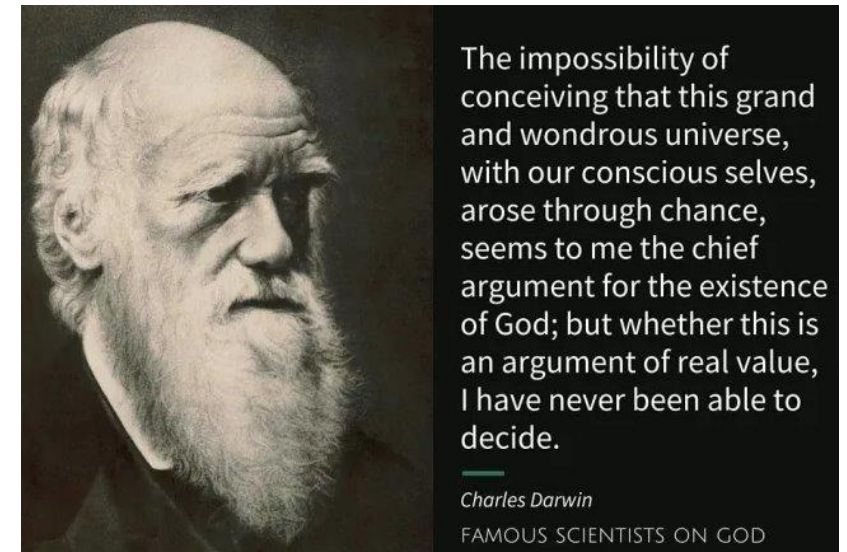
What is Evolution?

Evolution is the process where living things change over time. It happens because of small changes in traits that get passed down from parents to their children. Some traits help creatures survive better, so those traits get passed on more often. Over a long time, these changes can create new kinds of animals or plants. This idea helps explain how there are so many different species on Earth today.



Key Questions to ask yourself

- Why do Christians believe the creation story to be true?
- What similarities can we draw between Creationism and Cosmology theory about the origins of the Earth?
- How have these scientists tried to balance their religious beliefs with their scientific understanding?



Some scientists believe religion and science can be complementary because they address different aspects of human experience—science explains how the universe works, while religion explores questions of meaning, purpose, and ethics.

The Christian Creation Story

The Christian creation story, found in the Book of **Genesis**, teaches that God created the world in six days. On the first day, God created **light**, separating it from darkness. On the second day, He created the **sky**, and on the third day, He made the **land, seas, and plants**. On the fourth day, God created the **sun, moon, and stars** to give light and mark time. On the fifth day, He created **birds and sea creatures**, and on the sixth day, He made **animals and humans**—Adam and Eve—in His image. On the seventh day, God **rested**, marking the completion of His work.

The Big Bang theory

The Big Bang Theory is the scientific explanation for the origin of the universe. It suggests that about **13.8 billion years ago**, the universe began as a tiny, hot, and dense point, then rapidly expanded in a huge explosion. This expansion continues today, with galaxies, stars, and planets moving farther apart. Over time, the universe cooled down, allowing matter to form, eventually leading to the creation of stars and galaxies. The Big Bang theory is **supported by evidence** like the cosmic microwave background radiation and the observed expansion of the universe.

