

THE GENESIS CLASS

FIVE MINUTES WITH A DARWINIST: EXPOSING THE FLUFF IN EVOLUTION

Approaching the Evolutionist

- Without religious books
- Without revelation
- Without faith

F.L.U.F.F.

Evolution is more air than substance.

- Focus the discussion
- Less than persuaded
- Unobserved important events
- Failed mechanism for design
- Freedom found in creation science

Focus the Discussion

- Time is limited.
- Define your terms.
- Give short and conventional definitions.
- Use reputable sources.

Evolution is...

“The diversity of life on earth is the outcome of evolution: unpredictable, and natural process of temporal descent with genetic modification that is affected by natural selection, chance, historical contingencies and changing environments.”

– National Association of Biology Teachers, 2000

Statement:

“The organization of American biology teachers says that, *‘The diversity of life on earth is the outcome of evolution.’* So that is what I mean when I talk about evolution.”

Statement:

“Extraordinary claims demand extraordinary evidence.”

Statement:

“I hold that ‘science’ is based on observation and testing.”

THE GENESIS CLASS

Less than Persuaded

- Avoid argumentative and unproductive statements:
 - If you say...“Well, I just don’t believe in evolution.”
 - They will respond...“Well, I just don’t believe in creation.”
- Allow for meaningful debate.
 - Saying, “I am less than persuaded that...,” implies a willingness to be convinced on both sides.
 - “Believe” is a word that can be interpreted as relying more on fiction than on fact.
- Evolution purports to explain the “outcome of life on earth.”
- Therefore, evolution is not:
 - Observations of huge diversity within one type of creature
 - Observations of the changing length in a finch beak
 - Observations of changes in Peppered Moth populations
 - Observations on similarities of body parts
 - Observations of resistance of bacteria to antibiotics
- However, this is the principle “evidence” for evolution as taught in schools and published in current science literature.
- Evolution relies on...
 - Stories
 - Speculation
 - Special effects (computer animation)
 - NOT real evidence
 - You’ve heard it in the classroom
 - You’ve seen it on television

Statement:

“Evolution is NOT the same kind of science as medicine or engineering, where researchers make observations and conduct tests.”

Statement:

“One of the greatest evolutionists at Harvard University stated that evolutionary biology is NOT like physics and chemistry; laws and experiments are inappropriate techniques. Instead, evolutionists must construct a historical narrative.”

Statement:

“Evolution does NOT meet your criteria of science.”

THE GENESIS CLASS

Evolution ≠ Science

“These four insights served as the foundation for Darwin’s founding of a new branch of the philosophy of science, a philosophy of biology. ...Darwin introduced historicity into science. Evolutionary biology, in contrast with physics and chemistry, is a historical science — the evolutionist attempts to explain events and processes that have already taken place. Laws and experiments are inappropriate techniques for the explication of such events and processes. Instead one constructs a historical narrative, consisting of a tentative reconstruction of the particular scenario that led to the events one is trying to explain.”

– Ernst Mayr, *Darwin’s Influence on Modern Thought*, Scientific American, July 2000, p. 80.

“Science is a particular way of knowing about the world. In science, explanations are limited to those based on observations and experiments that can be substantiated by other scientists. Explanations that cannot be based on empirical evidence are not a part of science.”

“Scientific investigators seek to understand natural phenomena by observation and experimentation. Scientific interpretations of facts and the explanations that account for them therefore must be testable by observation and experimentation.”

“No one saw the evolution of one-toed horses from three-toed horses, but that does not mean that we cannot be confident that horses evolved. Science is practiced in many ways besides direct observation and experimentation. Much scientific discovery is done through indirect experimentation and observation in which inferences are made, and hypotheses generated from those inferences are tested.”

– *Science and Creationism, A View from the National Academy of Sciences*, 2nd Edition, National Academy Press, Wash DC, 1999

Unobserved Important Events

Unobserved “natural” origin of life:

- No one saw it happen.
- No one is close to duplicating it.
- No one can adequately explain it.

Unobserved in scientific literature:

No documentation of any mechanism with the ABILITY to transform one creature into a fundamentally different kind of creature.

THE GENESIS CLASS

Example:

Even bacteria have never been observed to change into anything – not even a different type of bacteria.

“...bacteria, despite their great production of intraspecific varieties, exhibit a great fidelity to their species. The bacillus *Escherichia coli*, whose mutants have been studied very carefully, is the best example. The reader will agree that it is surprising, to say the least, to want to prove evolution and to discover its mechanisms and then to choose as a material for this study a being which practically stabilized a billion years ago!”

– Grassé, Pierre-P., *Evolution of Living Organisms*, 1977.

Failed Mechanism for Design

- All scientists agree that highly complex design is observed in nature.
- Creationists state that “nature” was designed by a real Designer.
- Evolutionists state that design in nature is merely “apparent” or “illusory.”

“Life forms are more than simply multiple and diverse, however. Organisms fit remarkably well into the external world in which they live. They have morphologies, physiologies and behaviors that appear to have been carefully and artfully designed to enable each organism to appropriate the world around it for its own life.”

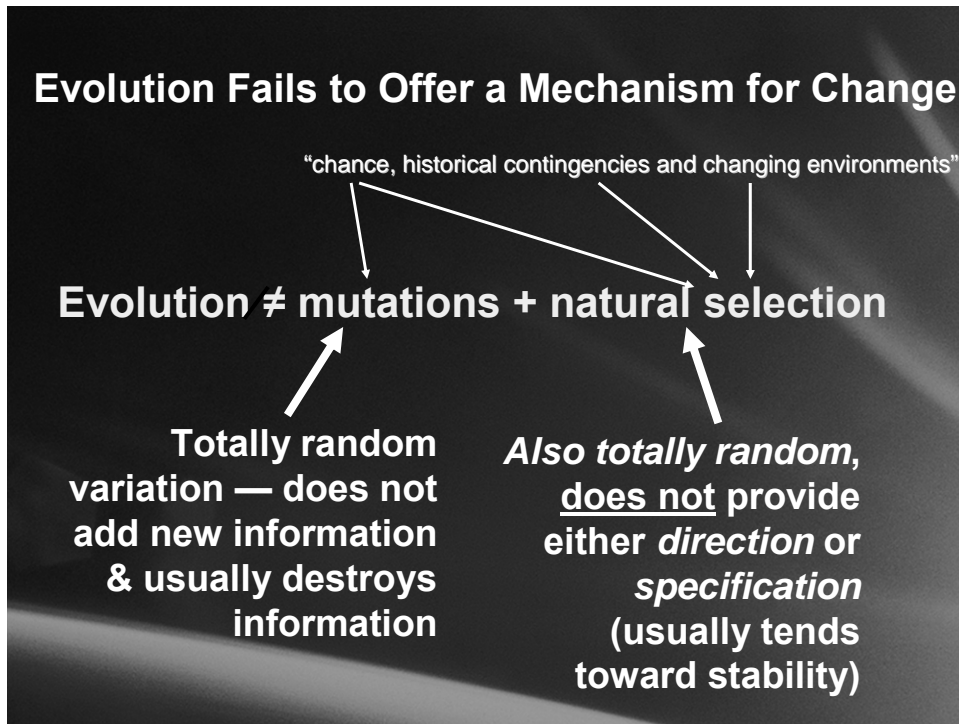
“It was the marvelous fit of organisms to the environment, much more than the great diversity of forms, that was the chief evidence of a Supreme Designer. Darwin realized that if a naturalistic theory of evolution was to be successful, it would have to explain the apparent perfection of organisms and not simply their variation.”

– Richard C. Lewontin, “Adaptation” *Scientific American*, 239:213 (1978).

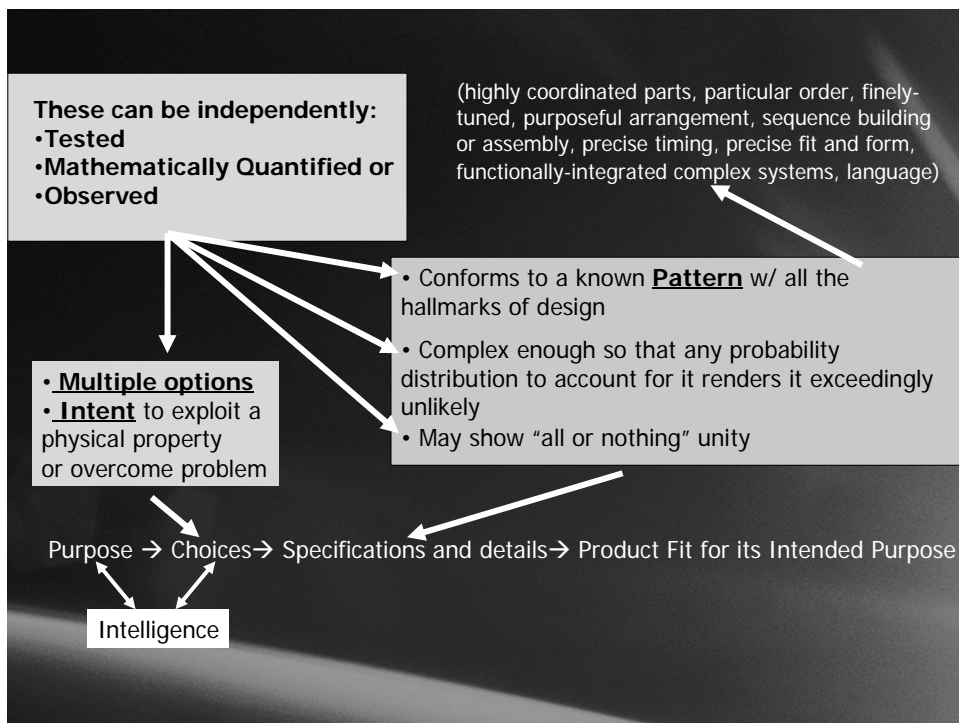
“It is almost as if the human brain were specifically developed to misunderstand Darwinism and to find it hard to believe.... [The conclusion that] our brains seem predisposed to resist Darwinism stems from our great success as creative designers. Our world is dominated by feats of engineering and works of art. We are entirely accustomed to the idea that complex elegance is an indicator of premeditated crafted design. This is probably the most powerful reason for the belief, held by the vast majority of people that have ever lived, in some kind of supernatural Deity.”

– Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker*, 1986.

THE GENESIS CLASS



Creation Science offers a rational explanation.



THE GENESIS CLASS

- Creation science introduces a predictive and testable theory that many biological systems (i.e. human reproduction) would demonstrate “all-at-once” properties.
- The theory is fully testable via the “knock out” process in which researchers could knock out a step and observe what happens to the system.

“I am persuaded...”

Statement:

“When the two mechanisms (evolution and creation) are put to a head-to-head test, I am persuaded that creation science better explains what we observe in nature.”

Freedom found in Creation Science

Statement:

“Let me detail a few positive aspects of creation science.”

1) Freedom to follow the evidence wherever it leads, which allows the researcher to never stop questioning and discovering.

“Even if all of the data point to an intelligent designer, such a hypothesis is excluded from science because it is not naturalistic. Of course the scientist, as an individual, is free to embrace a reality that transcends naturalism.”

– Todd, S., *Nature*, September 30, 1999.

“Saying, whether in 4004 BC or 13 billion years ago, that "God made it" is not falsifiable and therefore not science. I know that, were I in a position to offer Guillermo Gonzalez tenure, I would deny it for the precise reason that his, yes, religious views about purpose in the universe explicitly mean he is a crap scientist, regardless of his ability to generate valid data.”

“Furthermore, I hope I would have the conviction to say the same if he hadn't failed in the other academic criteria. As a vocal supporter of the demonstrably unscientific guff that is intelligent design, Gonzalez displays ignorance of the scientific process, and appears to wilfully (sic) defy it. And for that reason, he neither deserves the use of the facilities of a university to conduct scientific research, nor the privilege of teaching the next generation of scientists.”

– Rutherford, A., *The Guardian*, *Wrong by Design*, July 11, 2007.
(<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2007/jul/11/wrongbydesign>)

THE GENESIS CLASS

- 2) **Freedom from magic words like:** “arose,” “emerged,” “appeared,” “gave rise to...,” “derived,” “modified,” “the early results of...,” “burst onto the scene,” “manufactured itself,” “on the way to becoming...,” “evolution drove,” “derived emergent properties,” “lucky”

Free from the need to rely on Evolutionism’s vague contextually-meaningless words to account for facts that cannot be viably explained by any evolutionary mechanism.

“Four billion years ago, some conger of molecules danced, blindly catalyzing one another's formation, reaching a critical diversity at which self-sustaining webs of reactions emerged and formed life. Blind interactions gave rise to the emergent phenomena of cellular life, cells linked in metabolic exchanges blindly creating the first ecosystems. Those ecosystems have unfolded for over billions of years with a profusion of species emerging and passing into extinction. And at each level, we sense emergent lawfulness in the profusion.”

– Kaufman, Stuart, *At Home in the Universe*, 1995, p. 207.

- 3) **Freedom from the self-delusion that researchers must conclude that intricate designs are only an “illusion.”**

“Biology is the study of complicated things that have the appearance of having been designed for a purpose.”

– Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker*, 1986, p. 1.

“Biologists must constantly keep in mind that what they see was not designed, but rather evolved.”

– Francis Crick, *Natural History*, v. 97 (1988).

- 4) **Freedom to make predictions of what should be discovered—even if they go against the evolutionary system or belief.**

The fossil record conforms to the predictions by creation scientists.

- Sudden introduction of life types
- No ancestor-descendant relationships
- Stasis within various types of life, i.e. no transitional forms

- 5) **Freedom from a blinding and smothering presupposition that expects regular errors and mistakes in nature due to millions of years of evolution.** ‘

A mindset inclined to label not-readily-apparent findings “junk” or “vestigial” (like “junk DNA” long neglected in research but later determined not to be junk after all; and so-called “vestigial organs” such as tonsils and appendices that were routinely removed through needless surgery.)

THE GENESIS CLASS

- 6) **Freedom to expect that nature is a product of a rational coherent design – the key to freeing science from the thought prison of evolutionism and once again opening up fresh insights into nature.**

It allows, indeed encourages, a full and realistic appreciation for the complexity found in nature and does not “dumb everything down” (i.e. “bacteria as just across the threshold of life”) as evolutionism does to make their “just-so” stories sound believable.

- 7) **Freedom from many religious conclusions—masquerading as science—made by evolutionists.**

“The Cosmos is all that is or ever was or ever will be.”

– Carl Sagan, *Cosmos*, Smithsonian Institution

“In one of the most existentially penetrating statements ever made by a scientist, Richard Dawkins concluded that ‘the universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference.’”

– Shermer, Michael, *Scientific American*, February 2002.

Biology professor William Provine begins the semester by telling his undergraduates that the species were created by a supernatural power in more or less the form they now exhibit. To buttress the argument, Provine brings in Phillip E. Johnson, a University of California, Berkeley, law professor and an eminent critic of Darwinian evolution.

The scientific community, Johnson tells Provine's students, is clinging tenaciously to a distinctly unscientific faith in Darwinian evolution. To hold fast to their Darwinian view of life, Johnson argues, biologists somehow manage to ignore the fact that in the 135 years since Darwin published *On the Origin of Species*, they have produced little evidence and nothing close to a proof that any species has ever arisen from another species through any of the proposed naturalistic processes.

To most observers with a biologi-

cal bent, the only interesting thing about Johnson's anti-Darwinian argument is the venue: Johnson is pitching his antievolution case not at an obscure Bible college but at an Ivy League bastion of 20th-century enlightenment.

Provine holds joint appointments in the biology and history departments at Cornell University, and despite the creationist pose he initially strikes with his students, he is very much an orthodox evolutionary biologist. He knows perfectly well that species have evolved from other species, that the mechanism of evolution is natural selection (more or less as Darwin suggested), that there is not a shred of evidence that evolution was guided—by God or any other purposive force—toward any particular outcome, and that in fact every piece of evidence science has turned up points to the opposite conclusion: evolution operates entirely by mindless mechanistic principles.

Evolutionary biology, in concert with every other modern science,

leads Provine directly and inescapably to the conclusion that there are no gods at work in the world. This leads to the second curious aspect of Provine's course in evolutionary biology: the curriculum includes ethics—specifically, the question of what is left to serve as a foundation for ethics.

There Is No Designer

“If you start from a born-again Christian point of view,” Provine tells his class, “then it cannot be true that human beings and chimpanzees share a common ancestor without some kind of supernatural intelligence and miracle in between. Human beings have immortal souls that live on after they are dead. This is a given. It is inescapable and must be true, and therefore, evolutionary biology of a naturalistic kind must be untrue.”

But to an unbiased observer, Provine argues, 20th-century biology amply confirms Darwin's two theories: the species arose through

THE GENESIS CLASS

“As Jacques Monod, E.O. Wilson, and many other biologists have pointed out, modern evolutionary biology has shattered the hope that some kind of designing or purposing force guided human evolution and established the basis for moral rules. Instead, biology leads to a wholly mechanistic view of life... There are no gods and no designing forces. The frequently made assertion that modern biology and the assumptions of the Judeo-Christian tradition are fully compatible is false.”

– Provine, W., *Influence of Darwin's Ideas on the Study of Evolution*

“We no longer feel ourselves to be guests in someone else's home and therefore obliged to make our behavior conform with a set of pre-existing cosmic rules. It is our creation now. We make the rules. We establish the parameters of reality. We create the world, and because we do, we no longer feel beholden to outside forces. We no longer have to justify our behavior, for we are now the architects of the universe. We are responsible to nothing outside ourselves, for we are the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever.”

– Jeremy Rifkin, *Algeny*, Viking Press, New York, p. 244, 1983.

Evolution is FLUFF

Remember:

- Focus the discussion
- Less than persuaded
- Unobserved important events
- Failed mechanism for design
- Freedom found in creation science