

Survey of Evolutionary Knowledge and Attitudes

This survey asks you questions about your knowledge of various aspects of evolution as well as attitudes about and related topics.

Section A: Evolutionary Terms

The following are all terms related to evolution.

Please place an “x” next to each term or concept you are familiar with:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cenozoic era | <input type="checkbox"/> Pleistocene | <input type="checkbox"/> fossil |
| <input type="checkbox"/> dinosaur | <input type="checkbox"/> natural selection | <input type="checkbox"/> Gregor Mendel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> carbon dating | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Homo sapiens</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> adaptive radiation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> microevolution | <input type="checkbox"/> Charles Darwin | <input type="checkbox"/> genetics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Australopithecine | <input type="checkbox"/> DNA | <input type="checkbox"/> catastrophism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> macroevolution | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Homo erectus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> RNA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bipedalism | <input type="checkbox"/> Scopes trial | <input type="checkbox"/> punctuated equilibrium |
| <input type="checkbox"/> endocast | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Australopithecus afarensis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Neanderthal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> selective breeding | | <input type="checkbox"/> speciation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> evolution | | <input type="checkbox"/> extinction |

Section B: Evolutionary Acceptance

For each item below, please indicate your agreement/disagreement with the given statements using the following scale:

1	2	3	4	5
Disagree Strongly	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Agree Strongly

- ___1. Organisms existing today are the result of evolutionary processes that have occurred over millions of years.
- ___2. The theory of evolution is incapable of being scientifically tested.
- ___3. Modern humans are the product of evolutionary processes that have occurred over millions of years.
- ___4. The theory of evolution is based on speculation and not valid scientific observation and testing.
- ___5. Most scientists accept evolutionary theory to be a scientifically valid theory.
- ___6. The available data are unclear as to whether evolution actually occurs.
- ___7. The age of the earth is less than 20,000 years.
- ___8. There is a significant body of data that supports evolutionary theory.
- ___9. Organisms exist today in essentially the same form in which they always have.
- ___10. Evolution is not a scientifically valid theory.
- ___11. The age of the earth is at least 4 billion years.
- ___12. Current evolutionary theory is the result of sound scientific research and methodology.
- ___13. Evolutionary theory generates testable predictions with respect to the characteristics of life.
- ___14. The theory of evolution cannot be correct since it disagrees with the Biblical account of creation.
- ___15. Humans exist today in essentially the same form in which they always have.
- ___16. Evolutionary theory is supported by factual historical and laboratory data.
- ___17. Much of the scientific community doubts if evolution occurs.
- ___18. The theory of evolution brings meaning to the diverse characteristics and behaviors observed in living forms.
- ___19. With few exceptions, organisms on earth came into existence at about the same time.
- ___20. Evolution is a scientifically valid theory.

Section C: Personal Beliefs and Evolution

For each item below, please indicate your agreement/disagreement with the given statements using the following scale:

1	2	3	4	5
Disagree Strongly	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Agree Strongly
_____ 1. My religion impacts my daily life.				
_____ 2. Contemporary methods of determining the age of fossils and rocks are untrustworthy.				
_____ 3. Humans have somewhat less than half of the DNA in common with chimpanzees.				
_____ 4. I've watched nature shows that discussed evolution (e.g., PBS/Nova, Discovery, National Geographic).				
_____ 5. Humans share a majority of their genes with chimpanzees.				
_____ 6. The theory of evolution has contributed to racism.				
_____ 7. Mutations are never beneficial.				
_____ 8. I am a political person.				
_____ 9. There are no transitional fossils (remains of life forms that illustrate an evolutionary transition).				
_____ 10. I've read science magazines featuring evolutions (e.g., Discover, National Geographic, Nature).				
_____ 11. Scientific ideas can be tested and supported by feelings and beliefs.				
_____ 12. Darwinism strips meaning from our lives.				
_____ 13. In most populations, more offspring are born than can survive.				
_____ 14. Religion is especially important to me because it answers many of my questions about the meaning of life.				
_____ 15. After conception, a developing human is only a cluster of cells, and it makes no sense to discuss its moral condition.				
				_____ 16. Mutations can be passed down to the next generation.
				_____ 17. Complex biological systems cannot come about by slight successive modifications (i.e., they are irreducibly complex).
				_____ 18. There is scientific evidence that humans were created by a supreme being or intelligent designer.
				_____ 19. Evolutionary theory is highly relevant for the social sciences (e.g., anthropology, psychology, sociology).
				_____ 20. My political views influence my decisions.
				_____ 21. The available data are ambiguous as to whether evolution actually occurs.
				_____ 22. Evolutionary theory is highly relevant for biology.
				_____ 23. Adam and Eve of Genesis are the universal ancestors of the entire human race.
				_____ 24. The more recently species share a common ancestor, the more closely related they are.
				_____ 25. Present animal diversity can be explained by the Great Flood.
				_____ 26. The theory of evolution helps us understand human origins.
				_____ 27. Evolutionary theory is relevant to our everyday lives.
				_____ 28. Evolution means progression towards perfection.
				_____ 29. I read the Bible literally.

1	2	3	4	5
Disagree Strongly	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Agree Strongly

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>___ 30. Evolution is a theory in crisis.</p> <p>___ 31. I've watched evolution related videos on the web (e.g., Ted.com, YouTube).</p> <p>___ 32. My political views influence my daily life.</p> <p>___ 33. Humans share more than half of their genes with mice.</p> <p>___ 34. In general, I am conservative on economic issues such as welfare, taxation, and free-market policies.</p> <p>___ 35. Mutations occur all the time.</p> <p>___ 36. For scientific evidence to be deemed adequate, it must be reproducible by others.</p> <p>___ 37. The Earth isn't old enough for evolution to have taken place.</p> <p>___ 38. Increased genetic variability makes a population more resistant to extinction.</p> <p>___ 39. There is no evidence that humans evolved from other animals.</p> <p>___ 40. The data used to support evolution is untrustworthy.</p> <p>___ 41. Scientific explanations can be supernatural.</p> <p>___ 42. Politically, I identify myself as a liberal.</p> <p>___ 43. I received training in evolution in high school.</p> <p>___ 44. I have visited natural history museums on field trips or with family.</p> <p>___ 45. All modern species of land vertebrates are descended from those original animals on the ark.</p> <p>___ 46. Good theories give rise to testable predictions.</p> | <p>___ 47. There was a time when humans and dinosaurs lived on Earth together.</p> <p>___ 48. Life begins at conception</p> <p>___ 49. My religion influences my decisions.</p> <p>___ 50. People who accept evolution as fact are immoral.</p> <p>___ 51. As a child, I attended science and nature camps (e.g., Outdoor Ed Lab, local nature centers or zoos).</p> <p>___ 52. All stages of human life– embryo, fetus, child, adult– should have the same legal protections.</p> <p>___ 53. The theory of evolution has contributed to sexism.</p> <p>___ 54. If you accept evolution, you really can't believe in God.</p> <p>___ 55. Natural selection cannot create complex structures; It is like a tornado blowing through a junkyard and creating a 747.</p> <p>___ 56. I am a religious person.</p> <p>___ 57. I am a conservative person.</p> <p>___ 58. Characteristics acquired during the lifetime of an organism are passed down to that individual's offspring.</p> <p>___ 59. Evolutionary theory is highly relevant for the humanities (e.g., history, literature, philosophy).</p> <p>___ 60. The theory of evolution has contributed to genocide (the deliberate killing of a group based on nationality, race, politics, or culture).</p> <p>___ 61. Evolution is a linear progression from primitive to advanced species.</p> |
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Section D: The Big Five Inventory (BFI)

Here are a number of characteristics that may or may not apply to you. For example, do you agree that you are someone who likes to spend time with others? Please write a number next to each statement to indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with that statement.

1 Disagree Strongly	2 Disagree	3 Neither agree nor disagree	4 Agree	5 Agree Strongly
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I see Myself as Someone Who....

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>___ 1. Is talkative</p> <p>___ 2. Tends to find fault with others</p> <p>___ 3. Does a thorough job</p> <p>___ 4. Is depressed, blue</p> <p>___ 5. Is original, comes up with new ideas</p> <p>___ 6. Is reserved</p> <p>___ 7. Is helpful and unselfish with others</p> <p>___ 8. Can be somewhat careless</p> <p>___ 9. Is relaxed, handles stress well</p> <p>___ 10. Is curious about many different things</p> <p>___ 11. Is full of energy</p> <p>___ 12. Starts quarrels with others</p> <p>___ 13. Is a reliable worker</p> <p>___ 14. Can be tense</p> <p>___ 15. Is ingenious, a deep thinker</p> <p>___ 16. Generates a lot of enthusiasm</p> <p>___ 17. Has a forgiving nature</p> <p>___ 18. Tends to be disorganized</p> <p>___ 19. Worries a lot</p> <p>___ 20. Has an active imagination</p> <p>___ 21. Tends to be quiet</p> <p>___ 22. Is generally trusting</p> | <p>___ 23. Tends to be lazy</p> <p>___ 24. Is emotionally stable, not easily upset</p> <p>___ 25. Is inventive</p> <p>___ 26. Has an assertive personality</p> <p>___ 27. Can be cold and aloof</p> <p>___ 28. Perseveres until the task is done</p> <p>___ 29. Can be moody</p> <p>___ 30. Values artistic, aesthetic experiences</p> <p>___ 31. Is sometimes shy, inhibited</p> <p>___ 32. Is considerate and kind to almost everyone</p> <p>___ 33. Does things efficiently</p> <p>___ 34. Remains calm in tense situations</p> <p>___ 35. Prefers works that is routine</p> <p>___ 36. Is outgoing, sociable</p> <p>___ 37. Is sometimes rude to others</p> <p>___ 38. Makes plans and follows through with them</p> <p>___ 39. Gets nervous easily</p> <p>___ 40. Likes to reflect, play with ideas</p> <p>___ 41. Has few artistic interests</p> <p>___ 42. Likes to cooperate with others</p> <p>___ 43. Is easily distracted</p> <p>___ 44. Is sophisticated in art, music, or literature</p> |
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Section E: Knowledge of Science

For each item below, please indicate your agreement/disagreement with the given statements using the following scale:

1 Disagree Strongly	2 Disagree	3 Neither agree nor disagree	4 Agree	5 Agree Strongly
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- ___1. The theory of evolution must deny the existence of a creator God.
- ___2. Scientists must limit their investigations to the natural world.
- ___3. Any scientific findings that contradict Biblical Scripture should be discarded.
- ___4. As a result of scientific methods, definite conclusions can be made as to the absolute and ultimate cause behind an event.
- ___5. Science can never reach absolute truth about a particular phenomenon in nature.
- ___6. Science is well prepared to investigate the validity of miracles.
- ___7. A fact in science is a truth which can never be changed.
- ___8. Science is responsible for improving the quality of life for man.
- ___9. The scientist is limited in observing only what he can see with the naked eye.
- ___10. Scientists must be accepting of all findings of their fellow researchers.
- ___11. Scientific experiments must be repeatedly performed in the laboratory to be considered valid.
- ___12. To make any scientific determinations about historic occurrences in nature, there must be direct observations.
- ___13. Random chance means that a particular phenomenon occurs by accident.
- ___14. The initial step of the scientific method is to test a hypothesis.
- ___15. A theory has been substantiated by many scientific facts.
- ___16. A hypothesis is a guess based on a premonition.
- ___17. A scientific law has been shown to be true by repeated observations and experimentation.
- ___18. If an experiment gives results which are contradictory to the hypothesis, then the experiment should be changed.
- ___19. A hypothesis must be capable of being tested in order for it to truly be in the realm of science.
- ___20. A hypothesis which has been validated by an experiment is elevated to the level of theory.

Section G: Background Information

These last questions ask a little bit about you and your background.

1. How old are you (in years)? _____ 2. What is your sex? _____
3. What is your Ethnicity?
- 3a. Are you of Hispanic Origin? _____
- 4a. If you are religious, please write your denomination (e.g., Roman Catholic, Methodist, Sunni) below.
If you do not consider yourself a member of any particular religion, write "none".

- 4b. How Important is church in your life?
5. How often do you go to church?
6. What is your net college GPA (Grade Point Average; circle one)?
0.0-0.9 (Mostly Fs) *1.0-1.9 (Mostly Ds)* *2.0-2.4 (Mostly Cs)* *2.5-2.9 (Mix of Cs and Bs)* *3.0-3.4 (Mostly Bs)* *3.5-4.0 (Mostly As, some Bs)*
7. What is your college major or concentration?
8. How many science classes have you taken in college? _____
9. How many biology classes have you taken in college? _____
10. How would you rank your interest in science in general?

1 Not at all interested *2 Mostly uninterested* *3 Neutral* *4 Somewhat interested* *5 Very interested*

11. What is the highest level of schooling your mother completed (circle one)?
Less than high school Degree *High School Diploma or GED 4-Year Degree* *Some College Graduate Education* *2-Year*

12. What is the highest level of schooling your father completed (circle one)?
Less than high school Degree *High School Diploma or GED 4-Year Degree* *Some College Graduate Education* *2-Year*

13. Think of where you lived a majority of your life from ages 5 to 15. Would you describe it as rural, suburban, or urban?