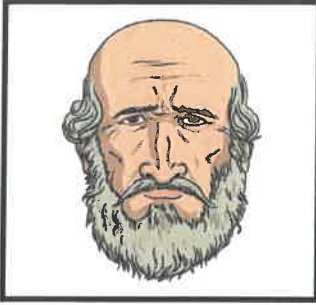


Theory of Evolution Pupil Sheet



Anaximander of Miletus (c. 610 – 546 BC)

Greek Philosopher

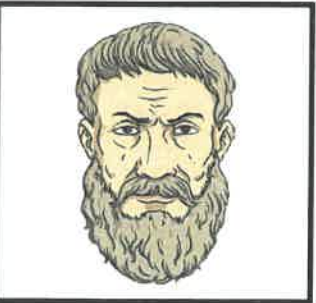
I believed that the first animals lived in water during a wet phase of the Earth's past. I thought that the first land dwelling ancestors of humans would have been born in the water and then spent some of their life on land. Furthermore, I argued that the first human would have been the child of a different type of animal.



Empedocles (c. 490 – 430 BC)

Greek Philosopher

I thought that the first animals and plants were like disjointed parts of the ones we see now, some of which survived by joining in different combinations. Even though the ones that survived seem like they were created that way, I thought this was accidental.



Epicurus (341 – 270 BC)

Greek Philosopher

I was a Greek philosopher and I wrote a poem called 'On the Nature of Things', which explained my understanding. I thought the goddess Gaia had spontaneously generated lots of different species in the past. I posited that only those that functioned the best survived and had offspring. However, I thought this was the result of abiogenetic events (where life arises from non-living things) for each species rather than just one event that led to lots of different species.



Zhang Zhou (c. 369 – 286 BC)

Chinese Philosopher (Taoist)

I was a Taoist philosopher. We believed that plants and animals did change and that the species were not fixed. We also speculated about how the environment affected the attributes of different living things. In general, Taoists thought that all living things, the Earth and the heavens were in a state of constant transformation rather than fixed.



Augustine of Hippo (354 - 430)

Bishop and Theologian

I was a Catholic bishop and a theologian (someone who studies the idea of God and the nature of religious ideas). I wrote a book called 'De Genesi ad litteram' which means 'On the Literal Meaning of Genesis'. Genesis is a chapter about how life began, which is part of both the Jewish Torah and the Christian Bible.

I thought that Genesis should not be taken literally. I believed that God created life but that living things had been transformed slowly over time. I also thought that certain creatures were not formed on the fifth and sixth day, rather insects, worms and spiders had originated later from rotting remains of animals.



Al-Jahiz (776 – 868)

Arab Prose Writer

I noticed patterns of how animals preyed on those who were weaker than them but were in turn eaten by animals who were stronger. I argued that all animals struggled for existence, resources, to breed and avoid being eaten. Those that were successful were better able to survive.



Tusi (1201 – 1274)

Persian Scholar

I put forward a basic theory of evolution of species almost 600 years before Darwin! I believed that the universe consisted of equal and similar elements. Internal changes occurred and these elements developed faster and became different to each other. These changed over time to develop in minerals that developed into three types of living things – plants, animals and humans.

I believed that those organisms that could gain new features could gain an advantage over those that did not.

In terms of living things, I thought that some animals were more advanced than others and that humans developed from those advanced animals. I argued that humans came from apes that lived in Western Sudan (in Africa).



Ibn Khaldun (1332 - 1406)

Arab Historian

I argued that humans developed from the world of monkeys by a process that led to numerous species. I thought that the cleverness and perception of monkeys was transformed into the human ability to think and reflect. I believed that all animals and plants were connected to others in this way. Living things were able to transform from one thing to another.



Pierre Louis Maupertuis (1698 - 1759)

French Mathematician and Philosopher

I was a French mathematician and philosopher. I thought that natural modifications occur when living things reproduce and this can result in new varieties of the living thing as well as lead to new species.



Georges-Louis Leclerc (1707 – 1788)

French Philosopher

I believed that many of the species were actually just varieties of an animals which had been modified from the original animal due to environmental factors. For example, I believed that lions, tigers, leopards and house cats all had a common ancestor. I also thought that all the mammals had descended from as few as 38 original animal types.

I studied and compared the skeletons of different animals, including humans and apes but did not believe that they did have a common ancestor.

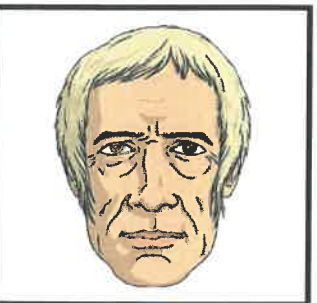


Erasmus Darwin (1731 - 1802)

English Physician

I am Charles Darwin's grandfather. I was a physiologist and physician. I wrote a book called 'Zoonomia' in which I said that 'one and the same kind of living filament is and has been the cause of all organic life'. That is to say that all living things have a common ancestor. I also believed that the strongest and most active animals would reproduce and as a result the species would be improved.

My book was very radical and controversial. I was banned by the Vatican as my views suggested that living things were not created by a god.



Jean Baptiste Lamarck (1744 – 1829)

French Naturalist

I thought that transmutation of species did occur (transmutation was the word we used before it started to be called evolution). I thought that living things inherited traits that enabled them to adapt better to their environment. I did not have the evidence to really support my idea. Also, I did not think that all living things shared a common ancestor.

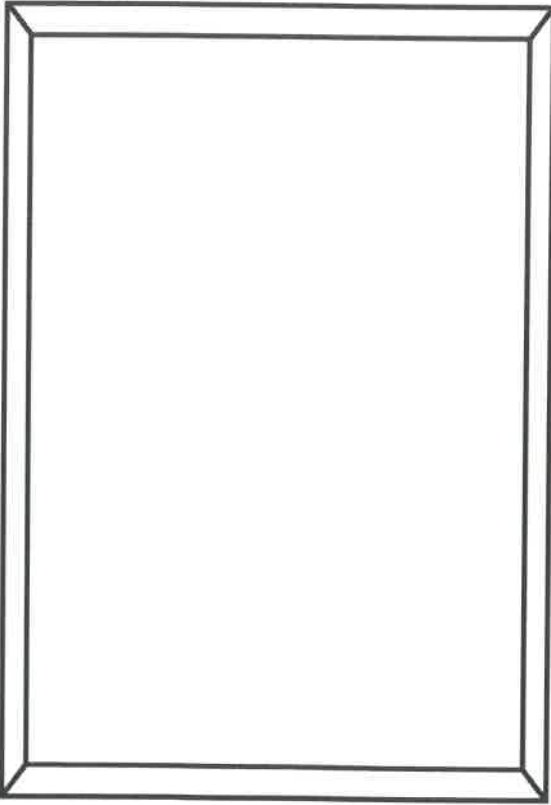
Researcher: _____

Scientist's name:

Lived from _____ to _____:



Best known for:



Scientist's portrait

Five Facts

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