

Evolution

Fact or Fiction

What Darwin Said

Charles Robert Darwin

- Charles Robert Darwin (1809-1882)
- Born in Shrewsbury, England.
- His mother died when he was eight, a traumatic event in his life.
- Went to Cambridge (1828-1831) with the intention to become an Anglican country cleric.

- At Cambridge, Darwin read William Paley (1743-1805) and was impressed by Paley's views on natural theology and how the "book of nature" could lead one to God.
- After Cambridge, he focused on geology, and spent five years (1831-1836) on the HMS *Beagle*, commissioned to survey the coast of South America.
- His observations over those 5 years led him to formulate in 1838 the theory of evolution (he called it "descent with modification")

- ◎ The theory changed his own life and religious beliefs.
 - Darwin wrote in his autobiography: “disbelief crept over me at a very slow rate, but was at last complete.”
 - His loss of faith was also influenced by the deaths of both his father and his 10 year old daughter.
- ◎ A modest and unassertive man, he did not publish his theory of evolution until 20 years later.

◎ Two main facets of Darwin's theory:

- 1. All forms of life, including human beings, descended from a common ancestor by gradual modifications.
- 2. The mechanism of this gradual modification is **“Natural Selection”** =
 - organisms with characteristics that better adapt them to their environment will be *“selected” by nature* to survive and have offspring.
 - organism whose characteristics are “non-adaptive” to their environment will perish.

Origin of Life Forms

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graph TD; A[Origin of Life Forms] --> B[Evolution]; A --> C[Intelligent Design];
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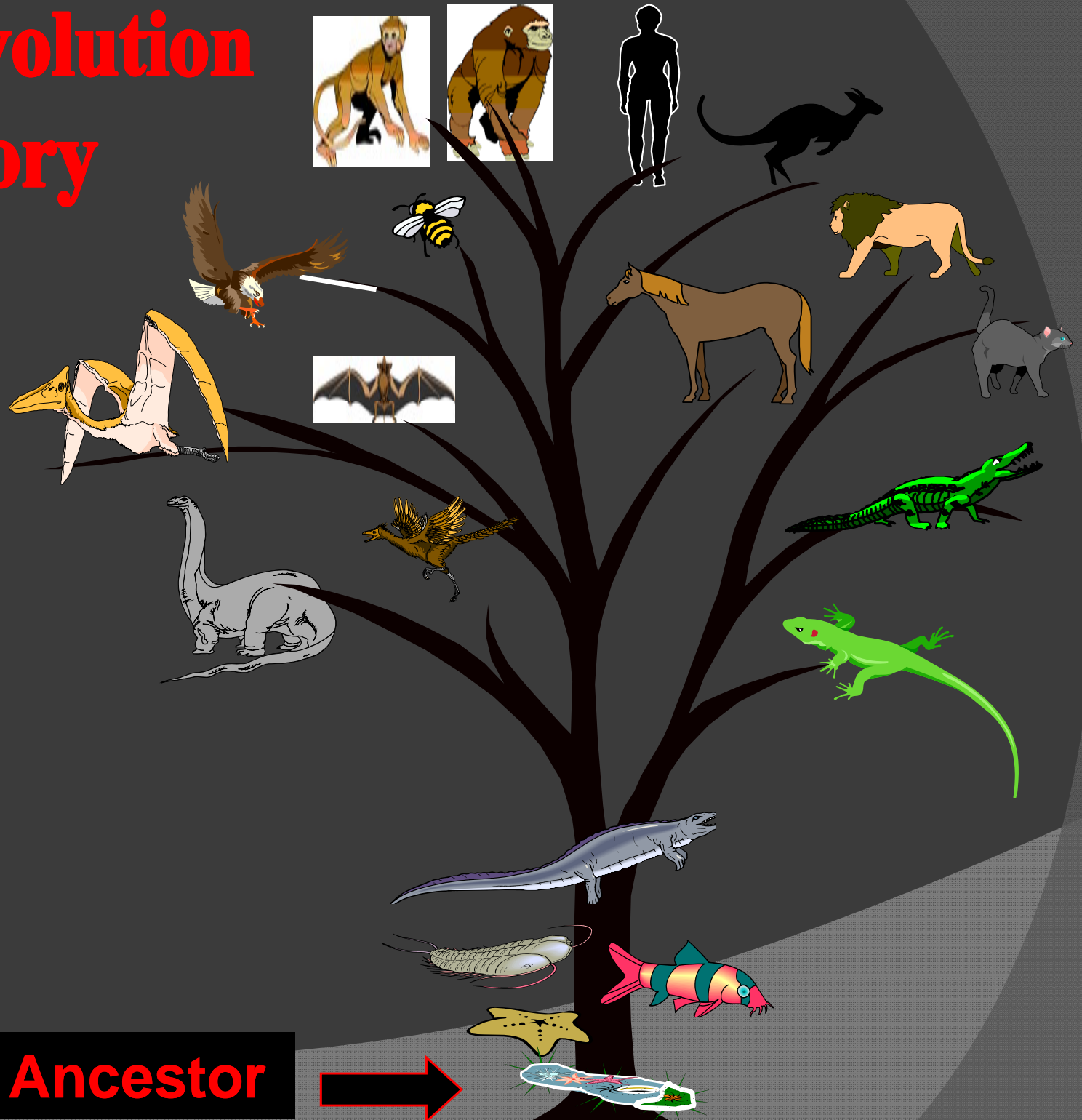
Evolution

(no intelligent intervention)
(natural cause)

Intelligent Design

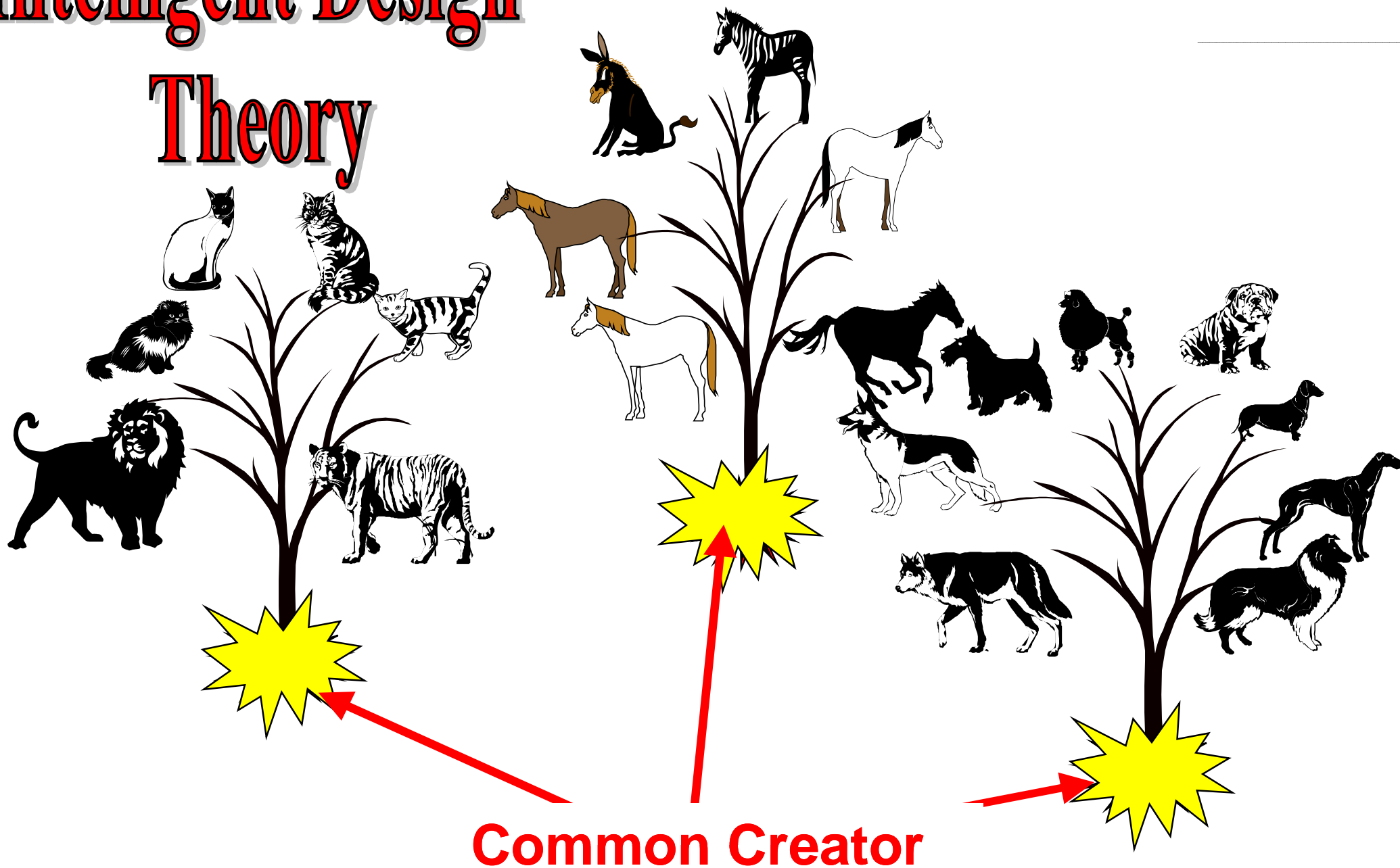
(intelligent intervention)
(intelligent cause)

MacroEvolution Theory



Common Ancestor

Intelligent Design Theory



Outline

- 1) What do evolutionists claim to know?
- 2) How do they claim to know it?
- 3) What's the evidence for it?
- 4) How does it explain the origin of all things?

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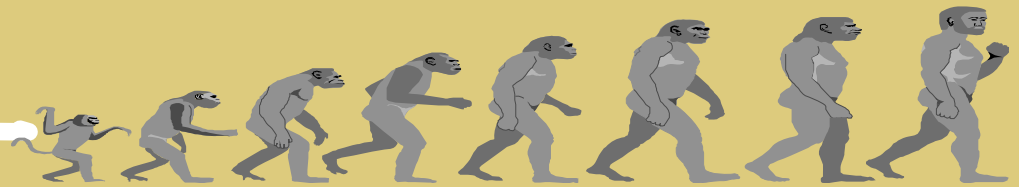
Critical Distinction: Micro vs. Macro

Microevolution (adaptation *within* a type) is an observed process where life forms experience *limited* genetic variations that allows them to adapt to and survive the stress caused by environmental changes.

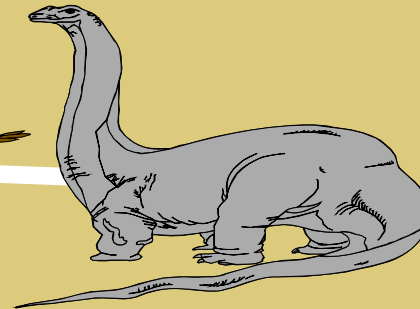
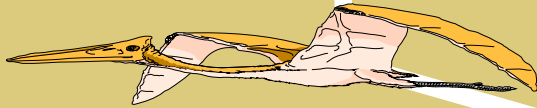
Macroevolution (adaptation *into* a new type) is an extrapolation from microevolution that has never been observed. It is the ultimate “just so” story of the Darwinists.

Fundamental tenets of macro-evolution (“Darwinism”):

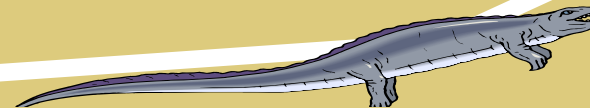
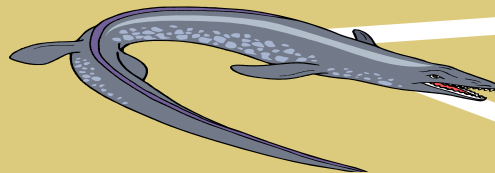
1. All life forms (animals, plants, fishes, humans) have descended from the same ancient ancestor (the first one-celled creature).
2. This descent or evolution occurred by natural processes without intelligent intervention (“the blind watchmaker”)



Age of Mammals



*Age of
Reptiles*



Age of Amphibians

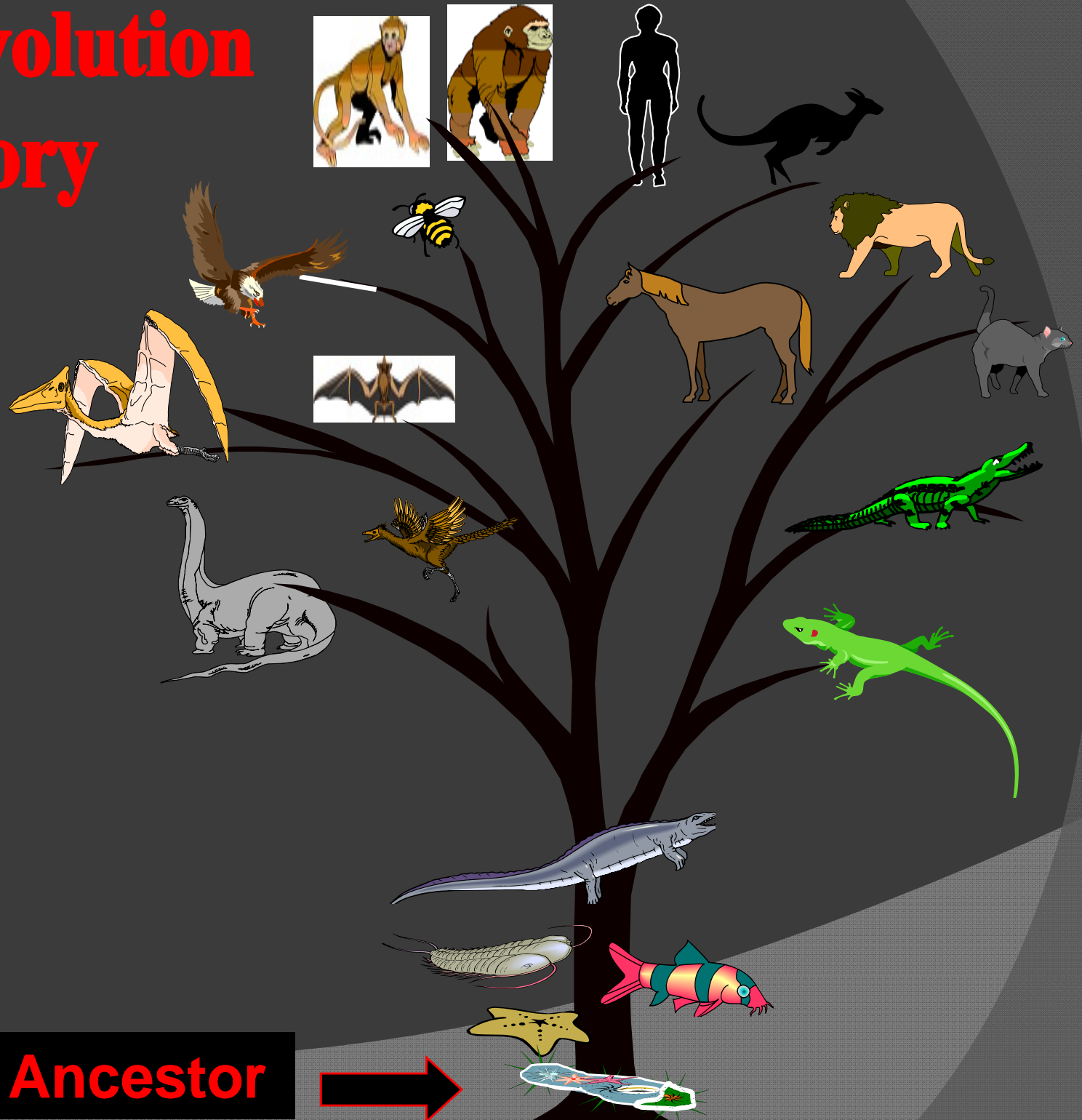
Age of Fishes



Age of Invertebrates

Macroevolution - Unlimited Change

MacroEvolution Theory



Common Ancestor

Macro Evolutionary Beliefs

- There are only natural causes (miracles or intelligent causes in nature do not occur)
- New species result from extrapolating observable small adaptations over long periods of time

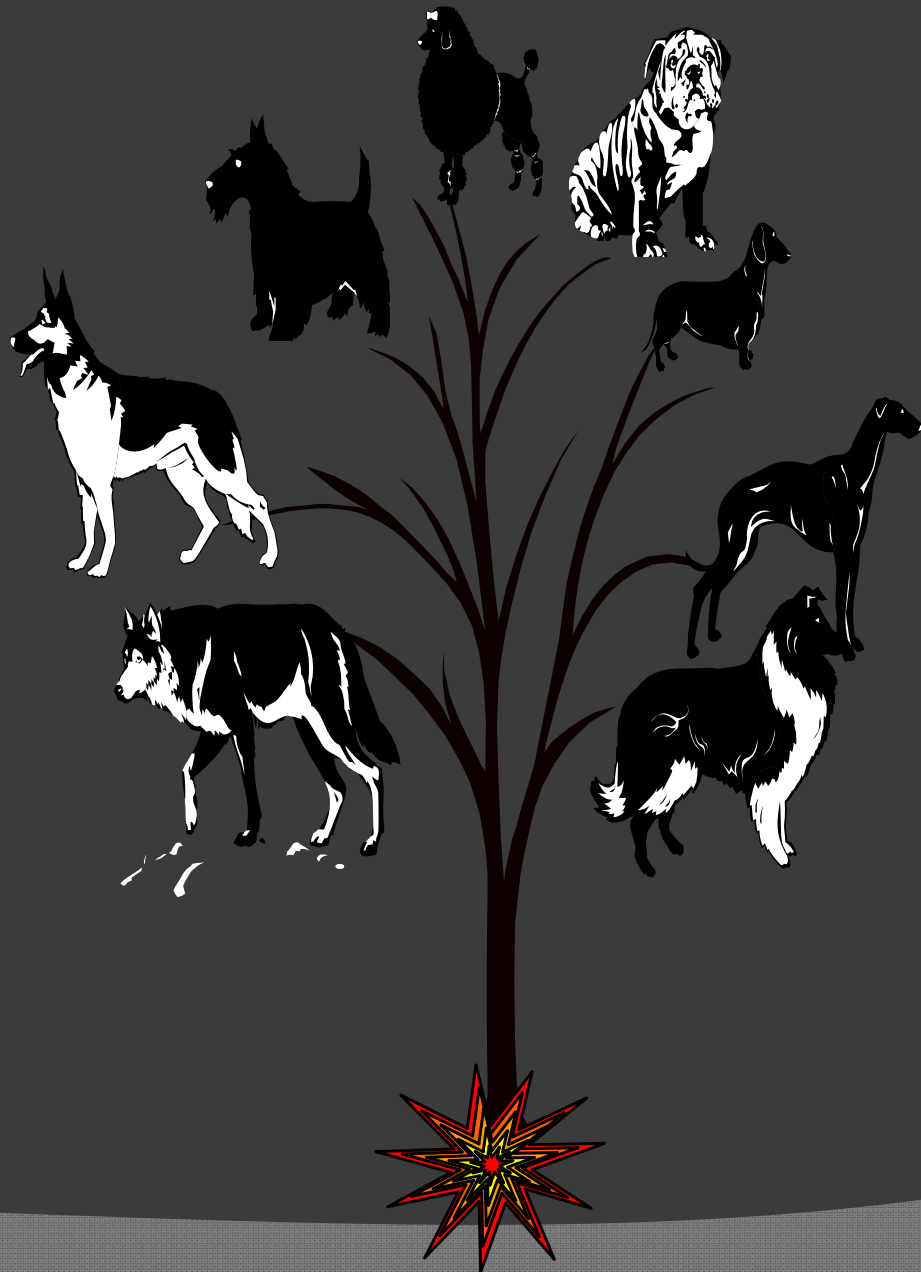
“We Cannot allow a Divine Foot in the Door”



Richard
Lewontin

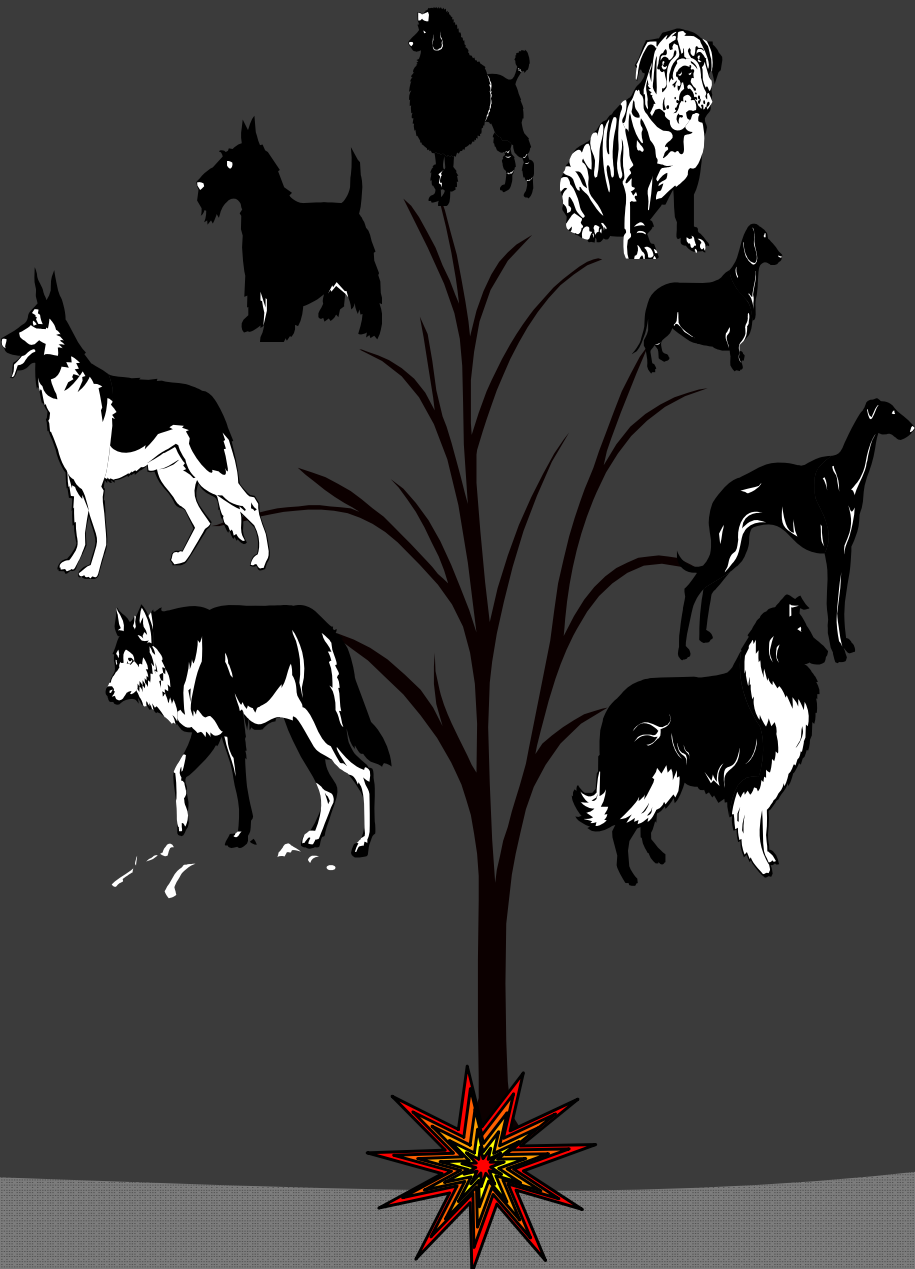
“It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that **we are forced by our *a priori* adherence to material causes** to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is absolute, for **we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.**” (Richard Lewontin, *New York Review of Books*, January 9, 1997).

Does Evolution Occur?

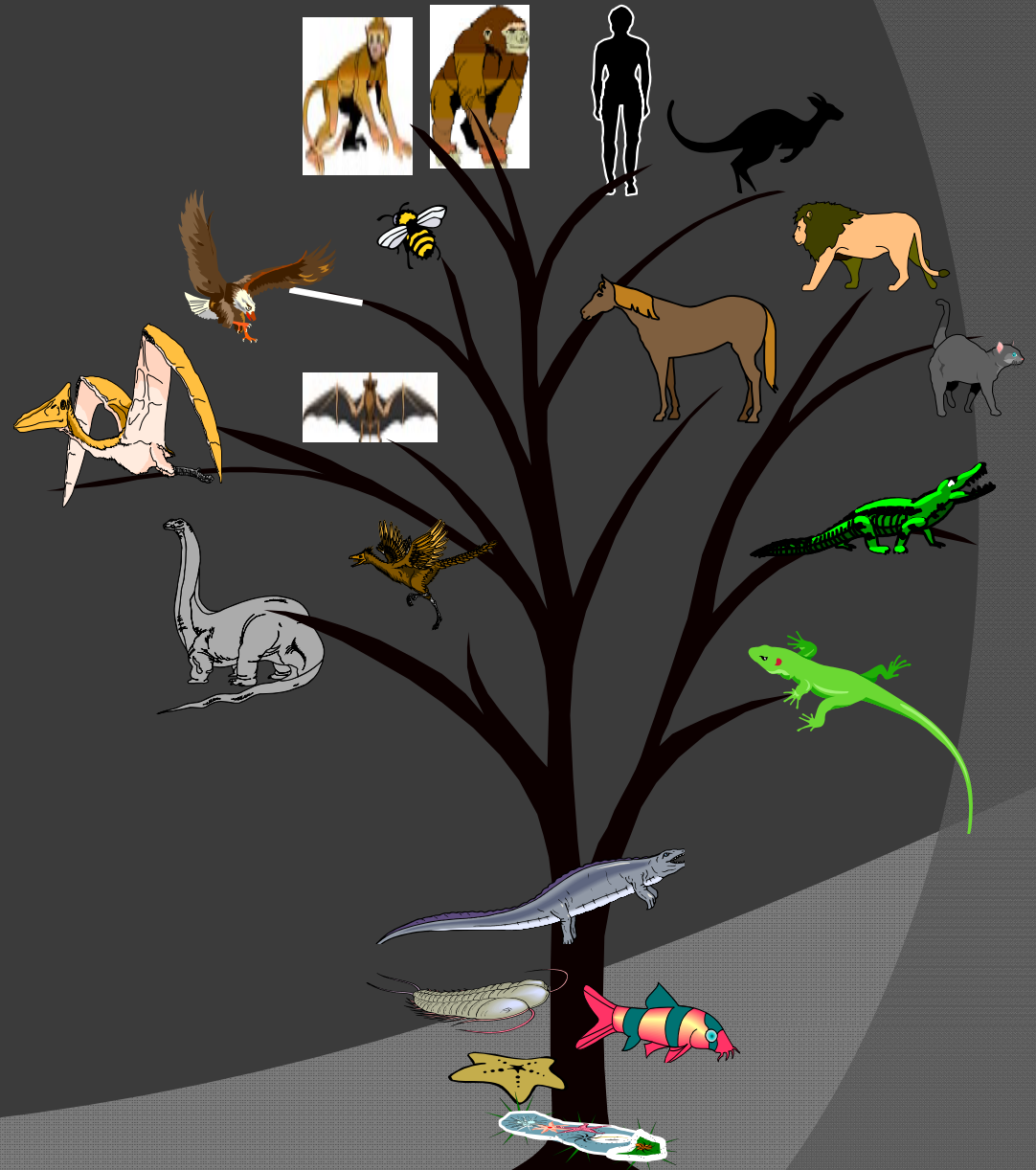


**Dog Breeding: An
example of “Evolution”**

Breeding in short time



Macroevolution over long time



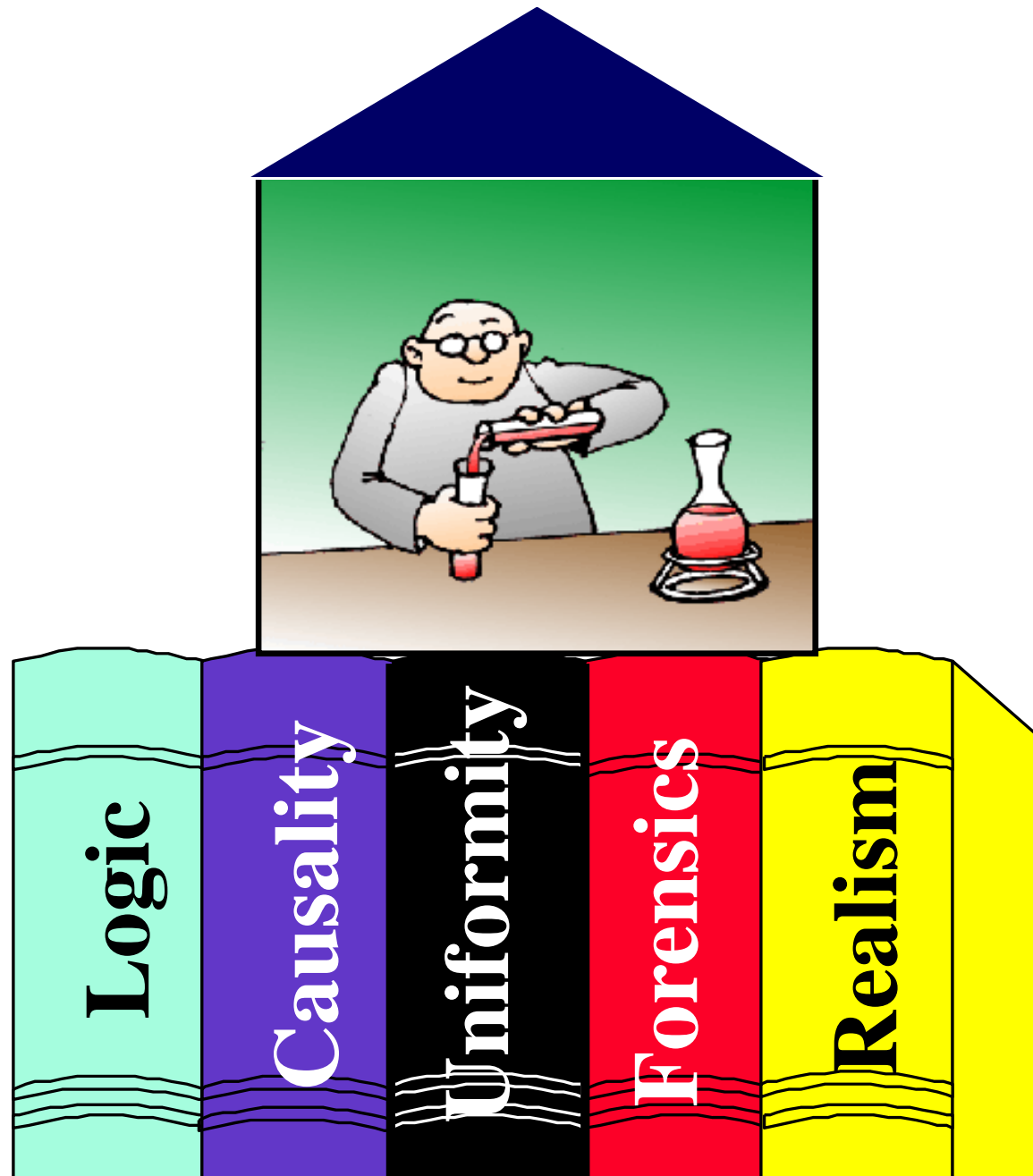
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What is Science?



Science is a search for causes!

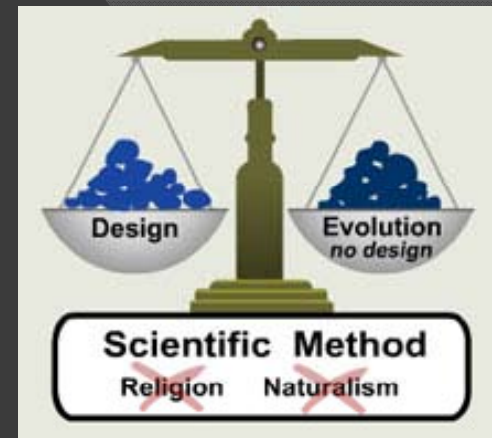
Science is Built On Philosophy



The Heart of the Debate

The debate over origins is not a debate between the Bible and science. It is a debate between good science and bad science! Darwinists are practicing the bad science by ruling out intelligent causes before they look at the evidence. Like the opponents of Galileo, they ignore observation.

What is Intelligent Design?



“The theory of intelligent design (ID) holds that certain features of the universe and of living things are best explained by an intelligent cause rather than an undirected process such as natural selection. . . . Design detection is used in a number of scientific fields, including anthropology, forensic sciences . . . and the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI). An inference that certain biological information may be the product of an intelligent cause can be tested or evaluated in the same manner as scientists daily test for design in other sciences.”

Only Two Types of Causes

TWO TYPES OF CAUSES

INTELLIGENT

NATURAL



Mount Rushmore



Grand Canyon

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Where is the Evidence?

William Dembski, Ph.D.



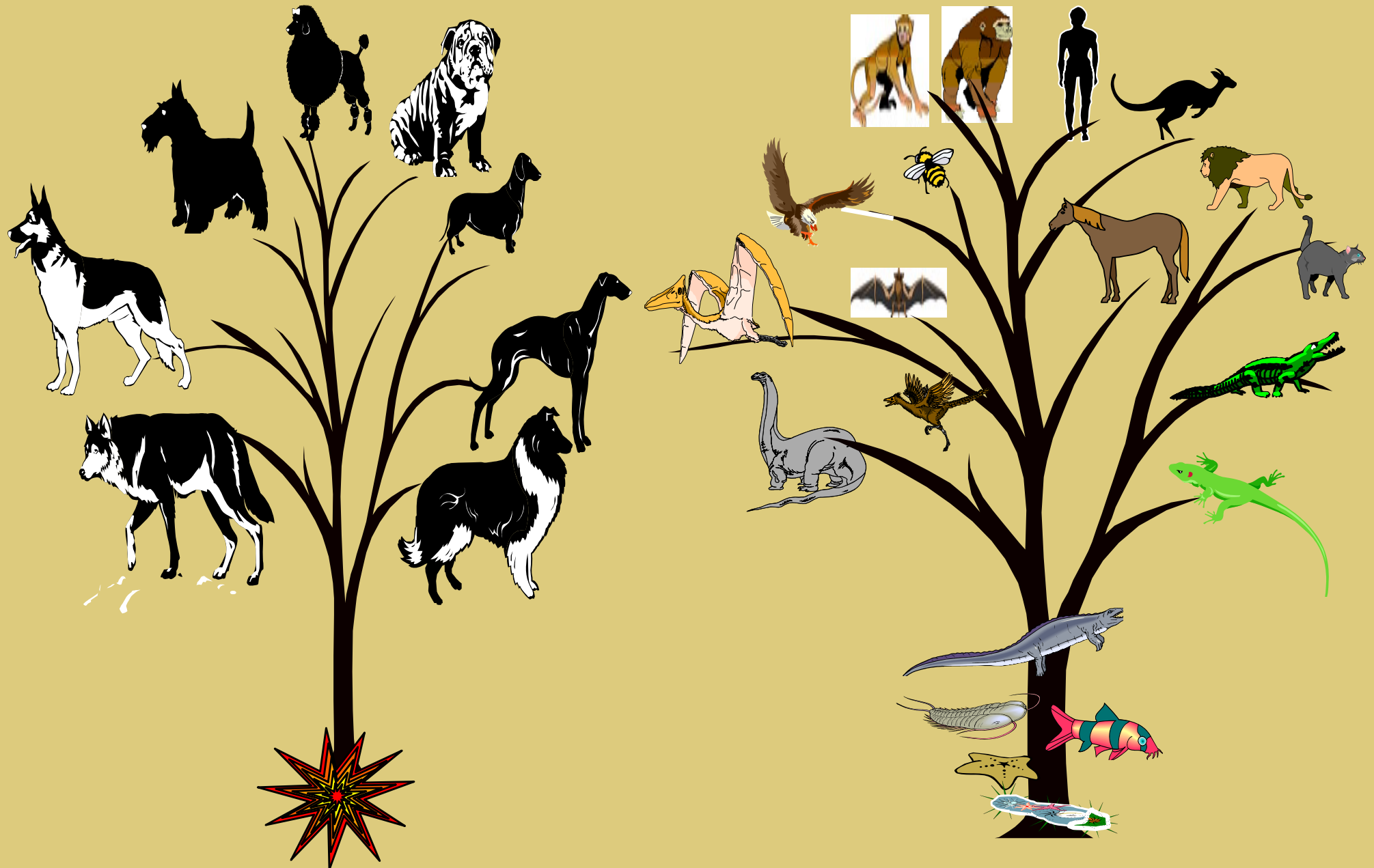
Baylor University

“Strict Darwinism asserts that Darwin’s mechanism of random variation and natural selection is able to account for all the complexity and diversity we see in living forms. The evidence simply does not support this claim.”

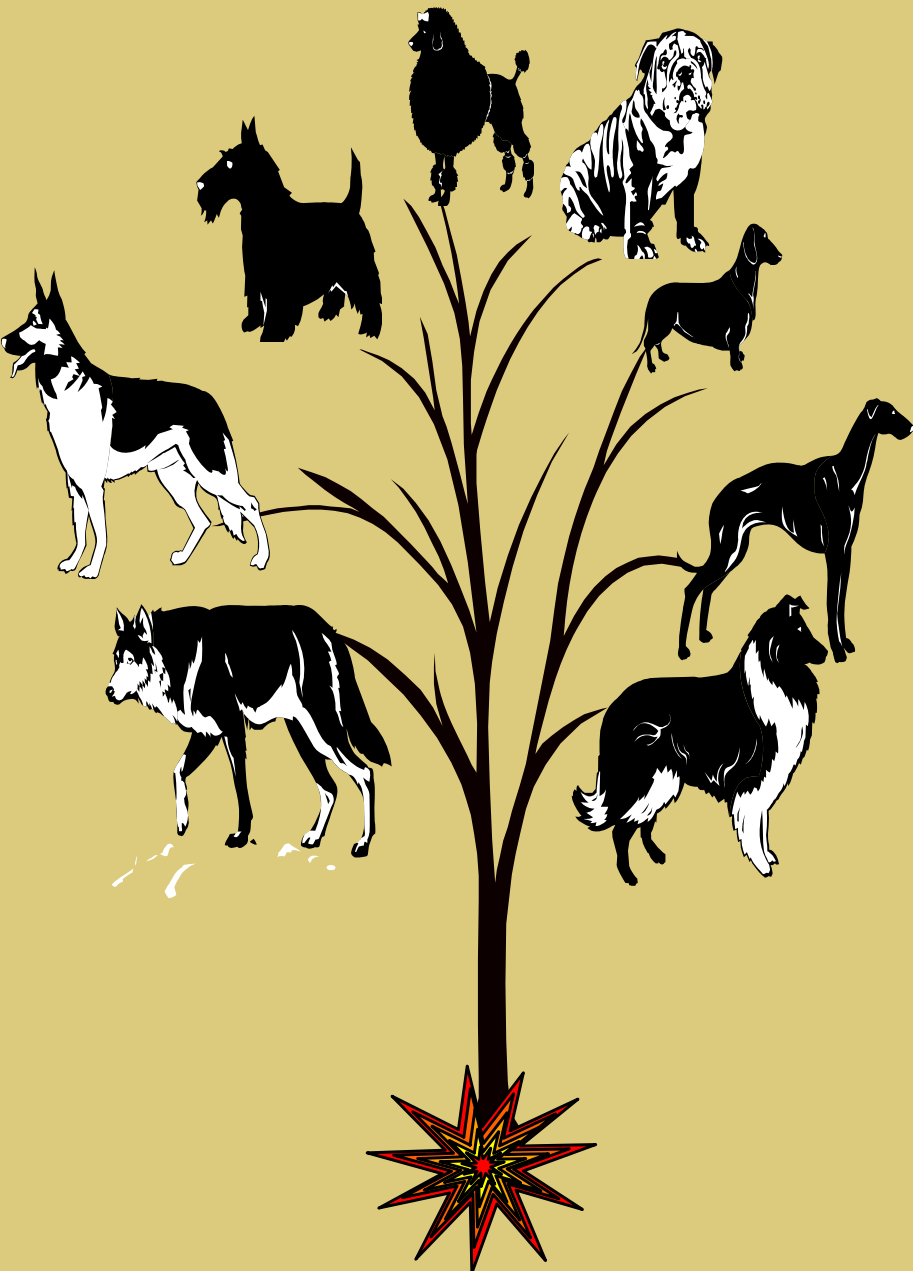
(World, July/August 2002, p 46)

If intelligent breeding
meets genetic limits . . .

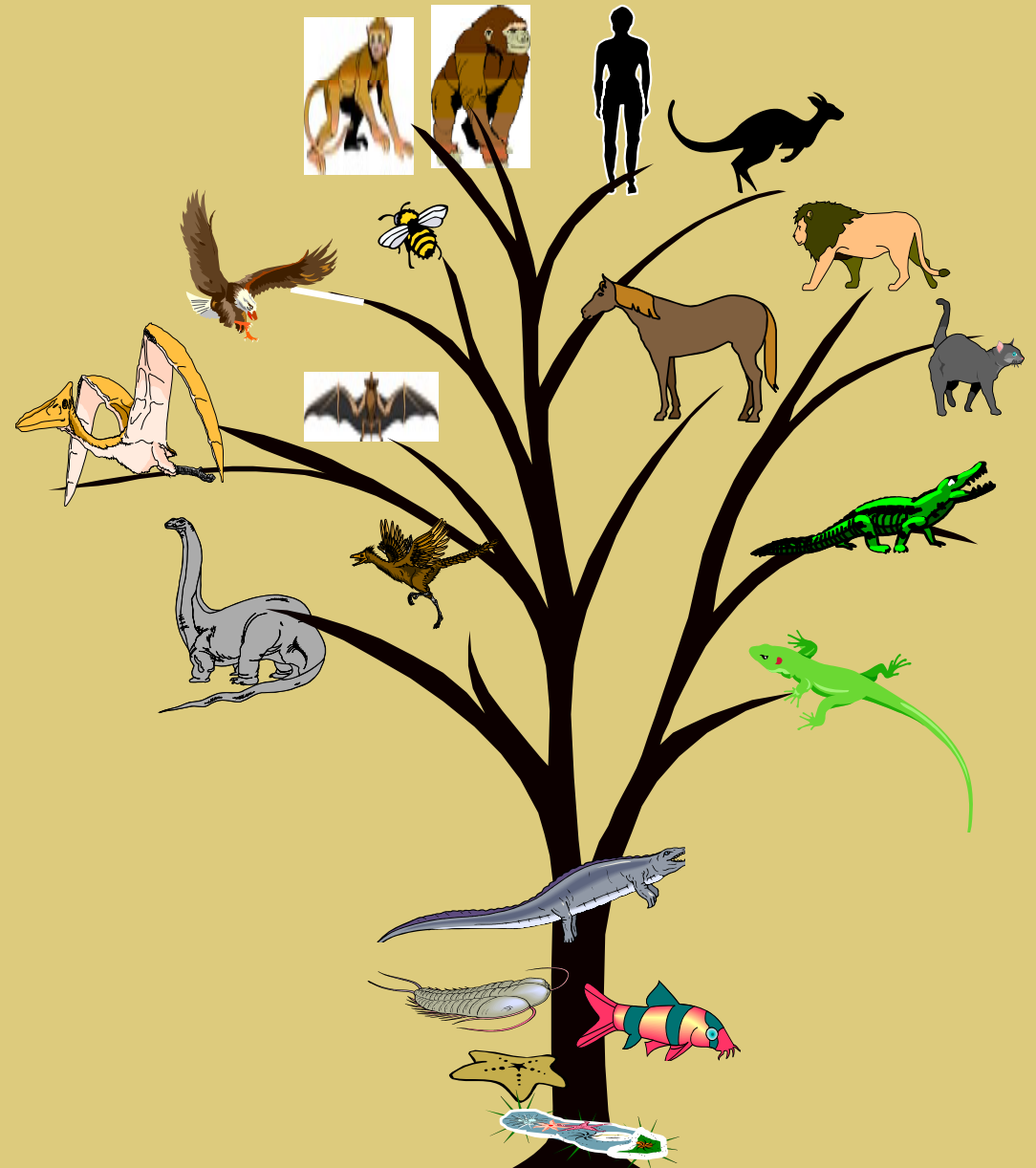
how can *non-intelligence*
exceed them?



Microevolution
within type: **YES**



Macroevolution
across types: **NO**



Darwinism Defeated by FIBS

Fossil record

Irreducible complexity

Brain complexity

Sexual Reproduction

Darwinism Defeated by FIBS

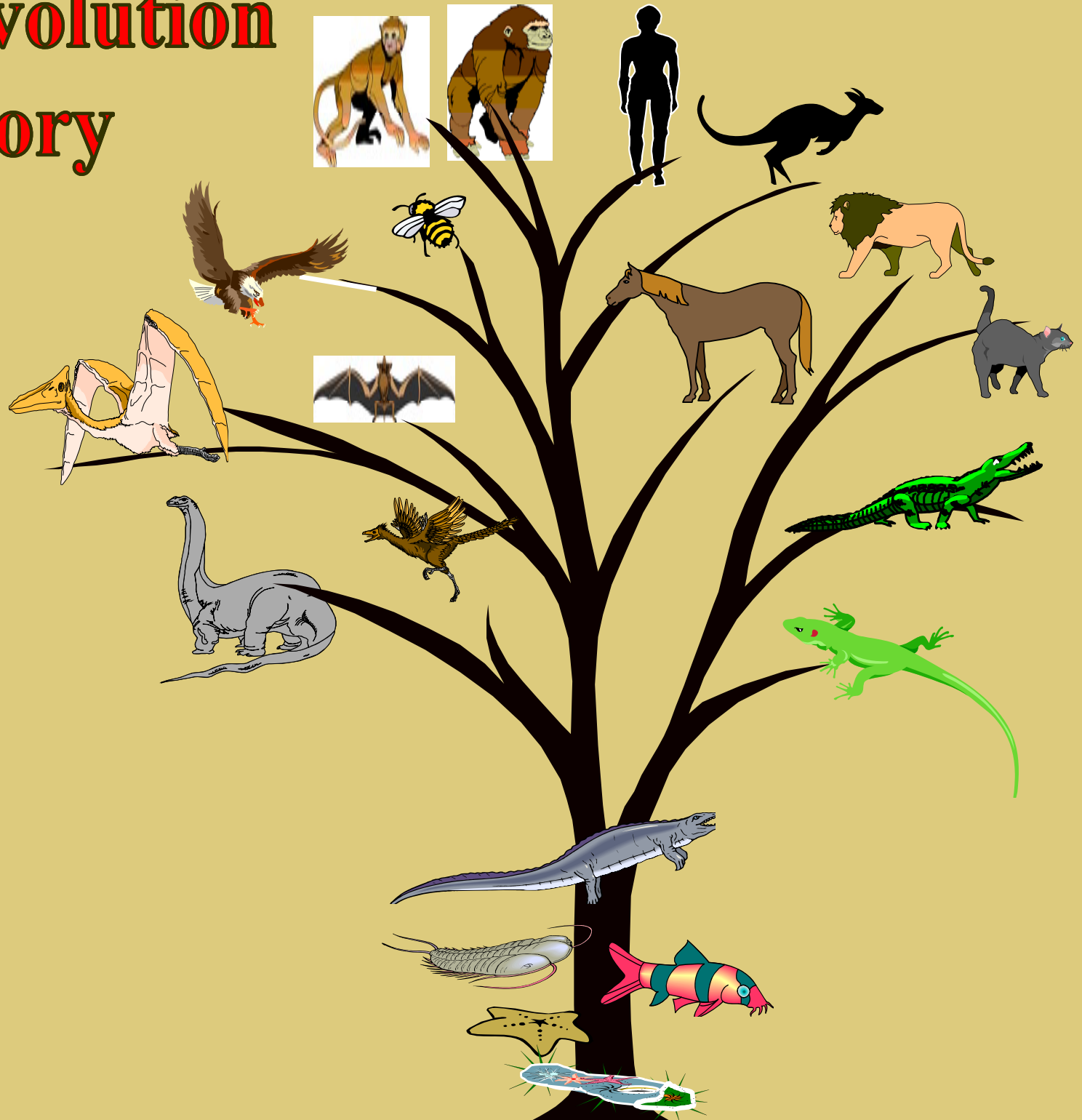
Fossil record

Irreducible complexity

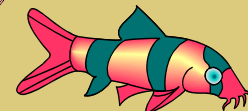
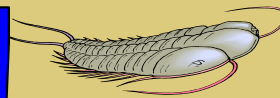
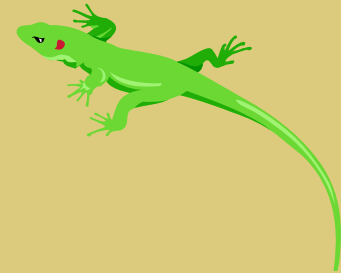
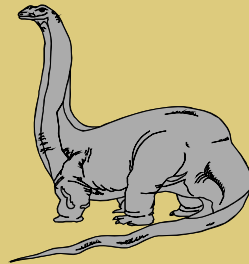
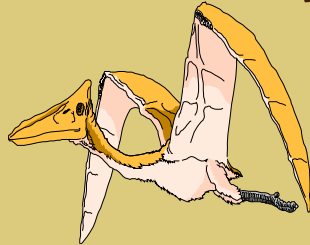
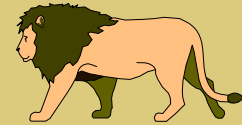
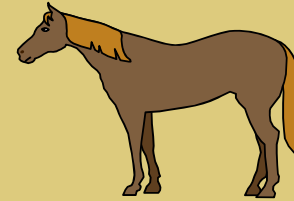
Brain complexity

Sexual Reproduction

MacroEvolution Theory



The True Picture



There aren't Missing Links;
there's a missing CHAIN!

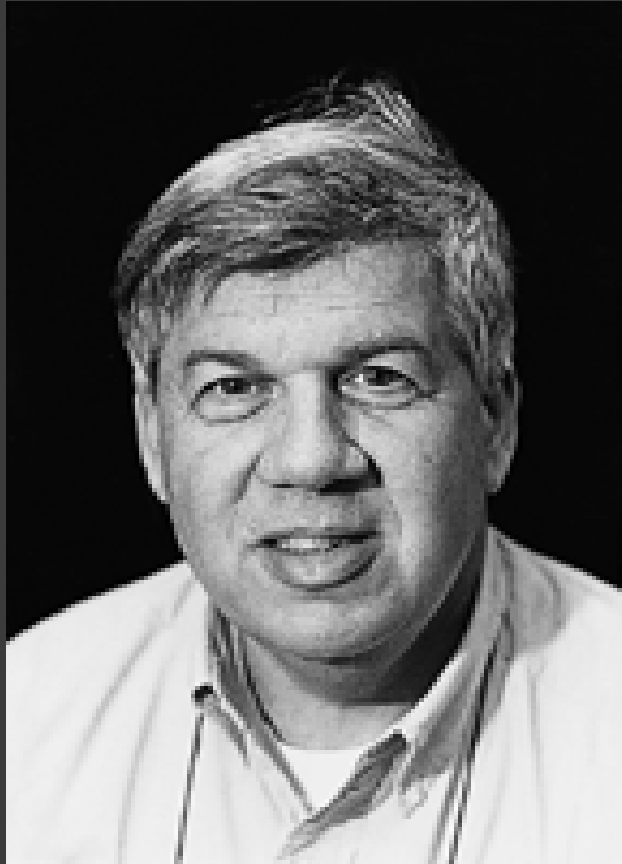
“Missing links are
pretty much myths.”
(July 11, 2002, *Washington Post*)

Dan Lieberman



Harvard Anthropologist

Stephen J. Gould

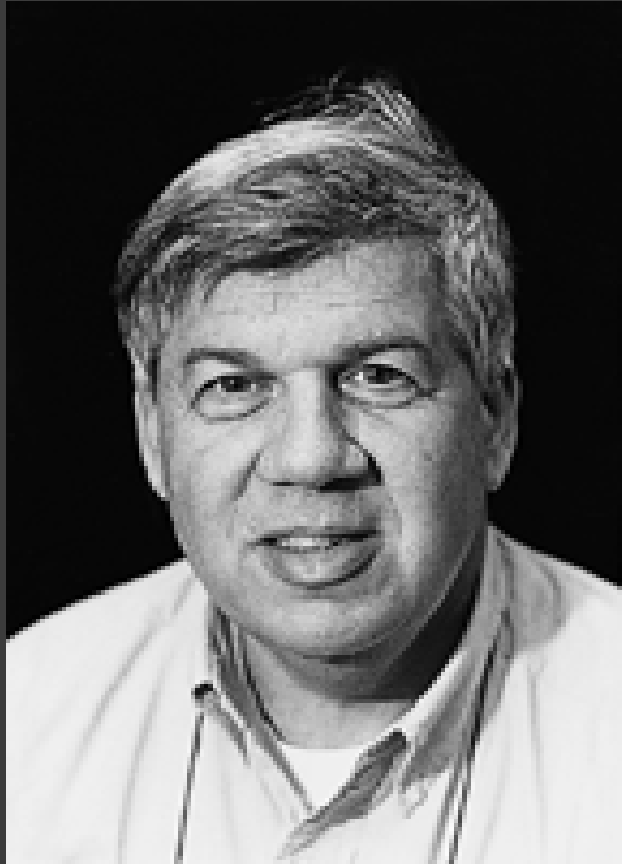


Harvard University

“The extreme rarity of transitional forms in the fossil record persists as the trade secret of paleontology. The evolutionary trees that adorn our textbooks have data only at the tips and nodes of their branches; the rest is inference, however reasonable not the evidence of fossils.”

(Harvard Paleontologist, Stephen J. Gould, Unshakable Foundations, 161)

Stephen J. Gould



Harvard University

New life forms “appear in the fossil record looking much like the same as when they disappear....a species does not gradually appear by the steady transformation of its ancestors; it appears all at once “fully formed.”
(*Unshakable Foundations*, 175)

Fossil Evidence

“Everything scientists know about human evolution is based on a *relatively small* number of fossilized bones.”
(July 11, 2002, *Washington Post*,)

Fossil Record Has Gotten Worse for Darwinism

“We are now one hundred and twenty years after Darwin and the knowledge of the fossil record has been greatly expanded. We now have a quarter of a million fossil species, but the situation hasn’t changed much....we have even fewer examples of evolutionary transition than we had in Darwin’s time.”

(David M. Raup, Curator of the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, 1979)

What Do Skeletal Remains Actually Teach Us?

- ◎ “To begin with, 99% of the biology of any organism resides in its soft anatomy, which is inaccessible in a fossil. . . . information about the soft biology of a fossil form is difficult to obtain from its skeletal remains.” (Microbiologist Michael Denton. *Evolution: A Theory In Crisis*, 286).
- ◎ Fossils do not give much information; e.g. certain dog and wolf skulls are almost identical but they are biologically very different. Paleontologist can interpret a human-like skull to be most anything they want it to be -- man or ape.

Darwinism Defeated by FIBS

Fossil record

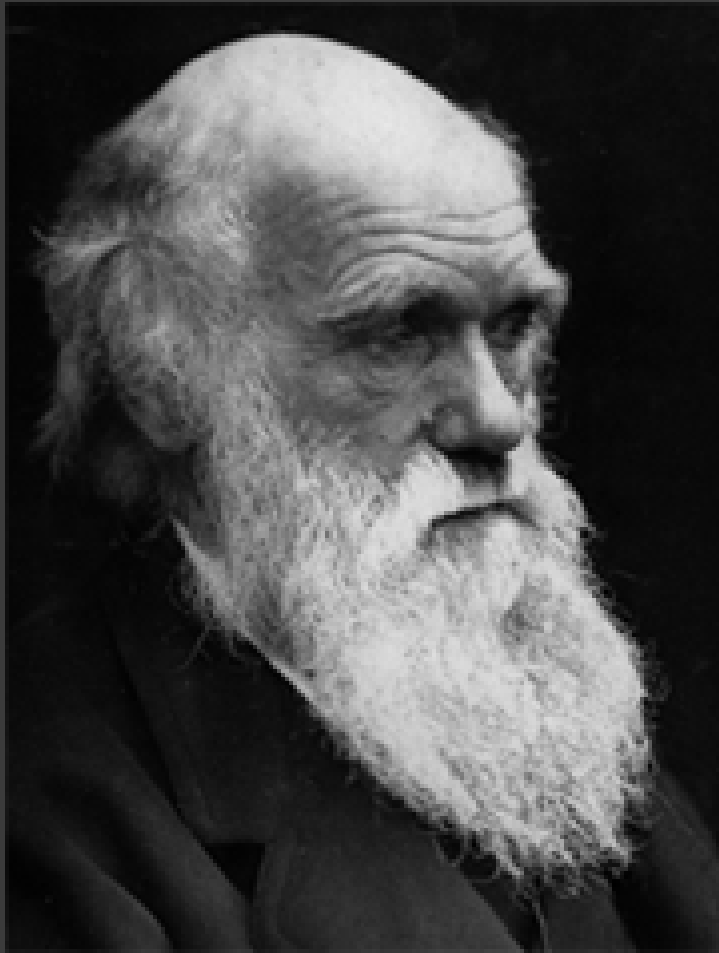
Irreducible complexity

Brain complexity

Sexual Reproduction

Darwin's Black Box

Irreducible Complexity



“If it can be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, then my theory would absolutely break down.”

(On The Origin of Species)

Darwinism Breaks Down At The Molecular Biological level

A system is irreducibly complex if it is composed of well-matched, interacting parts that contribute to the basic function, wherein removal of any of the parts causes the system to effectively cease functioning.

Michael J. Behe, Ph.D.



Lehigh University

Darwinism Defeated by FIBS

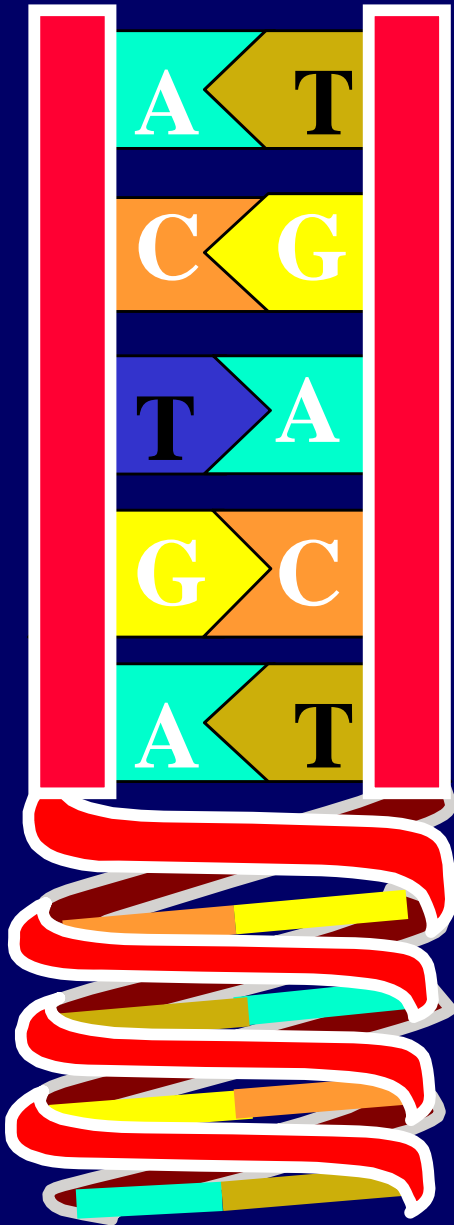
Fossil record

Irreducible complexity

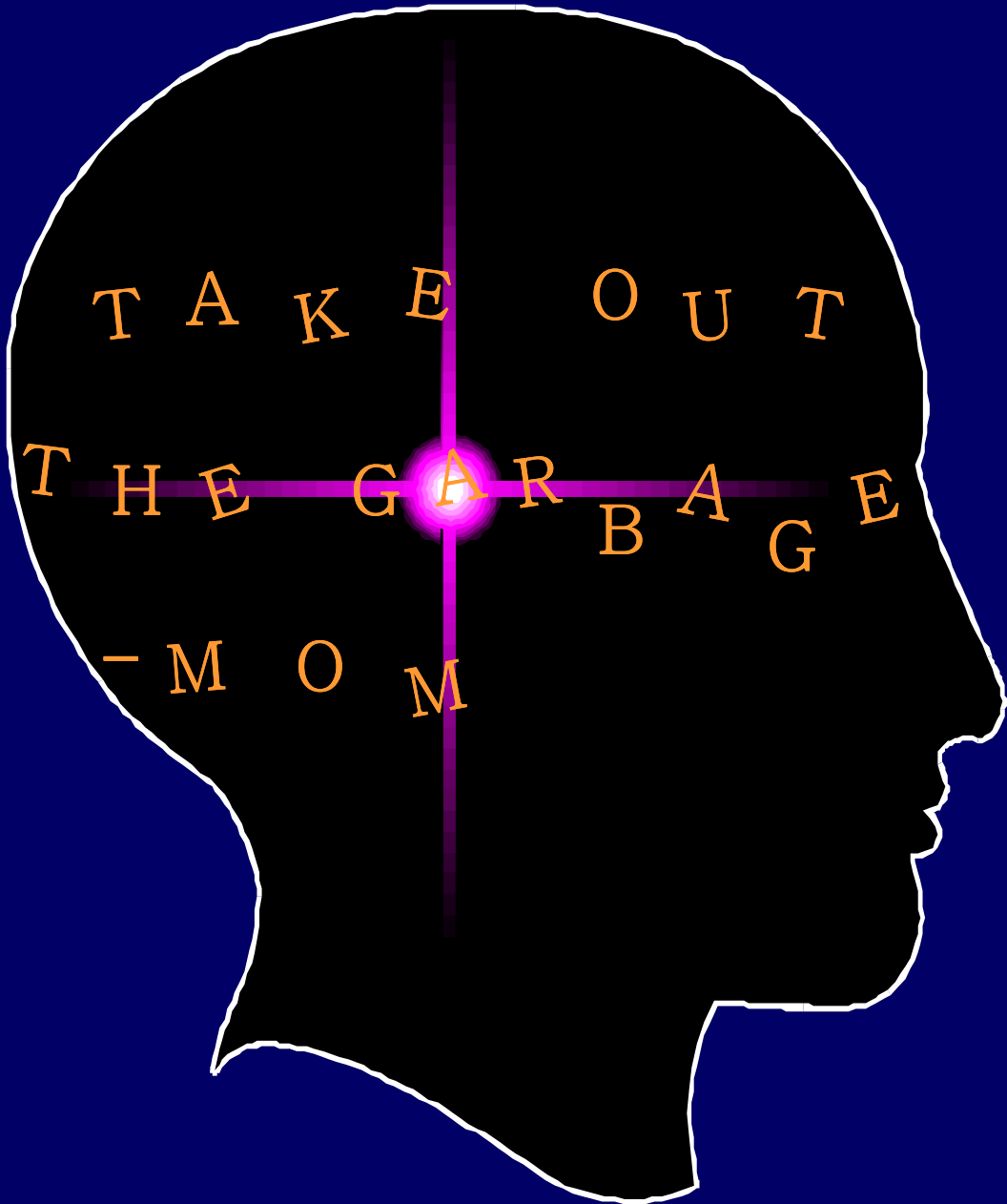
Brain complexity

Sexual Reproduction

Brain's DNA = Message



=



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Macro Evolutionists Cannot Explain

1. How something came from nothing (the origin of the universe)
2. How order arose from chaos (the design of the universe)
3. How life arose from non-life
4. How personality arose from non-personality
5. How intelligence arose from non-intelligence
6. How irreducibly complex biological systems could evolve gradually
7. The source of objective morality

Note: “Chance” is not a cause.

I can't help it, I'm only a primate!



If humans are not naturally moral and if they are genetically determined, how can they be held legally or morally responsible for their behavior?