

Reformed Apologetics

**-Evolution-
May 1, 2009**



Christian Perspective and Curriculum

- *Why* do we study science?
- *How* should we study science?
- Is *science* the answer?
- How is science *limited*?
- Can we study something we can't see?
- Is *evolution* science?

Christian Perspective and Curriculum

- Can we see evidence of *God's providence* and of *fallen world*?
- Are we biased? What does this mean?
- How does bias affect our methodology, our ethics, our treatment of the earth?
- Can there be a compromise?

Evolution as Science

- Why do we teach evolution?
 - Curriculum mandates it
 - To prepare our students to defend their faith
 - Help students realize that evolution is also a *faith*
 - Enhance critical thinking skills in a supportive environment
 - Point out strengths and weaknesses of evolution
 - “know thy enemy”
 - Make the core issues clear
 - Strengthen faith by testing
 - The “battle for the schools”

Evolution as Faith

- “evolution” is an ambiguous term...
 - change
 - Microevolution (variation within “kinds”)
 - Macroevolution (monkey to man)
- Evolution is a *faith*
 - The beginning: “God created the heavens and the earth”, or...
 - it always was;
 - Came from another planet (aliens)
 - The Big Bang
 - “magic”

Evolution as Faith

- "The more one studies paleontology, the more certain one becomes that evolution is based upon faith alone; exactly the same sort of faith which is necessary to have when one encounters the great mysteries of religion....The only alternative is the doctrine of special creation, which may be true, but irrational." (Dr. Louis T. More, professor of paleontology at Princeton University)
- "I choose to believe that there is no God, therefore I choose to believe in evolution, no matter how great the impossibility of it" (Richard Dawkins)

Evolution as fact

- Not a *new* theory- dates back to Greeks or earlier
- Makes a lot of sense, it is the *best (only) option without God*
- Is not proven, or “proofs” are misleading, incomplete or false
- Many evidences are the so-called “icons”

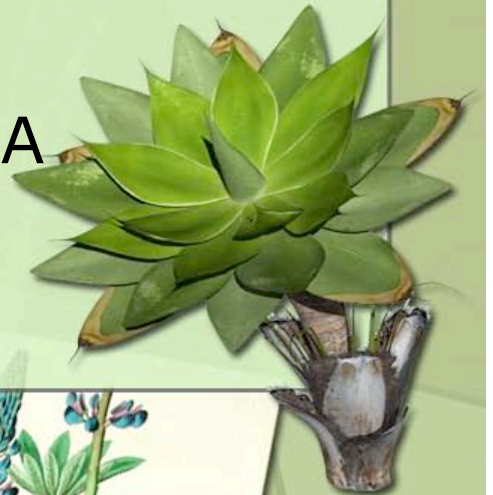
Icons of Evolution

- Natural selection / survival of the fittest
 - Can be observed in nature
 - Only works on genetic info *already present*
 - No *net* evolution (beak size in Darwin's finches)
- Fossils
 - Cambrian explosion
 - Anomalies; loss of diversity
 - Darwin's tree turned on its head



Icons of Evolution

- Mutations
 - Mechanisms for new information
 - Need to be beneficial or neutral
 - Only a few overused examples, all with major problems
 - Sickle-cell anemia
 - Bacterial resistance to antibiotics
 - 4-winged fruitfly
 - *Devolution* of creation, and our DNA



On Fossil Evidence

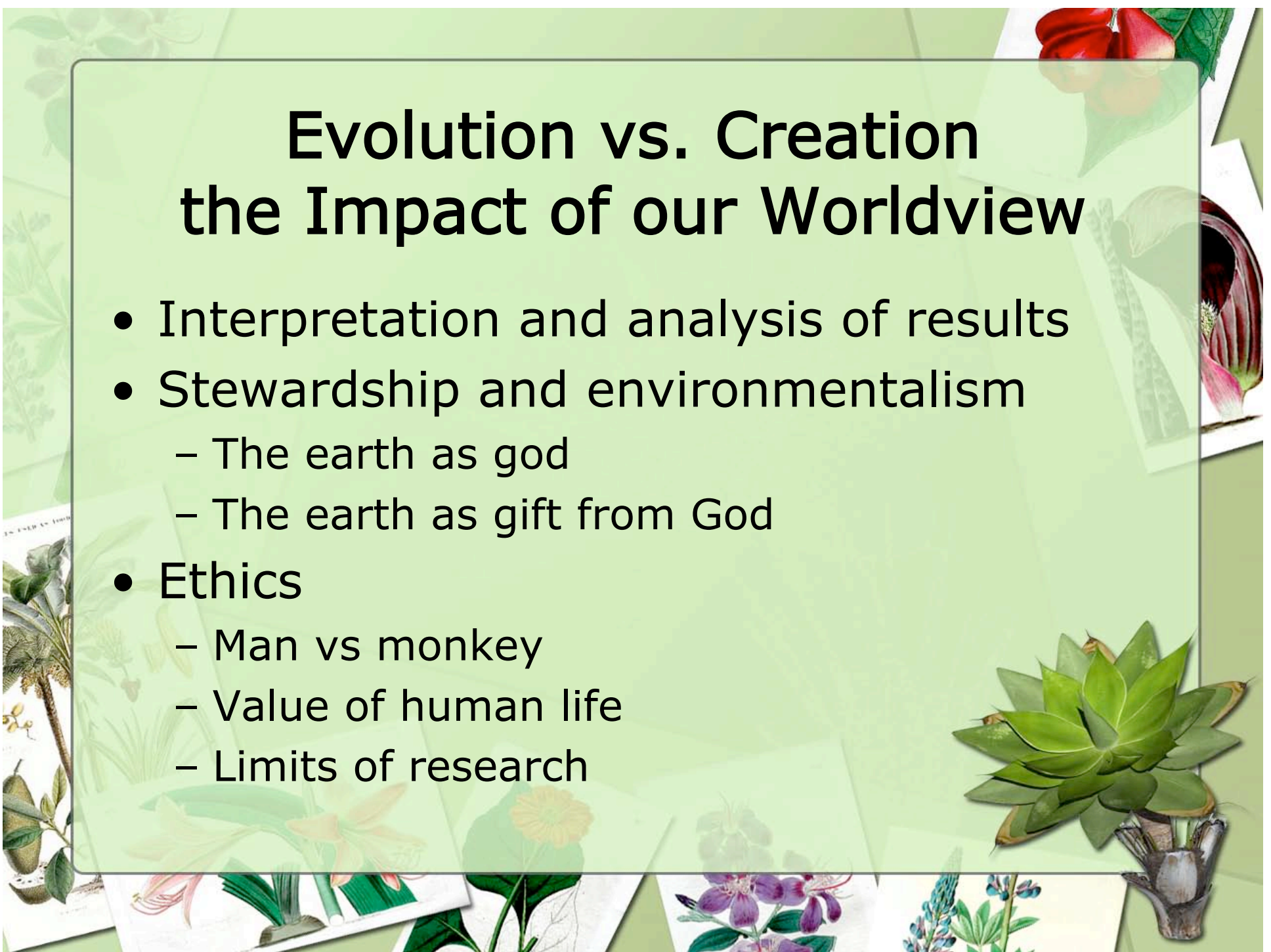
- "The extreme rarity of transitional forms in the fossil record persists as a trade secret of Paleontology. Evolutionary trees that adorn our textbooks have data only at the tips and nodes of their branches; the rest is inference, however reasonable, not the evidence of fossils."

(Dr. Stephan J Gould, Harvard Paleontologist, "Evolution, Erratic Pace")

Evolution vs. Creation

the Impact of our Worldview

- Interpretation and analysis of results
- Stewardship and environmentalism
 - The earth as god
 - The earth as gift from God
- Ethics
 - Man vs monkey
 - Value of human life
 - Limits of research



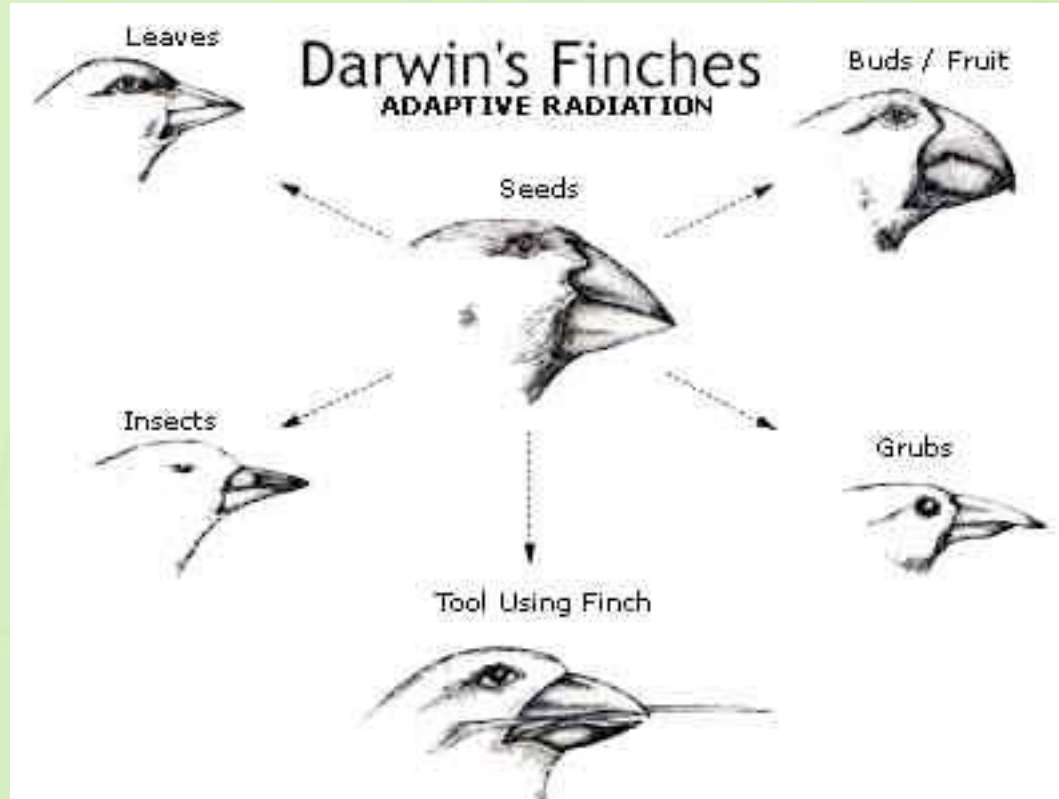
Evolution based Ethics

- "If nature does not wish that weaker individuals should mate with stronger, she wishes even less that a superior race should intermingle with an inferior one; because in such cases all her efforts, throughout hundreds of thousands of years, to establish an evolutionary higher stage of being, may thus be rendered futile"

(Adolph Hitler, "Mein Kampf" 1924)

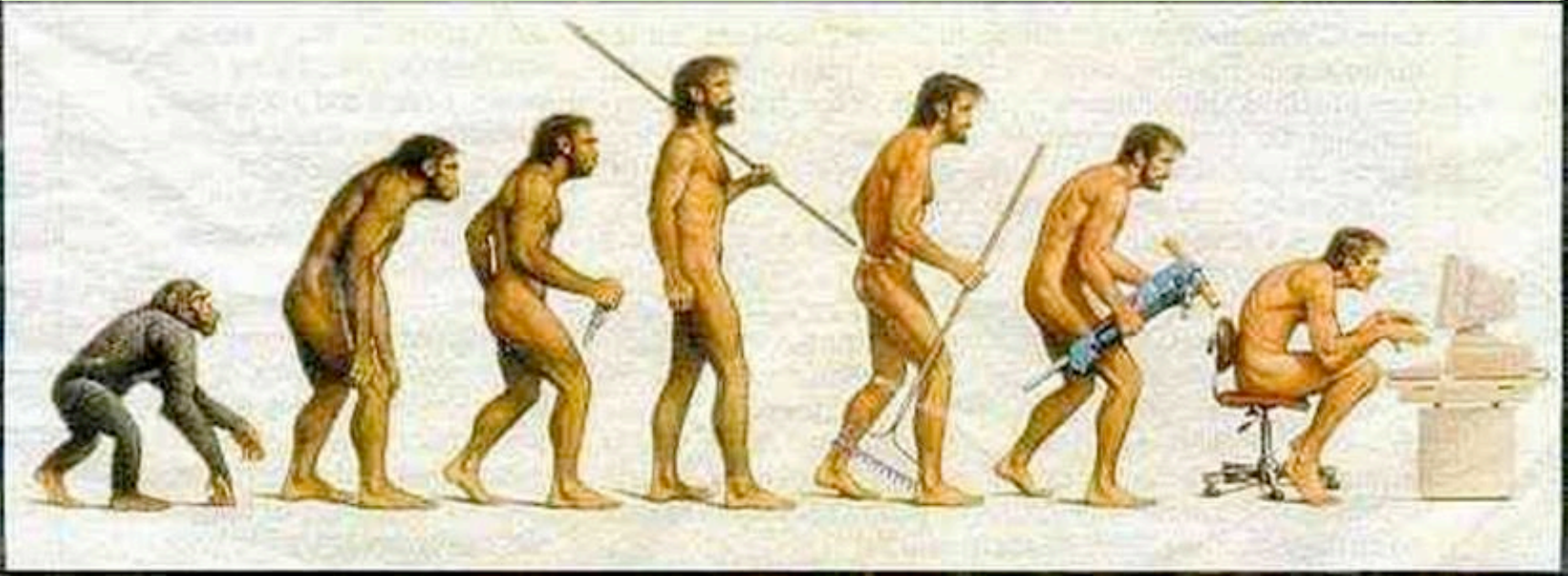


Microevolution



http://www.carsingtonbirdclub.org/cbc/HolidayReports/images/darwin_finches.jpg

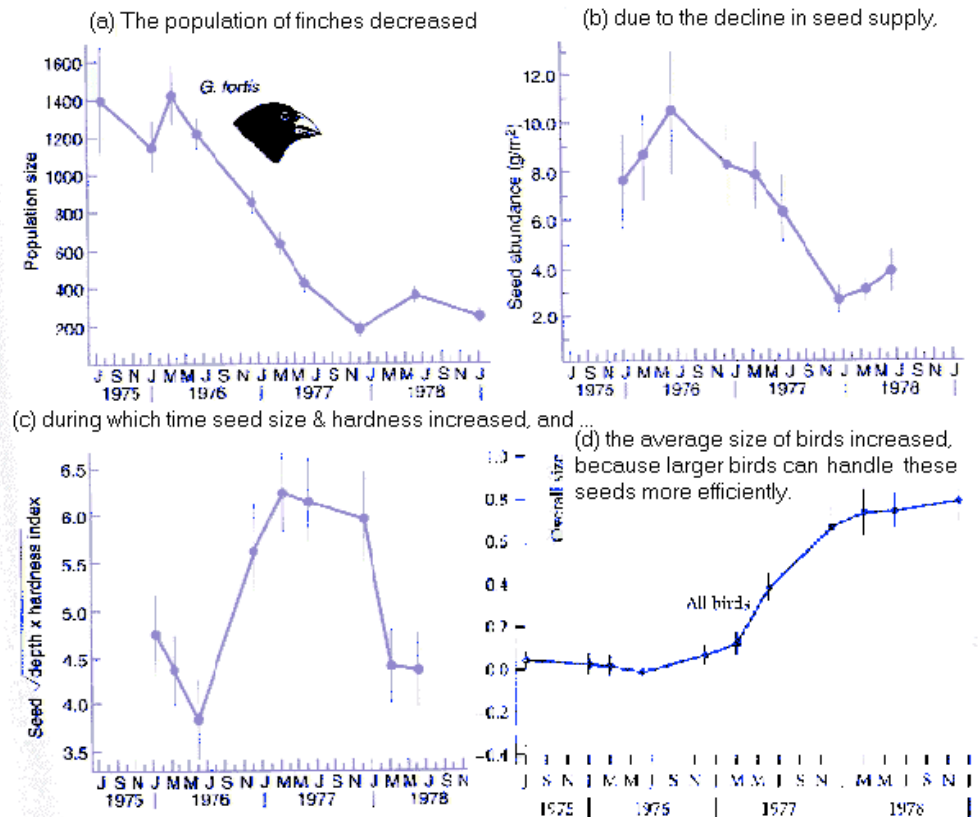
Macroevolution



<http://www.naute.com/images/evolutionofman.jpg>

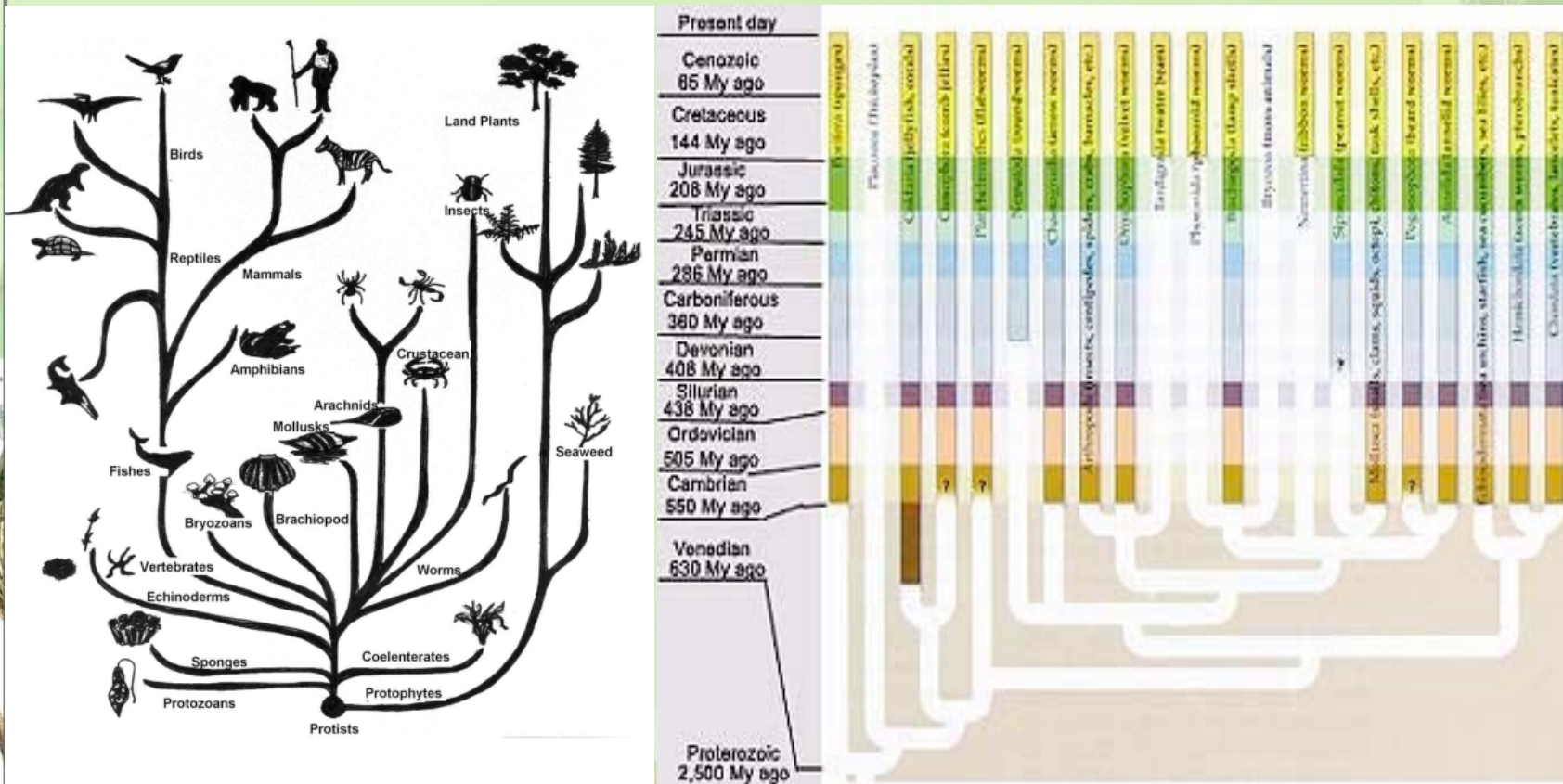
Natural selection

During a drought in 1976-78 on the Galapagos Archipelago, *Geospiza fortis* on the island of Daphne Major increased in size due to Natural Selection (adapted from Ridley 1996 & Futuyama 1997)



http://www.mun.ca/biology/scarr/Natural_Selection_on_Geospiza.jpg

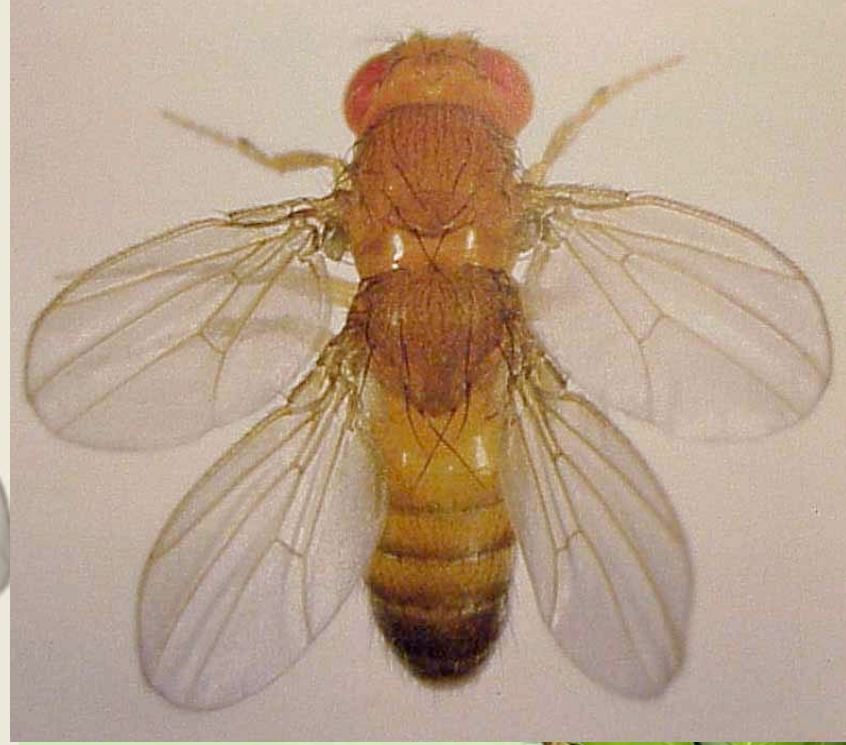
The Cambrian Explosion and Tree of Life



http://www.geocities.com/worldview_3/tree.o.life.jpg

http://www.harunyahya.com/images_books/images_in20questions/20question66.jpg

The 4-Winged Fruitfly



<http://www.tmd.ac.jp/artsci/biol/textlife/fruitfly.jpg>