

## Famous Scientists

### Charles Darwin

Charles Darwin is famous for his research in evolution. Evolution means that plants and animals change over time. He thought that all life began as one kind of creature. Over time, that creature evolved into all of the animals we know today.

In the 1850's, when Darwin published his work, people weren't ready for his ideas about evolution. They thought that evolution went against the Bible. The idea that people evolved from animals doesn't match the Bible's story of Creation.

Maybe you've heard terms like natural selection or survival of the fittest. These terms come from Charles Darwin. "Natural selection" is when plants or animals survive over time. Nature chooses them for their strength. "Survival of the fittest" is close to natural selection. It means that the strongest plants and animals outlive the weaker ones.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Evolution is

- a. the study of plants.
- b. the study of vision.
- c. change that takes place over time.
- d. the study of the environment.

2. When did Darwin publish his work?

- a. 1600s
- b. 1750s
- c. last year
- d. the 1850s

3. Many people were not ready for Darwin's work because

- a. it was different from stories in the Bible.
- b. they did not understand his book.
- c. it was not well researched.
- d. All of the above.

4. According to the passage, **fittest** means

- a. angriest.
- b. strongest.
- c. most comfortable.
- d. meanest.

5. Based on the passage, it is likely that Darwin

- a. believed the Bible's story of Creation
- b. had to defend his work
- c. was popular with many people
- d. was not interested in nature

6. In the 1850's, a lot of people were very upset by ideas that were not consistent with those in the Bible. Based on this information, what might we conclude about people living at that time?

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7. What are the two terms Charles Darwin came up with to describe evolution?

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8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Darwin believed that animals changed over time due to evolution, \_\_\_\_\_ many other people at the time did not believe in natural selection.

- a. first
- b. so
- c. because
- d. even though

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

In the 1850's, people weren't ready for Darwin's ideas about evolution because they thought that evolution went against the Bible.

Who? people

(weren't) What? \_\_\_\_\_

When? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

10. **Vocabulary Word:** selection: choice.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

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