Understanding Evolution

your one-stop source for information on evolution

Welcome!

- **Get to know us:** take our site tour, find out what's new, or subscribe for updates.
- **Dive right in:** for basic information on how evolution works, start with Evolution 101.

Browse by topic:

What is evolution and how does it work?
Detailed explanations of the mechanisms of evolution and the history of life on Earth

Includes: Examples of evolution, Genetics, History of life on Earth, Macroevolution, Microevolution, Natural selection, Speciation ...

How does evolution impact my life?
The relevance of evolutionary theory to our everyday lives

Includes: Agriculture, Conservation, Medicine ...

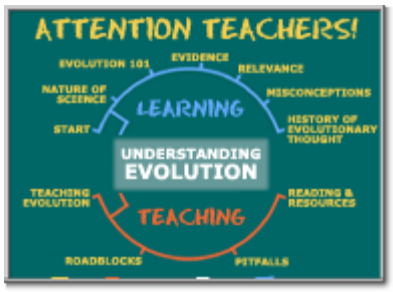
What is the evidence for evolution?
Multiple lines of scientific evidence relating to evolution

Includes: Homology and Analogy ...

What is the history of evolutionary theory?
The history of ideas, research, and contributors in the study of evolution

Looking for information on controversies in the public arena relating to evolution? See our frequently-asked questions.

Teaching evolution:



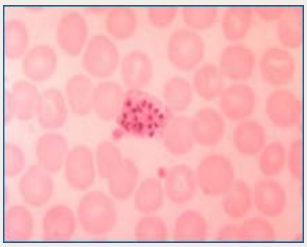
Explore the ultimate evolution resource for K-16 teachers, including:

- lesson plans
- conceptual framework

...and more.

Teachers click here >>

Evo in the news:



Ghosts of epidemics past - *October 2008*
Diseases that pose global health threats — like HIV, malaria, and tuberculosis — regularly make the news. Last month, for example, saw reports that HIV infection rates in the US are up, that malaria statistics worldwide are down, and that the distribution of medicines to treat the three diseases had improved. Diseases with such epidemic proportions tend to make us focus on the near future: Regardless of how we wound up in this situation, what can we do now to prevent future infections and deaths?

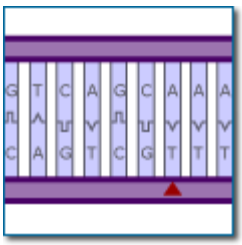
Read the whole story to see the evolution connection >>

Highlights:

How to survive a mass extinction: The work of David Jablonski
David Jablonski researches how patterns of evolution relate to mass extinctions. Why are some species doomed while others survive?

Phylogenetic systematics, a.k.a. evolutionary trees
All life on Earth is united by evolutionary history; we are all evolutionary cousins — twigs on the tree of life. Phylogenetic systematics is the formal name for the field within biology that reconstructs evolutionary history and studies the patterns of relationships among organisms.

Using trees to understand plants: The work of Chelsea Specht
This research profile examines how the scientist Chelsea Specht studies plant evolution in order to understand the basis of diversity.



DNA and mutations
Mutations are the ultimate source of genetic variation and are therefore, essential to evolution. Learn more about the causes, effects, and types of mutations, as well as their role in evolution.

This site was created by the University of California Museum of Paleontology with support provided by the National Science Foundation (grant no. 0096613) and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (grant no. 51003439).