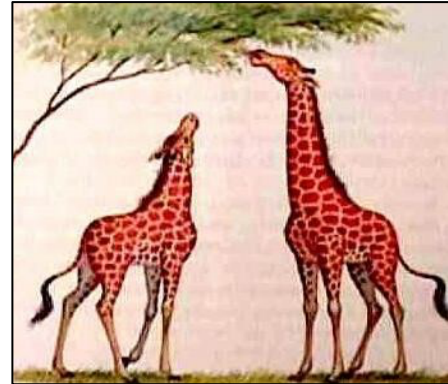


Lesson 6: STORIES OF RANDOM CHANGE – THE GIRAFFE

1. Evolution Explanation #1: **PROGRESS THROUGH USE**

Before Darwin, scientists thought that the giraffe kept stretching her neck to reach the leaves. This long neck passed on to her babies.

2. Evolution Explanation #2: **NATURAL SELECTION** Some giraffes have long, short or medium necks. The ones with long necks survive better because they can reach more leaves. This is called “**Survival of the fittest.**” So, **Nature selects** the best giraffes to live better and longer and to have more babies. Eventually all giraffes have long necks.



3. Evolution Explanation #3: **MUTATIONS**

A slight mistake (gene mutation) happened before the giraffe was born. So, the baby giraffe was a little different. These little **accidental** changes helped him to survive better. In later generations, many more small changes happened randomly. After many generations, these small changes added up. So, the giraffe ended up with a long neck. She had babies that also had long necks. **Small changes added up** over millions of years and slowly caused Evolution.

4. Evolution Explanation #4: **“PUNCTUATED EQUILIBRIUM”**



A strange thing happened to cause **one** giraffe to have a **very different** baby. (Before it was born, it had *many* mutations.) It was like a monster giraffe. This caused **great changes** to happen quickly. *(A simple explanation.)*

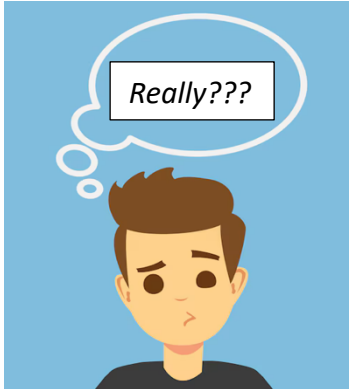
Harvard’s Stephen Gould said there is “No support for *gradual* change.” He said, “Macro-Evolution proceeds by the rare success of these **hopeful monsters**, not by continuous small changes within populations.” **“Could a bird, for example, hatch from a reptile’s egg?”**

Natural History, June-July 1977 Discover Magazine, May-June 1981

Evolutionists have offered so many explanations, but each attempt is lacking – based on speculation, not evidence! Yet, many scientists believe in Evolution because

Activity: Look at children’s books on Evolution

To see how some in our culture have a strong desire to convince kids.



**Are these Evolution stories *really* based on evidence?
Or just speculation?**

PROBLEMS WITH THE GIRAFFE EVOLUTION STORY:

(Although this article is a long read – it is a good lesson.

We will summarize it in class.)

1. “Even without growing taller, the giraffe ancestor could have competed on even terms for those lower leaves.”
2. “Male giraffes today are up to one meter taller than female giraffes; newborn and young giraffes are much smaller.”... If this evolution story were true, “the males that could have reached the higher branches. The females and young animals would have died, and the species would have gone extinct.”
3. In the study of feeding habits, “Male giraffes fed nearly half of the time ... in the “classical” long-necked giraffe posture. In stark contrast, females fed around 70% of the time at belly height or below, which the theory demands they should not be doing.”
4. “A variety of other studies show that giraffe feeding habits vary according to place and time. Giraffes move seasonally, and in the dry season in East Africa they ... feed from bushes at or below shoulder height. ... During the rainy season, when there is abundant [food] at all levels, giraffes are more likely to feed from the higher branches, browsing fresh, protein-rich leaves. Other studies also show that giraffes do most of their feeding at about shoulder height, with their necks positioned nearly horizontally. So, it looks as though giraffes are not using their long necks the way the theory demands.”
5. “There are other ways to reach the high foliage of trees. Goats, for example, are known to climb into trees and eat foliage ... The long-necked antelope, often stands on its hind limbs and [eats], reaching heights of two meters and more. The much larger and heavier elephant even stands sometimes on its back legs and extends its trunk to reach high limbs — but no one thinks that the elephant developed its trunk as a result of selection pressures to reach higher food.
6. The idea that giraffes developed longer legs and necks to reach higher food seems plausible, even compelling, as long as we do not (1) think the idea through in all its implications and (2) take into account essential observations of giraffe behavior and ecology. In the end, the idea is neither logically compelling nor based on fact.”

<https://www.natureinstitute.org/article/craig-holdrege/the-giraffes-short-neck>

Note: this article was written by an Evolutionist. He still tries to find an explanation for the giraffe’s long neck and legs – rather than see evidence of a Designer.

THE GIRAFFE: DESIGNED OR EVOLVED?

Watch this video:

“Wonders of Creation: Giraffes” by World Video Bible School

<https://youtu.be/XB1XWV7VtA?si=BQvq2ktACvw61uOT>



Did you know that the giraffe would blow his brains out every time it bent its head down to get a drink of water without some specific mechanisms to take care of that problem?

A bull giraffe is about 18 feet tall. His heart is about 2 ½ feet long so he can pump the blood into his brain. Whenever a giraffe begins to bend down to get a drink, that last pump of blood is on its way to the brain. It has enough power to literally blow the giraffe’s brains out when he gets his head down. But it doesn’t happen. Why?

When he begins to bend his head down, some valves in the arteries in his neck begin to close. That last pump of blood is already beyond the last valve. But it doesn’t go into the brain. It goes in under the brain into a small sponge-like set of blood vessels that gradually swell up.

What happens when he stands up? Does he suddenly pass out from lack of oxygen? No. As the giraffe begins to move his head up, those valves in the neck open. Some of the valves in the veins in the neck begin to close. The sponge underneath the brain with that last little pump of oxygenated blood squeezes gently up into the giraffe’s brain. So, the giraffe’s brain has fully oxygenated blood whether he is down drinking or standing up or trying to get up. He is able to function perfectly in any position.

If the giraffe evolved his long neck, what happened to the first giraffe that discovered that his heart was too big? When he bent down to get a drink he would have blown his brains out.

After that he would have thought, “I need to evolve something to protect my brain.” Right? No, he’s dead. He wouldn’t be around long enough to evolve to the next step.

If a short-necked animal had this long-necked baby, think of all the changes that would have to occur by accident!

**GIRAFFE: DESIGNED OR EVOLVED...
WHICH IS MORE REASONABLE TO BELIEVE?**