

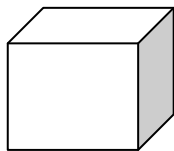
O u t l i n e
Lesson 5 - Science: What is True?

Part 1

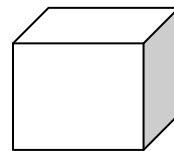
I. Introduction

- A. Psalm 19:1-4 – “The heavens declare the Glory of God” – General Revelation
Special Revelation – is God’s Word
- B. Romans 1:18-20 – “God has made it plain to them...”
- C. Only two possibilities: the cosmos has always existed or the cosmos had a beginning – either one poses a serious problem for those who deny a Creator

II. Design (cosmos had a beginning) vs. Randomness (cosmos is eternal)



← God acts on
the box



Everything is in
the box

- A. Earliest scientists were convinced that the universe bore evidence of design
- B. Scrabble Example – Where does the organized information in the genetic code come from?
- C. Wald- “Time is the hero of the plot ... what we regard as impossible on the basis of human experience is meaningless here. Given so much time, the impossible becomes possible.”

III. Examining Darwin’s Theory

- A. Hypothesis → theory → law – data must confirm investigation of truth claims (reality)

- B. Darwinian Evolution taught as “Fact” – Does his theory match reality?
Don't be afraid to examine how you view reality & how it compares to science's view of reality.
- C. Paley's Argument – Anyone who looks at a pocket watch understands that it was designed with intelligent purpose
- D. Ignoring the obvious – Francis Crick: You've got to keep in mind that all of this was not designed

Part 2

IV. Testing Carl Sagan's Statement – “Evolution is a fact amply demonstrated by the fossil record and contemporary molecular biology.”

- A. Contemporary Molecular Biology – testing Darwin's statement that his theory would absolutely break down if it could be demonstrated that a complex organism could not come into existence without numerous, successive slight modifications.
 1. In the 19th century, the cell was viewed as a simple glob of plasma, a black box; today, micro technology reveals a cell filled with exquisite machinery.
 2. Irreducible complexity – The cell cannot exist if one component of the machinery is missing – Examples: mouse trap and the flagellum motor.
 3. It is in the realm of molecular genetics where we see the most compelling evidence of design on earth – evolution fails Darwin's test.
- B. The fossil record – testing Darwin's statement that if one can't find all of the fine, graduated evolutionary steps in the fossil record, then one can rightly reject the theory
 1. If speciation requires many thousands of morphological changes, there should be some fossil evidence of those changes – Darwin agreed they weren't there, but only because we hadn't dug up enough fossils
 2. 120 years after Darwin's time we have a lot more fossil evidence than he did, but we have even less support for his evolutionary theories

3. Theory of punctuated equilibrium – offered by evolutionist Gould because of the lack of evidence in the fossil record; purports immediate speciation to account for the missing links
4. Icons of Evolution – used for years as “proof” of evolution – all are inaccurate and outdated
5. Theory of directed panspermia – purports that the first living cell was sent to earth from another planet – offered by Crick because evidence was overwhelmingly against spontaneous generation
6. Evolution again fails Darwin’s own test

V. Conclusion

- A. Lovtrup: “I believe that one day the Darwinian myth will be ranked the greatest deceit in the history of science”
- B. This is a worldview battle – a battle that is much deeper than a scientific theory - Evolution destroys any foundation for a standard of ethics or morality – man has exchanged the truth of God for a lie (evolution) so that he may be free to follow his inner desires

Richard Dawkins Perspective – “It is absolutely safe to say that if you meet somebody who claims no to believe in evolution that person is ignorant, stupid, or insane (or wicked, but I’d rather not consider that)”

K e y T e r m s

Lesson 5 – Science: What is True?

Charles Darwin (1809-1882): British naturalist who proposed the theory of evolution through natural selection in his book *The Origin of Species* (1859). This book, and Darwin's theories, have had massive ideological and philosophical effects on our world and humanity.

Darwinian Evolution/Darwinism: A specific area of evolutionary biology involving natural selection proposed by Charles Darwin.

Directed Panspermia: Theory that suggests that highly-evolved life forms sent microorganisms or biochemical compounds from outer space to earth. Francis Crick developed this hypothesis to explain life on earth.

Fossil Record: The fossilized remains of plants and animals that provide the evidential means to understand when those organisms were alive, where they lived, and what they looked like.

Francis Crick (1916-2004): Co-discoverer of DNA who rejected the evidence of design. During the 1960s he became concerned with the origins of the genetic code and in the early 1970s proposed the theory of Directed Panspermia.

Great Cosmological Question: Where did the cosmos come from? The cosmos either had a beginning or has always existed.

Hypothesis: Very early assumption made on the basis of limited evidence used as a starting point for further investigation.

Intelligent Design: Scientific theory that nature and complex biological structures were intelligently designed and, as such, are not the result of chance. Proponents of intelligent design argue that there is empirical evidence that is subject to scientific investigation that complex biological systems and the information bearing properties of DNA could not have been created by natural selection.

Irreducible Complexity: A complex system that could not function if it were any simpler, and therefore could not possibly have been formed by successive additions to a precursor system with the same functionality. An analogy often given in support of irreducible complexity is the mousetrap.

The following definition is from the Discovery Institute

Discovery Institute, Center for Science and Culture <http://www.discovery.org/csc/>

Definition of Intelligent Design

What is intelligent design?

Intelligent design refers to a scientific research program as well as a community of scientists, philosophers and other scholars who seek evidence of design in nature. The theory of intelligent design holds that certain features of the universe and of living things are best explained by an intelligent cause, not an undirected process such as natural selection. Through the study and analysis of a system's components, a design theorist is able to determine whether various natural structures are the product of chance, natural law, intelligent design, or some combination thereof. Such research by observing the types of information produced when intelligent agents act. Scientists then seek to find objects which have those same types of informational properties which we commonly know come from intelligence. Intelligent design has applied these scientific methods to detect design in irreducibly complex biological structures, the complex and specified information content in DNA, the life-sustaining physical architecture of the universe, and the geologically rapid origin of biological diversity in the fossil record during the Cambrian explosion approximately 530 million years ago.

See New World Encyclopedia entry on intelligent design.

(http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Intelligent_design)

Is intelligent design the same as creationism?

No. The theory of intelligent design is simply an effort to empirically detect whether the "apparent design" in nature acknowledged by virtually all biologists is genuine design (the product of an intelligent cause) or is simply the product of an undirected process such as natural selection acting on random variations. Creationism typically starts with a religious text and tries to see how the findings of science can be reconciled to it. Intelligent design starts with the empirical evidence of nature and seeks to ascertain what inferences can be drawn from that evidence. Unlike creationism, the scientific theory of intelligent design does not claim that modern biology can identify whether the intelligent cause detected through science is supernatural.

Honest critics of intelligent design acknowledge the difference between intelligent design and creationism. University of Wisconsin historian of science Ronald Numbers is critical of intelligent design, yet according to the Associated Press, he "agrees the creationist label is inaccurate when it comes to the ID [intelligent design] movement." Why, then, do some Darwinists keep trying to conflate intelligent design with creationism? According to Dr. Numbers, it is because they think such claims are "the easiest way to discredit intelligent design." In other words, the charge that intelligent design is "creationism" is a rhetorical strategy on the part of Darwinists who wish to delegitimize design theory without actually addressing the merits of its case.

Is intelligent design a scientific theory?

Yes. The scientific method is commonly described as a four-step process involving observations, hypothesis, experiments, and conclusion. Intelligent design begins with the observation that intelligent agents produce complex and specified information (CSI). Design theorists hypothesize that if a natural object was designed, it will contain high levels of CSI. Scientists then perform experimental tests upon natural objects to determine if they contain complex and specified information. One easily testable form of CSI is irreducible complexity, which can be discovered by experimentally reverse-engineering biological structures to see if they require all of their parts to function. When ID researchers find irreducible complexity in biology, they conclude that such structures were designed.