

Evolution and waterfalls

Evolution

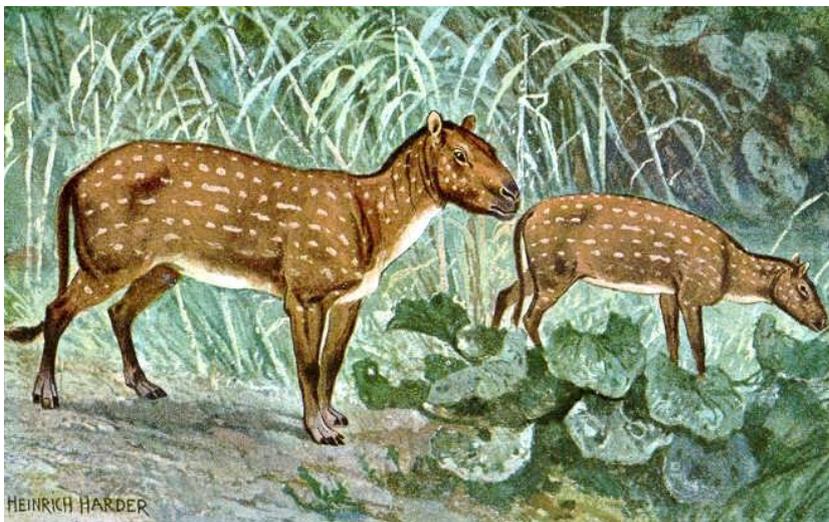
Evolution is the idea that animals and plants have changed over many millions of years.

It was first described by Charles Darwin about 160 years ago [that was when your great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandparents were alive – and don't say you didn't, we all had great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandparents!]

Way, way back in time, life began with very simple little animals and plants in pools of water.

Now, we have huge elephants that live in hot jungles, little feathered penguins that live on freezing ice at the South Pole, birds and bats that fly through the air, lizards that live in deserts, snakes, fish – so many different animals. All different, and because they are different, they can live in different places.

The animals which were on the Earth long ago have changed to become the animals we have at the moment. The horses we have today came from animals which were not bigger than dogs.



[Author: Heinrich Harder (1858-1935). Public domain.
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hyracotherium_Eohippus_hharder.jpg]

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Horses are now much bigger. Look at the foot of the animal in the picture, you will see three or four toes. Look at the end of a horse's leg and you see a 'hoof'.

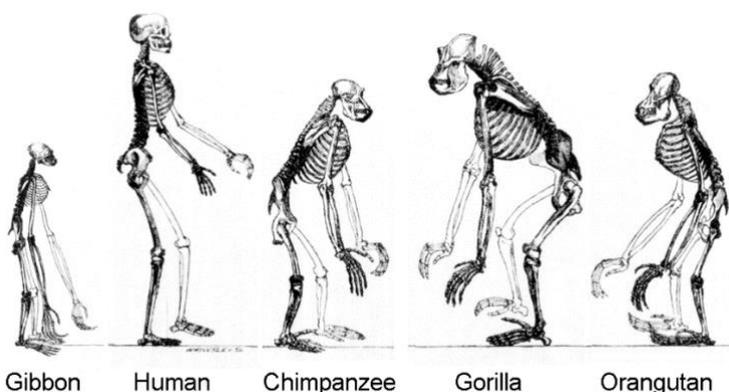


A hoof is a single toe. So, way back, the animals which evolved into our horses, had three or four toes on each foot – but, now, horses have only one main toe of each leg. So, animals evolve, or change over time.

The rabbits that most of us know are grey or even brown. But, where there is a lot of snow, the rabbits are white. [If they are white they cannot be seen and chased so easily by bigger animals that want to eat them]

Human evolution

Some people disagree with the idea of evolution when it is applied to man/humans.



[Author: The original uploader was TimVickers at English Wikipedia
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ape_skeletons.png]

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Humans are members of the family of animals called ‘primates’ – others in this group include chimpanzees, gorillas and orangutan.

Evolution does NOT say that humans evolved from chimpanzees, gorillas or orangutans. Evolution DOES say that all the members of this family are related.

Dad: Why are you crying?

Son: Because I wanted to get a dinosaur for my baby sister.

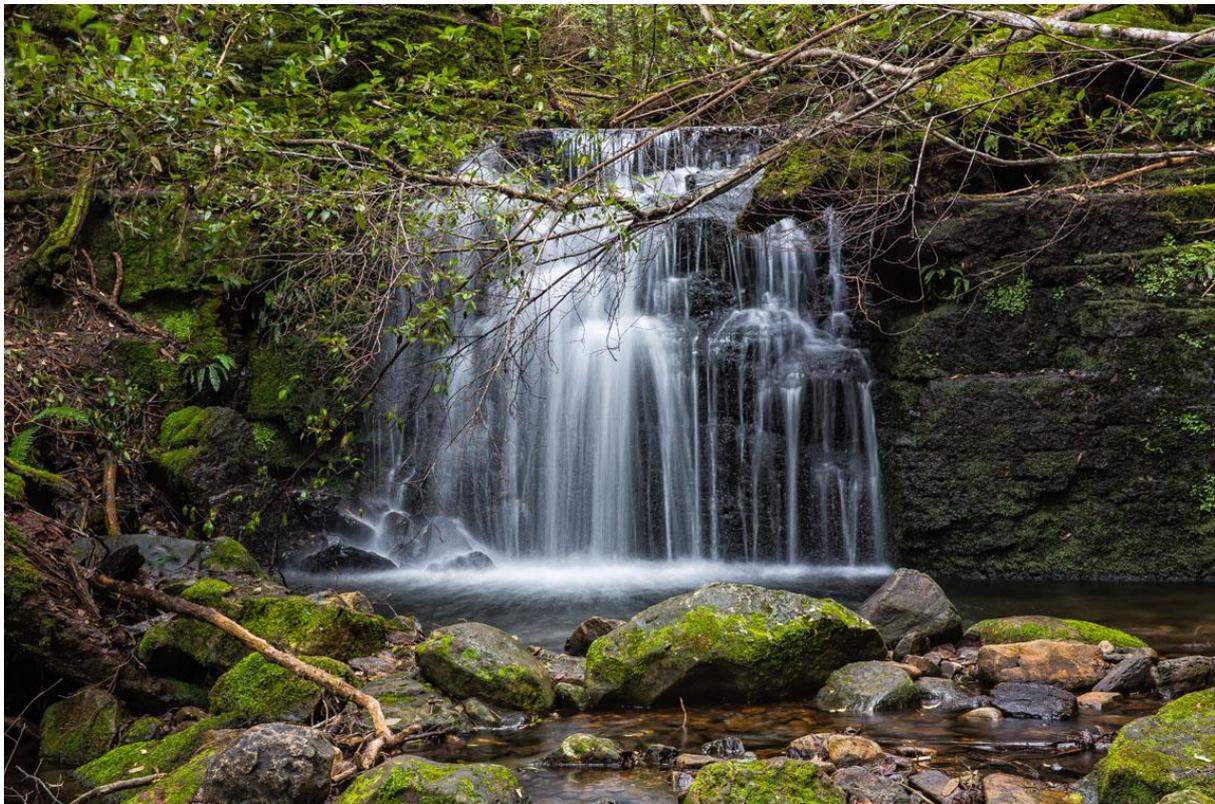
Dad: That's no reason to cry.

Son: Yes, it is. No one would trade me!

Q: How can you tell there's a stegosaurus in your refrigerator?

A: The door won't close!

Waterfalls [because of gravity]



This is the Strickland Avenue Falls which is also close to Hobart, Australia. Because we don't have high mountains we don't have high waterfalls.

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Now, Venezuela is a different matter.



This is Angel Falls in Venezuela – you can hardly see the falls from here.



Angel Falls is nearly one kilometre high. Near the bottom most of the water turns into spray because it is blown sideways by the wind. But, then it comes back to form a stream again.



The United States of America is where Donald Duck, Mickey Mouse and President Trump come from. It is also where all the people who have gone to the Moon have come from.

If you drop something, you know where to look for it. On the ground. The thing is, the Earth is like a big magnet and it pulls everything to it. This is called gravity. But, what if we didn't have gravity?! If you dropped something then, and you were inside, it would probably float up to the ceiling. But, it wouldn't be hard to get, because you would be able to float up to the ceiling, yourself.

Worse still, we wouldn't have any air to breathe, because it would have floated away into space. So, the next time you fall over and say a naughty word, be grateful for gravity and that you fell DOWN – if it wasn't for gravity you would have fallen UP and been floating past [My Very Empty Mouse] Mercury or Venus or Mars right now!

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Beets

Beets who?

Beets me.