

# Timeline of Evolution, Education & American Society



Information from <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/evolution/religion/revolution/> and <http://www.ncseweb.org/resources/articles/>

1635	First public school in MA is religious, Puritan
1650	Bishop Ussher pinpoints Creation at 4004 B.C.
1660	Microscope shows cells, rejects then common view of "spontaneous generation"
1735	Linnaeus's <i>Systema Naturae</i> details and organizes the diversity of life
1749	Comte de Buffon's <i>Natural History</i> proposes ideas of evolution and common ancestry of all life
1794	Erasmus Darwin's <i>Zoonomia</i> (rhymed couplets) praises evolution
1802	Archdeacon William Paley's <i>Natural Theology</i> views God design through nature
1809	Jean-Baptiste Lamarck champions evolution, proposes mechanism of acquired traits
1809	Charles Darwin born
1817	Cuvier sees catastrophes and changes in life in fossil record; however rejects evolution
1830	Charles Lyell's <i>Principles of Geology</i> describes immense age of Earth
1831-36	Exploratory voyage on the HMS Beagle transforms Darwin's thinking
1844	Pro-evolution <i>Vestiges on the natural history of creation</i> (anonymous) creates uproar
c. 1846	Lord Kelvin calculates the age of Earth as 100 my
1858	Wallace co-discovers evolution by natural selection; provokes Darwin to publish
1859	Darwin's <i>On the Origin of Species</i> spurs a scientific revolution
1865	Mendel's breakthroughs on heredity and genes go unnoticed
1871	Theologian Charles Hodge's <i>What Is Darwinism</i> connects evolution to atheism
1871	Darwin explores human evolution in <i>The Descent of Man</i>
c. 1880	Defense of theistic evolution by Christian scientists such as Asa Gray
c. 1880-1920	Social Darwinism stirs public sentiment against evolution
c. 1896	Analysis of radioactive decay points to an ancient Earth, more than 4.3 by
c. 1900	Mendel's laws of heredity rediscovered and incorporated into evolutionary biology
c. 1900-20	Public high schools spread through the U.S.; evolution in education becomes a major social issue
1905-15	<i>The Fundamentals</i> (Protestant) suggests that creation story metaphor is compatible with evolution
1909	Scofield Reference Bible interprets Genesis; "gap theory" of evolution allows million year passage of time in between "days" of creation story
c. 1913	Flood geology (of Seventh-day Adventist George Price) has small following
1914-18	WWI spurs anti-evolution crusade; Germans connected to evolutionary biology

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1915	Bible reading required in public schools; 10 bible verses per day required in TN
1919	Conservative Christians flock to large conference, WCFA; unite against evolution
1920	William Jennings Bryan (lawyer, politician) launches crusade against evolution education
1923	First anti-evolution bills passed in 6 southern states, sponsored by Bryan and others
1925-67	TN law bans teaching human evolution in school
1925	Scopes trial in Dayton TN brings controversy to attention of Americans
1925-30	Anti-evolution bills spread, especially in southern states
c. 1925-60	Biology textbooks censored; evolution dropped from public schools throughout U.S.
c. 1940	The "Modern Evolutionary Synthesis" adds new facts to Darwin's theory
c. 1945	DDT resistance is evidence of rapid evolution
1947-48	Supreme Court bans religion in public schools based on the First Amendment
1950	Pope Pius XII sees way to accept evolution by distinction between human body and soul
1953	DNA structure solved
1957	Sputnik casues push for science education; NSF sponsors accurate science textbooks; evolution taught again in public schools
1961	<i>Genesis Flood (Henry Morris &amp; John Whitcomb) spawns young-Earth creationism</i>
1962-63	Supreme Court bans prayer in school
c. 1967	Human and ape DNA shows that African apes & humans more closely related than African apes & orangutans
1968	Supreme Court strikes down state law against evolution education
1970-80	"Creation science" movement spreads nationwide
c. 1975	Sociobiology explores evolutionary origins of behavior
1981	Creationists lobby for "equal time" in public education bills
c. 1980-90	Creationism spreads worldwide
1987	<i>Edwards vs. Anguillard- Supreme Court bans "creation science" in schools</i>
c. 1990	Intelligent Design (ID) movement gains ground in U.S.
1994-95	First proposals for textbook disclaimers against evolution
1996	Michael Behe's <i>Darwin's Black Box</i> brings converts and critics to ID
1996	Pope John Paul II endorses evolution
1997	<i>Freiler v. Tangipahoa- district court rules against anti-evolution disclaimers in schools</i>
2001	Human genome sequencing reveals that humans share > 98 % of genes with chimpanzees, and have genes in common with fruit flies and yeast
2001	Gallup poll shows majority of Americans choose "creationism" over "evolution" when asked about human origins
2005	<i>Selman v. Cobb County- district court rules against textbook disclaimer stickers</i>
2005	<i>Kitzmiller et al. vs. Dover- federal court rejects Intelligent Design in public schools</i>

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# EVOLUTION

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