

Origin Definitions

(taken from Paul McKinney, 2000)

Biblical Age of the Earth . The date of creation is derived mostly from summing up the time spans given in Scriptural genealogies.

Biblical Creationism . Supernatural creation of all things in six literal days by the God of the Bible.

Big Bang Theory . The evolutionary model of the origin of the universe that says that billions of years ago all the energy and matter in the universe was in the form of a super-dense, super-hot plasma ball (the %cosmic egg+) of sub-atomic particles and radiation which exploded in a %big bang+that gave rise to hydrogen and helium gases which then evolved into the universe as we know it today.

Catastrophism - There have been episodes in the past which occurred at rates, scales, and intensities far greater than those possible today, or which were of an entirely different nature than those of today.

Chance . The possibility or probability of something happening.

Day-Age Theory . see Progressive Creation.

Evolution - To develop gradually over time, through random chance, in an order of increasing complexity. Changes occurred through natural processes, including mutation, natural selection, and genetic recombination.

Evolutionary World View - The World view composed of evolutionary and uniformitarianism principles that advocate the development of life, death and the universe through natural, random, explainable causes still in effect today. This view has adopted the premise that there was never a world without sin and that there is no Holy, Just and Righteous God to whom one is accountable, therefore denying the purpose of the life and death of Jesus Christ.

Evolutionism - The application of evolutionary ideas in the public arena. Includes concepts such as social Darwinism, man is an animal, animal rights equivalent to human rights, low view of human life, etc.

First Law of Thermodynamics . Conservation of energy (neither created or destroyed).

Framework Hypothesis - The idea that the Bible, when it speaks of things historic or scientific, is to be understood in a theological sense only, assuming that God was involved, but not actually as recorded. Genesis is not to be taken as factual history. This view is very popular in many modern evangelical seminaries, and allows theologians to accept evolution fully.

Geologic Column . Hypothetical column of fossils, with ancient ones on the bottom, more recent on top. Does not exist in complete form in nature, except as a trend.

Macro-evolution - Large hypothetical changes which occur in an individual or in a population of organisms which produce an entirely new category or novel trait. These changes have never been observed to occur within living populations.

Micro-evolution - Small adaptations within a population of organisms which allow a certain trait to be expressed to a greater or lesser degree than before; variation within a given category. These are regularly observed to occur within living populations.

Mutations - Changes in the genetic material of an organism, potentially expressed in offspring. Many times a single mutation affects more than one trait. While some are neutral, many are lethal. No beneficial mutations have been observed.

Natural Selection - The process observed within populations of organisms which selects those traits best suited for a given environment. This conservation process tends to maintain the status quo, and never produces new genetic material.

Neo-Catastrophism . Natural catastrophes occurred in the past, which, while of great intensity and scale, were no different in character from processes possible today. These catastrophes were episodic, separated by long periods of uniformity.

New Age Thinking - The modern equivalent of ancient pantheism, melding evolution science with Eastern mysticism, espousing a one-world government, a combination of all religions, and evolutionism in society.

Paleoanthropology - Anthropology is the Greek word for "the study of man." + Paleo means "old." + Paleoanthropology is the study of fossil humans. The term replaces the older term human paleontology.

Progressive Creation - Also called the Day-Age Theory. The days of Genesis were long periods of time, roughly equivalent to the geologic ages. Each basic category of life was created by supernatural intervention at various times throughout the ages.

Punctuated Equilibrium - Macro-evolution on a rapid pace. Invoked to explain and allow for evolution in the absence of fossil transitional forms.

Random Mutation . A sudden departure from the parent type in one or more heritable characteristics, caused by a sudden change in a gene or chromosome.

Scientific Creationism - Each basic category of life appeared abruptly, without descending from an ancestor of a different sort. Much variation within a category is expected, but each possessed genetic limits to its variability, and thus exhibits stasis.

Second Law of Thermodynamics . Energy decay . in a closed system, everything breaks down.

Stasis - The tendency of types of organisms to remain unchanged over time, "static," or "stationary" with respect to evolutionary progress.

Theistic Evolution - Essentially the same as atheistic evolution in its relation to scientific data. God may have either started the evolution process, then left it to natural processes, or may have guided the evolution process.

Transitional Form . In the evolutionary model, a plant or animal change or evolves gradually into a different kind of plant or animal, passing through many intermediate or partway stages. For example, evolutionists believe the fins of fishes gradually changed into the feet and legs of amphibians. Something partway between a fish and an amphibian possessing part fins and part feet would be a transitional form.

Uniformitarianism - The fundamental principle or doctrine that states that natural causes which produce a given effect in the present (i.e. local floods) are the same processes, operating at the same rate as in the past. Phenomena and forces operating today can explain past events: "The present is the key to the past." + There have never been episodes occurring in the past of a dramatically different rate or character than processes possible today.