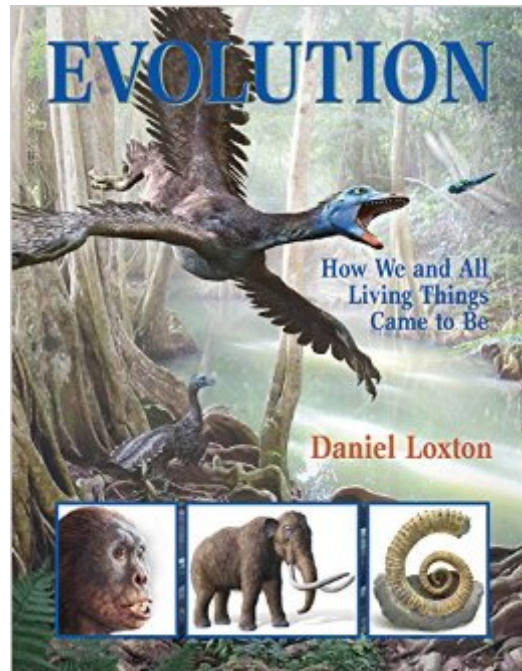


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# Evolution: How We And All Living Things Came To Be



## Synopsis

Evolution is the process that created the terrible teeth of Tyrannosaurus rex and the complex human brain, clever enough to understand the workings of nature. Young readers will learn how a British naturalist named Charles Darwin studied nature and developed his now-famous concepts of natural selection and survival of the fittest. And how modern-day science has added to our understanding of the theory of evolution. Can something as complex and wondrous as the natural world be explained by a simple theory? The answer is yes, and now Evolution explains how in a way that makes it easy to understand.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1060L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 56 pages

Publisher: Kids Can Press (February 1, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1554534305

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Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.5 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (59 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #121,897 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Fossils](#) #94 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Biology](#) #235 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dinosaurs](#)

Age Range: 8 - 13 years

Grade Level: 3 - 8

## Customer Reviews

Evolution by natural selection is not necessarily clear or intuitive. Evolution is not inherently obvious; it is a slow, complex process with many nuances. Whether stunted by a poor educational system or religious fundamentalists, it is a minor tragedy that one of the greatest scientific ideas in history remains the subject of dispute. That is why books like Loxton's Evolution are important. This book is aimed at children and teens who want a solid understanding of evolution's fundamentals. Loxton has a lot of ground to cover, and he begins by noting that different fossils are found in different geological strata--a fact that suggested to early researchers that many now-extinct animals had

once roamed the planet (and much longer ago than most people could imagine). Evolution goes on to touch on a wide variety of subjects related to evolution, from DNA to the alleged "living dinosaur" mokele-mbembe. Along the way, new concepts such as species and mutation are introduced, often in the form of posed questions. Charles Darwin's experiments are briefly described, including his research into avian inbreeding and the variations in beaks in isolated populations of Galapagos island finches. The elements of evolution are explained in terms that are neither dumbed-down nor too complex for its target audience. Loxton, editor of Junior Skeptic, also shows off his considerable illustration skills. The book is clearly written for children, and eye-catching graphics are of course a necessity. Every page has one or more enticing, full-color images illustrating everything from dinosaurs to the bird-dinosaur Archaeopteryx to cute, flirty little zebra-like things called Zooks.

I bought this book for my 6 year old, who had been asking a lot of questions about why certain plants or animals were like this, or like that. I have a degree in cellular and molecular biology, so I have a pretty good understanding of evolution, but found it hard to explain to a 6 year old. He doesn't know much about genetics, heredity, age of the earth, geology, selective breeding, or any of those things to give him a background for understanding evolution. It's a hard concept for many adults, so I was really struggling with how to start explaining it to him in a way that would make sense. This book was great. Probably a bit above the level for a 6 year old, but with lots of discussion and further examples from me as we read, he really enjoyed it and now has a pretty good idea of what evolution is and how it works. The first part of the book is an explanation of evolution and the tenets of natural selection. It is very well done, with lots of illustrations and pictures. He does a good job of breaking the concepts down in a way that kids can understand without dumbing them down to the point that they become inaccurate. Gives the kids enough information to understand that it's not magical, but not so much that it's entirely over their heads. The second part of the book is framed as a series of questions you might hear from people skeptical of evolution. He answers the questions respectfully and accurately. There is a small section (about 1/3 of a page) on religion, and he does a wonderful job explaining what science can tell us versus the role of religion. Very respectful of religious beliefs, in my opinion. My son especially loved the several pages on human evolution and had me read them to him over and over again.

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