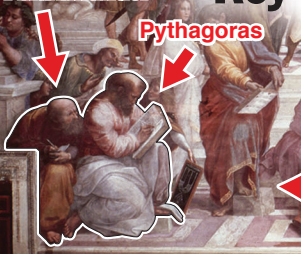


Key stages in the concept of evolution

Anaximander

Pythagoras



■ **610-546BC:** Greek philosopher **Anaximander** suggests nature is ruled by laws and that all life-forms evolved from fish

■ **1735:** **Carl Linnaeus** publishes his **Systema Naturae**, which lays foundations of taxonomy – classification of living organisms. He suggests that all plants descended from common ancestor

■ **Feb 12, 1809:** **Charles Robert Darwin** born in Shrewsbury, England

■ **1830:** **Charles Lyell** publishes **Principles of Geology**. Central argument that the present is a key to the past influences young Darwin's thinking

■ **1831:** Darwin leaves on five-year journey around world on **HMS Beagle**

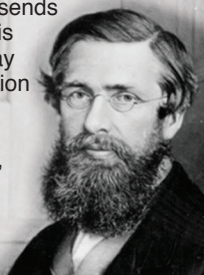


■ **1838-39:** Darwin develops his theory of natural selection – some kinds of organisms survive better in certain conditions than others; such organisms leave more progeny and so become more common with time



■ **1858:** Fellow naturalist **Alfred Russel Wallace** sends Darwin his own essay on evolution through natural selection, based on near-identical theory

■ **November 1859:** Under pressure from Wallace, Darwin publishes **On the Origin of Species** – book provokes great controversy



■ **1865:** Czech monk **Gregor Mendel** publishes his research on inheritance, but importance of his ideas is not recognized until early 20th century

■ **1871:** In **The Descent of Man**, Darwin ties human lineage to primate ancestors. Despite outrage in some quarters, book wins favour among scientific community

■ **April 19, 1882:** Charles Darwin dies aged 73. He is buried in Westminster Abbey

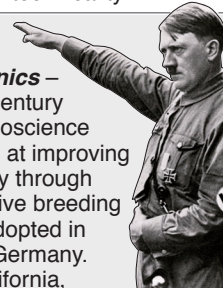


■ **1925:** **Scopes Monkey Trial** in Tennessee finds **John Scopes** guilty of teaching evolution.

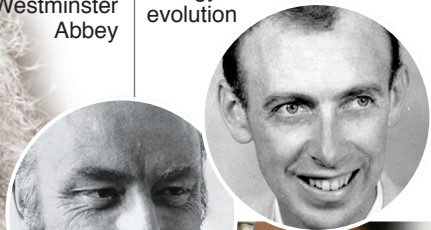
Case is based on Tennessee state law prohibiting teaching of any theory that denies divine creation of man. Conviction is set aside on appeal because of a legal technicality



■ **1933:** **Eugenics** – 19th century pseudoscience aimed at improving society through selective breeding – is adopted in Nazi Germany. In California, epicentre of eugenics movement, some 60,000 Americans are coercively sterilized, and thousands barred from marriage



■ **1953:** **James D. Watson** (below right) and **Francis Crick** (below left) discover structure of **DNA**, making it possible to study molecular biology of evolution



■ **2005:** Genetic analyses show evidence of relatively recent human evolution over past 10,000 years

■ **Feb 12, 2009:** **International Darwin Day**

