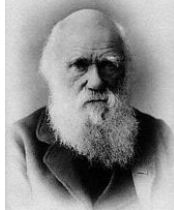




Justice Talking Listening Guide

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Charles Darwin

Darwin was the 19th century English naturalist, who described his theory of evolution in 1859 in his book *Origin of Species* after studying changes in animals in South America. This theory of evolution called Darwinism explains that the individual members of a species best fit for their environment will survive. Thus they pass along their favorable traits to their offspring, making the species stronger over time. Darwin described his theory as the principal of “natural selection,” and in some cases “survival of the fittest.”

Upcoming Tapings

May 16, 2005

5:00 PM: Guantanamo Bay

7:30 PM: Political Asylum



Intelligent Design: Scientific Inquiry or Religious Indoctrination?

A Georgia court recently ordered the Cobb County Public Schools to remove an anti-evolution sticker from textbooks, renewing the nearly century-old battle between science and religion. How far can school systems go to require the teaching of creationism and the theory of “Intelligent Design” without violating the Constitution’s mandate to separate church and state?

What did they say?

Terms and words that may be used in the debate

Complexity - This is a defense of intelligent design which claims that intricate life systems cannot be explained by evolution because they cannot be broken down into simpler systems. Some argue that traits, like feathers, are only useful as a whole unit; they cannot have evolved slowly because they would have been useless.

Intelligent Design (ID) - This is an alternate explanation to the theories of Darwin for the start of human life. ID states that features of the universe and life itself can best be explained by an intelligent cause as opposed to a seemingly random process like natural selection.

Scopes “Monkey” Trial - John Scopes was a high school biology teacher in Tennessee who taught Darwinism to his students, breaking a state law prohibiting the teaching of concepts contrary to the biblical account of human creation. He was convicted of breaking the anti-evolution teaching law in 1925, but his conviction was later overturned. The case was unofficially referred to as the “monkey trial” because under the theory of evolution humans evolved from monkeys. It was also the first trial broadcast via radio. The Tennessee law forbidding the teaching of evolution was later repealed in 1967. In 1968, the U.S. Supreme Court found in *Epperson v. Arkansas* that a similar state law was unconstitutional.

Theory of Evolution - The term “theory” is used to describe a scientific explanation that has been tested and generally accepted by scientists enough that they use it as fact in other scientific investigations. Evolution—in this case, biological—is a process by which the genetics of a species change over generations bringing about new, distinct species that allow these new species to better exist in their environment.

