

"Mock Darwinist Textbook Disclaimers"

Below are mock disclaimers for textbooks teaching evolution. They are officially for fun, but most are loosely based off real Darwinist statements. (Many are directly from Darwinist comments regarding the disclaimer controversy in Cobb County, Georgia from NPR on 11/19/04.) They don't necessarily relate to any views of the IDEA Center. Compiled by IDEA staff and friends.

This book advocates the established fact of Darwin's theory of evolution. Don't study this material carefully. Don't critically examine evolution. Don't consider it with an open mind. If you question evolution, you might question other things we know are true. Inhibit your adolescent desires to inquire and investigate our world.

Evolution is a fact. Theories are well-substantiated hypotheses about the natural world. Evolution is so well-substantiated it cannot be questioned. Scientific theories are powerful but evolution is an unquestioned fact. Don't use the inquiry method of learning biology. Don't question facts. Don't think for yourself.

If you question evolution, you might question other things, like if the earth is round. Don't learn by questioning things because you might not always arrive at the same conclusions in this textbook. Of course the world is spherical—even creationists know that. But even if you do discover the world is round, if you start to question evolution, you might discover evolution is not supported by the facts. Close your mind to all questions and just let adult scientists think for you.

All people who question evolution are completely religiously motivated. But evolution does not conflict with religion. If you question evolution, you'll be called "religiously motivated." Plus, you'll be branded a "creationist"—the worst label of all. You will be mocked by real scientists. You'll never be a respected academic. Do you really want that? Don't be ignorant, insane, or wicked. If you want a bright future in science, don't question this textbook and don't question evolution.

Evolution is a theory. That means it is a well-substantiated explanation which has gained wide support in science. Science rarely changes. Theories like evolution shouldn't be questioned. Scientists don't think skeptically about long-standing theories in science. Just treat theories like "facts" and someday you can be a scientist too.

Any "evidence" against evolution is exaggerated. All gaps are always bridgeable and all gaps are always filled. Plus, gaps should only be fillable by evolution. Ignore gaps in evolutionary theory because they'll be filled soon. There is no need to worry because evolution is an established fact, so explanations for the gaps *must* exist.

In America, all viewpoints are equal but some viewpoints are more equal than others. If everyone wants to hear a viewpoint, but scientists say it is not very equal, then it shouldn't be heard. Scientists make the rules. It doesn't matter if some people question scientists because they are religiously motivated. Only religiously motivated people question science. Be scientific—don't question evolution.

This school board thinks that there is substantial evidence against evolution but unfortunately there is not sufficient time to present the evidence in class. Even a one-hour video or a one-period lecture discussing problems with evolution would be too much time. Instructional time is too precious to teach you how to think critically about science. Plus, the evidence against evolution might just confuse you.

Evolution is the central unifying concept in modern biology. If you single out evolution for questioning, you might single out all things for questioning. It's better just to close your mind and ask no questions. No real scientist questions evolution because the evidence is so overwhelming. You can only question things that all scientists question. Evolution is fact, Fact, FACT!

You do not have to believe in evolution, you only have to learn about it. Evolution is a fact. The evidence for it is overwhelming. There is no controversy over it. All scientists accept it. Only religiously motivated people doubt it. You do not have to believe in evolution.

As you learn evolution, remember that evolution cannot conflict with religion because science and religion deal with separate realms. Religion only deals with morality, values, and subjective faith. Science only finds objective facts. Science requires no faith. If you doubt science and evolution, just remember it is the job of science to provide plausible natural explanations for natural phenomena. If evidence for evolution is lacking, remind yourself that the statements of science must invoke only natural things and processes. The theory of evolution is scientific because it rejects all supernatural phenomena and causations. There's no faith in that, for scientists cannot allow a divine foot in the door. Only religiously motivated creationists say natural selection excluded God as the explanation, because only they think religion teaches people facts. Don't let religion tell you which facts to believe and which not to believe. If your religion says God created through miracles, it is wrong. After all, religion doesn't deal with facts. That's why science and religion cannot conflict.

Evolution: Just Accept It!

Evolution: Don't Ask Questions!

Evolution does not advocate atheism. Evolution is not antagonistic to religion. The Pope accepts evolution. (Also, so does a Catholic biologist named Ken Miller). We're not too religious, but our theologian friends say God (is It still capitalized these days?) could have created using natural processes. If God could have done it then God must have done it! Plus, Intelligent Design is a bad religion! Why would God make all these unintelligent designs anyways? You shouldn't believe religions that teach God created miraculously because they're not supported by the evidence. Plus, evolution doesn't conflict with religion. The Pope is religious and our theologian friends accept evolution. Why can't you? People who question evolution are religiously motivated. Catholics who accept common descent but doubt Darwinism are religiously motivated. The Pope is not religiously motivated because he accepts the facts. Don't be religiously motivated. Be like Ken Miller, the Pope, our theologian friends, and Richard Dawkins.

Science teachers have hard jobs. Don't make it harder by expecting them to teach all the evidence about evolution. Teachers could be trained to teach evidence all the evidence about evolution—but they have more important things to do. Their job is to teach good science. Teaching all the evidence is not good science.

Teachers should not tell you that if you accept the overwhelming scientific evidence for evolution, you must abandon your faith, or if you hold to your faith, you must turn your back on science. But remember, disclaimers telling students evolution is not meant to dissuade them from their religion are unconstitutional.