

Origins of Life Perception Survey (for students 19 and older only)

For the following terms, please indicate your agreement/disagreement with the given statements using the following scale:

A: Strongly Agree B: Agree C: Undecided D: Disagree E: Strongly Disagree

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1. Organisms existing today are the result of evolutionary processes that have occurred over millions of years. _____
 2. The theory of evolution is incapable of being scientifically tested. _____
 3. Modern humans are the product of evolutionary processes that have occurred over millions of years. _____
 4. The theory of evolution is based on speculation and not valid scientific observation and testing. _____
 5. Most scientists accept evolutionary theory to be a scientifically valid theory. _____
 6. The available data are ambiguous (unclear) as to whether evolution actually occurs. _____
 7. The age of the earth is less than 20,000 years. _____
 8. There is a significant body of data that supports evolutionary theory. _____
 9. Organisms exist today in essentially the same form in which they always have. _____
 10. Evolution is not a scientifically valid theory. _____
 11. The age of the earth is at least 4 billion years. _____
 12. Current evolutionary theory is the result of sound scientific research and methodology. _____
 13. Evolutionary theory generates testable predictions with respect to the characteristics of life. _____
 14. The theory of evolution cannot be correct since it disagrees with the Biblical account of creation. _____
 15. Humans exist today in essentially the same form in which they always have. _____
 16. Evolutionary theory is supported by factual historical and laboratory data. _____
 17. Much of the scientific community doubts if evolution occurs. _____

A: Strongly Agree B: Agree C: Undecided D: Disagree E: Strongly Disagree



18. The theory of evolution brings meaning to the diverse characteristics and behaviors observed in living forms. _____

19. With few exceptions, organisms on earth came into existence at about the same time. _____

20. Evolution is a scientifically valid theory. _____

21. Which of the following statements comes closest to your views on the origin and development of human beings?

a) Human beings have developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life, but God guided this process,

b) Human beings have developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life, but God had no part in this process,

c) God created human beings in their present form at one time within the last 10,000 years or so.

22. How informed would you say you are about the theory of evolution?

a) Very informed b) Somewhat informed c) Not too informed d) Not informed at all

23. Regardless of what you may personally believe, which of these do you think should be taught in science classrooms in public schools?

a) Evolution only: "Evolution says that human beings evolved from earlier stages of animals."

b) Intelligent design only: "Intelligent design says that human beings are so complex that they required a powerful force or intelligent being to help create them."

c) Both

d) Not sure

24. In your opinion, Evolution is a:

a) Fact

b) Scientific Theory

c) Both

d) None of the above

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING (CIRCLE THE CORRECT CHOICE):

25. I am: (circle) Male Female

26. I am a: (circle) Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

27. My major is:

- a) Biology
- b) Other science discipline in the College of Arts and Sciences (Chemistry, Physics, Psychology, Anthropology, Geography or Geology)
- c) Non-science but in the College of Arts and Sciences (any engineering major, history, theatre, music, communications, etc.)
- d) Non-science and not in the College of Arts and Sciences (e.g., Business, Law, etc.)

28. I have lived in the following regions (circle all that apply):

- a) Southeast only (e.g. FL, AL, MS, GA, LA, TN, VA, KY)
- b) Northeast (e.g., RI, DE, NY, MA, VT, CT)
- c) Midwest (e.g., IN, IL, MO, IA, OH, MI, WI)
- d) Pacific Northwest (e.g., WA, OR, CA)
- e) Southwest (e.g., OK, AR, NM, NV)
- f) Texas or northward Rocky Mountain region (e.g., TX, CO, MT, WY)
- g) Alaska or Hawaii

29. Do you identify yourself as

- a) Southern Baptist
- b) Other protestant denomination (Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Church of Christ, Evangelical, Pentecostal, Mormon, etc.)
- c) Catholic
- d) Jewish
- e) Other “non-Christian” religious affiliation (Muslim, Hindu, etc.)
- f) Not religious (agnostic or atheist)

30. How often do you attend a religious service?

- a) Weekly b) Nearly weekly/monthly c) Seldom/Never

31. My political beliefs are best characterized as (i.e. I tend to vote on most issues as a _____).

- a) Liberal b) Independent (middle-of-the-road) c) Republican

32. Was evolution or creationism taught in your high school biology courses?

- a) My high school science courses included *neither* evolution nor creationism
- b) My high school science courses included creationism, but not evolution
- c) My high school science courses included *both* evolution and creationism
- d) My high school science courses included evolution, but not creationism

33. Resistance to a wide variety of insecticides has recently evolved in many species of insects. Why?

- a) mutations are on the rise
- b) humans are altering the environments of these organisms, and the organisms are evolving by natural selection
- c) no new species are evolving, just resistant strains or varieties. This is not evolution by natural selection
- d) humans have better health practices, so these organisms are trying to keep up
- e) insects are smarter than humans

34. How might a biologist explain why a species of bird has evolved a larger beak size?

- a) large beak size occurred as a result of mutation in each member of the population
- b) the ancestors of this bird species encountered a tree with larger than average sized seeds. They needed to develop larger beaks to eat the larger seeds, and over time, they adapted to meet this need
- c) some members of the ancestral population had larger beaks than others. If larger beak size was advantageous, they would be more likely to survive and reproduce. As such, large beaked birds increased in relative frequency relative to small beaked birds
- d) the ancestors of this bird species encountered a tree with larger than average sized seeds. They discovered that by stretching their beaks, the beaks would get longer, and this increase was passed on to their offspring. Over time, the bird beaks became longer.
- e) none of the above