

Discovering the Designer Student Guide Session 1

Introduction: The Important Question of Origins

- A. Everyone has to answer the questions “Who am I?” and “Where did I come from?” to be able to live a life with **purpose** and **meaning**.
- B. Many scientists tell us that the scientific evidence points only to a **material** cause. Some evolutionary process, **unguided** and **without purpose**, shaped who we are as human beings.
- C. Does life bear the marks of **intelligent** cause? New evidence is being compiled almost every day that points to an **Intelligent Designer**.



Once people are convinced the evidence for design is real, the next question is **WHO** or **WHAT** is the designer?

Lesson 1: Why All the Fuss?

“(We) cannot any longer believe that man is a work of separate creation...man is the co-descendant with other mammals of a common progenitor.”

Charles Darwin
Descent of Man

- A. Why Are Scientists Concerned? What they say about ID:
1. Many scientists see the stakes being raised in what is perceived as an ongoing **war** between science and faith.
 2. ID offers little for science
 3. ID is religion masquerading as science
 4. Almost half of Americans reject evolution
 5. Many evolutionary biologists fear the introduction of God in science

“The attack on Darwinism by supporters of Intelligent Design is a straightforward attack on science itself. Intelligent Design is not science because it proposes a supernatural designer as explanation for evolutionary change.”¹

Cell, January 13, 2006


"Why is this a big deal?" asked Miller. The answer, according to Miller, is the future of science in America. We are raising a generation of people who are going to be suspicious of science, and that has huge implications for scientific fields. Other countries will be moving ahead in science, leaving the United States behind. "**What is at stake is, literally, everything,**" said Miller.

Kenneth Miller at Hamilton University, February 28, 2006

¹ Icons indicate whether source of quote is a defender of Darwinism or a proponent of Intelligent Design.

1

“In order to know who we are, we need to know where we came from. The question of origins concerns us all.”



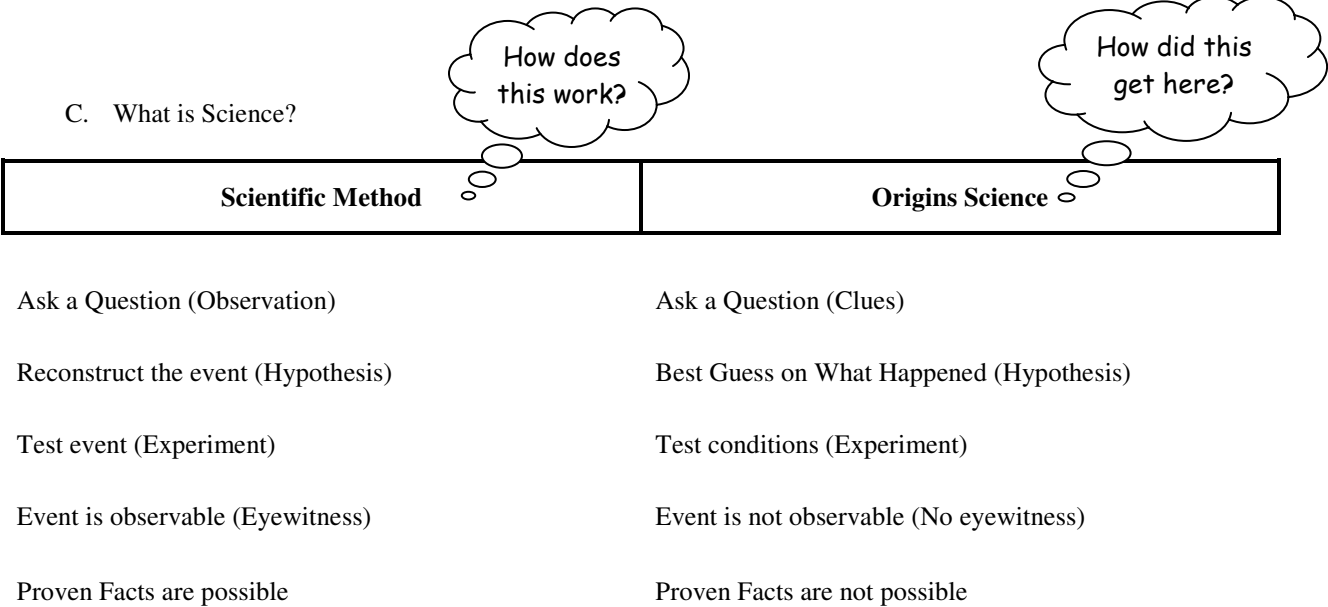
B. Why are Christians Concerned?

1. Is ID an attack on Genesis? The creator is not specified.
2. People will always ask who or what the designer is, but the science alone won't tell you that.

Romans 1 – We can even learn some things about God’s nature and character from creation.

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.


Romans 1:18-20



D. Conclusions

- There are questions and concerns about Intelligent Design from the scientific community and from the Christian community.
- There is a distinction in methods and conclusions in operations science and origin science.
- If we are looking for the truth on a topic where we can't recreate the event, it would not be very good science to eliminate some hypotheses from consideration simply because we don't like the theological implications of those hypotheses.

“The best a scientist can hope for is to get beyond ‘a reasonable doubt’ and that level of certainty is very unlikely given the complexity of the universe.”



Discovering the Designer Student Guide Session 2


Lesson 2: Is There Scientific Proof for Evolution?

“About **10 %** of Americans believe that evolution happened with **no** involvement from God.”

“Almost **half** of all Americans believe God directly created human beings in their **present forms**, no apelike ancestors needed.”

- A. Prestigious organizations (e.g. National Academy of Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science) have undertaken major efforts over the last 5-6 years to improve education in evolution.
- B. They also seek to exclude evidence against evolution or the presentation of alternative theories.
- C. Is the evidence for evolution lacking?

Evolutionary claims...	Evidence shows...
Slow, gradual process	Sudden appearance of organisms in the Cambrian Explosion
Mutations + Natural Selection = Evolutionary Change	Mutations only produce alternate forms of what already exists, not new forms
Embryological mutation accounts for evolutionary change	Mutations of the embryo usually result in dysfunction not new function



“What is the use of their unceasing mutations?...a swing to the right, a swing to the left, but no final evolutionary effect.”

- Pierre-Paul Grasse




D. Definitions of Evolution:

1. Change over time (FACT)
2. Changing gene frequencies in natural populations (FACT)
3. Natural populations changing in response to environmental changes (FACT)
4. New species arising naturally (FACT)
5. All new adaptations are due to mutation and natural selection (THEORY)
6. All organisms descended from a common ancestor (THEORY)

- a. Evolutionists often define evolution as one of the first four observations then conclude that “evolution,” meaning one of the last two, is also a fact.
- b. Most evolutionists don’t even realize they are changing definitions.



“When talking about evolution always have the word “evolution” defined. In fact, you might begin the discussion by stating, “I believe in evolution, meaning simple change over time, but I don’t understand how evolution is an adequate explanation for all of life as we know it.”



- E. Intelligent Design (ID) maybe one way to solve some of these problems with evolutionary theory
 - a. Example of the bacterial flagellum
 - b. ID asks if we can empirically test to see if something is designed or not
 - c. Many scientists object to ID because of “bad design”

God Wouldn't Do It That Way

“If God had designed a beautiful machine to reflect his wisdom and power, surely he would not have used a collection of parts generally fashioned for other purposes...Odd arrangements and funny solutions are the proof of evolution – paths that a sensible God would never tread but that a natural process, constrained by history, follows perforce.”

Stephen J. Gould, *The Panda's Thumb*


By saying that God wouldn't do it that way, something Darwin did frequently in his *Origin of Species*, is relying not on science but on **theology** and **philosophy**. Now we are talking about the **character of God**, not the scientific evidence for design.

F. Conclusion

- Some science advocates are trying to enhance the teaching of evolution and preclude considering alternative theories.
- Some current evidence is not well explained by the evolutionary theory for the origins of life.
- There are many definitions of evolution, but evolutionists often create confusion by interchanging them.
- Intelligent Design may be a good scientific explanation of the evidence.

Notes:

“It’s strange that many evolutionists feel quite justified in using science to argue **against** God, but somehow try to say that you can’t use science to argue **for** God.”



This DVD focuses on the controversy between neo-Darwinism and Intelligent Design. Intelligent Design theories are consistent with a wide range of positions on the age of the earth and universe. Consequently, age issues are not addressed herein and age claims for the various positions are presented without comment. These claims may not represent the position of Probe Ministries or EvanTell.

2. Biology - Biologists universally recognize the design of living things.

a. Irreducible Complexity – When something is composed of two or more necessary parts.

Example: Mousetrap



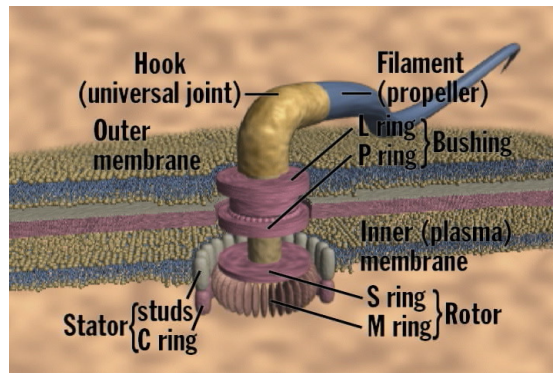
“Biology is the study of complicated things that give the appearance of having been designed for a purpose.”

Richard Dawkins
The Blind Watchmaker



b. Are there irreducibly complex machines in the cell that also could not be built by natural selection and, therefore, qualify as candidates for Intelligent Design?

c. Bacterial flagellum



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d. Genetic Code

The Genetic Code can be compared to language:

Letters	→	Nucleotides
Words	→	Codons
Sentences	→	Genes
Books	→	Chromosomes
Libraries	→	Genome

C. Conclusion

From the far reaches of the universe to the inner molecular machines and language of the cell, we have clear signs of intelligence at work. The scientific evidence alone has led us to this conclusion.

Notes:

Discovering the Designer Student Guide

Session 4


Lesson 4: Intelligent Design, Science, Education, and Creation

A. Is Intelligent Design Science?

- Science can't identify the intelligent **cause** of these aspects we see in nature. It can only identify the **effects**; it can only detect design, not qualify it.
- Darwin and those following him were not so concerned with the science but in showing that God couldn't have created nature with so much **waste** and **suffering**.
- ID addresses the detection of design, not the cause of it, and therefore is within the realm of science.

"I believe that Intelligent Design should be taught in college science classes but not as the alternative to Darwinism that its advocates demand. It is through the careful analysis of why intelligent design is **not science** that students can perhaps best come to appreciate the nature of science itself."

Bruce Alberts
Cell vol. 123, p739, 2005



B. Does Intelligent Design belong in the classroom?

a. Dover, Pennsylvania School Board trial

KITZMILLER ET AL V. DOVER AREA SCHOOL BOARD
JUDGE PRESIDING: JOHN E. JONES, III

COMMENT IN QUESTION:
 A FOUR-PARAGRAPH STATEMENT THAT WOULD BE READ BEFORE ALL BIOLOGY CLASSES INDICATING THAT EVOLUTION WAS A THEORY THAT NEEDED CRITICAL EVALUATION AND THAT INTELLIGENT DESIGN WAS A RIVAL THEORY THAT STUDENTS COULD SEEK INFORMATION ABOUT IN THE LIBRARY.

SUMMARY OF JUDGE'S RULING:

- THE POLICY TO READ THE STATEMENT IN BIOLOGY CLASSES IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL.
- ID IS NOT SCIENCE AND IS MOTIVATED BY RELIGION SINCE IT IS JUST REPACKAGED CREATIONISM.

ERRORS IN RULING:

- 1) JONES' RULING ON THE DEMARCATION PROBLEM
- 2) JONES' CLAIM THAT ID IS REFUTED BY SCIENCE
- 3) JONES' CLAIM THAT ID HAS NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY



- b. ID could be taught in the classroom, but not just yet. Mandating ID in public schools only invites additional challenges and court proceedings. If ID is a valid scientific theory, it may eventually win even more proponents in the scientific community and find its way into textbooks on its own merits.
- c. Solution: Teaching more and better evidence for and against evolution in the classrooms.

C. Intelligent Design and Creation

“ID is not trying to lead people away from the Bible or trying to suggest that the Bible is not important. Rather, its acceptance will open the door for many to consider the existence of God, perhaps for the first time.”



- a. Big Tent
 - ID often presents itself as a “Big Tent” theory; the detection of design can fit under a number of religious and philosophical umbrellas.
 - Students of all theistic persuasions will find a theory that is compatible with their beliefs as opposed to the often openly hostile presentation of a fully materialistic evolutionary theory.
- b. People often ask, “Who or what is the designer?”
 - The evidence for design in nature is consistent with the God of the Bible.

*The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
Psalm 19*

*When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon, the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?
Psalm 8*

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Romans 1:20

- Discussing the designer can lead to discussing the savior.

D. Conclusion

- Intelligent Design uses **empirical data** to demonstrate the plausibility of a design inference. It is a scientific theory because it discusses the observation of effects, not ultimate causes.
- The extreme **prejudice** among many scientists against Intelligent Design will ultimately be recognized as prejudice. Already, the thaw is beginning as younger scientists are **much less opposed** to Intelligent Design than more established scientists.
- We should be **teaching** more and better evidences both for and against evolution in our science classrooms.
- Intelligent design is consistent with a Biblical perspective on the origins of life. Discussions about the theory of Intelligent Design often come around to asking **who** or **what** is the designer.

Notes:

Recommended Resources

Books

- Bohlin, Ray, ed., *Creation, Evolution and Modern Science*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Kregel Publications, 2000.
- O’Leary, Denyse, *By Design or by Chance?* Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Press, 2004.
- Pearcey, Nancy, *Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity*, Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Books, 2004.
- Strobel, Lee, *The Case for a Creator*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2004.
- Wells, Jonathan, *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Darwinism and Intelligent Design*, Washington DC: Regnery, 2006.
- Woodward, Thomas, *Doubts about Darwin: A History of Intelligent Design*, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 2003.
- Woodward, Thomas, *Darwin Strikes Back: Defending the Science of Intelligent Design*, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 2006

Videos

- Unlocking the Mystery of Life: The Scientific case for Intelligent Design*. Produced by Illustra Media, 2002. www.illustramedia.com.
- The Privileged Planet: The Search for Purpose in the Universe*. Produced by Illustra Media, 2004. www.illustramedia.com.
- The Case for Creator*. Produced by Illustra Media, 2006. www.illustramedia.com.

Probe Articles

- “Why Does the University Fear Phillip Johnson?” by Dr. Ray Bohlin (Faith and Science: Origins Section of Probe Ministries website)
- “The Five Crises in Evolutionary Theory” by Dr. Ray Bohlin (Faith and Science: Origins Section of Probe Ministries website)
- “The Natural Limits to Biological Change” by Dr. Ray Bohlin (Faith and Science: Origins Section of Probe Ministries website)
- “Evolution’s Big Bang” by Dr. Ray Bohlin (Faith and Science: Origins Section of Probe Ministries website)
- “The Controversy over Evolution in the Textbooks” by Dr. Ray Bohlin (Faith and Science: Origins Section of the Probe Ministries website)
- “PBS Evolution Series” by Dr. Ray Bohlin (Faith and Science: Origins Section of Probe Ministries website)
- “Darwin’s Black Box” by Dr. Ray Bohlin (Faith and Science: Origins Section of Probe Ministries website)
- “Is Intelligent Design Dead?” by Dr. Ray Bohlin (Faith and Science: Origins Section of Probe Ministries website)
- “Mere Creation: Science, Faith, and Intelligent Design by Dr. Ray Bohlin (faith and Science: Origins Section of Probe Ministries website)
- “The Case for a Creator” by Gene Herr (Faith and Science: Origins Section of Probe Ministries website)
- “Dr. Ray Bohlin responds to Attacks on Intelligent Design” by Dr. Ray Bohlin (Faith and Science: Origins Section of Probe Ministries website)
- “The Coming Revolution in Science” by Dr. Ray Bohlin (Faith and Science: Origins Section of Probe Ministries website)

Host/Expert Biographies

Kerby Anderson, National Director Probe Ministries

He received his B.S. from Oregon State University, M.F.S. from Yale University, and M.A. from Georgetown University. He is the author of several books, including *Genetic Engineering*, *Origin Science*, *Living Ethically in the 90s*, *Signs of Warning*, *Signs of Hope*, and *Moral Dilemmas*. He is a nationally syndicated columnist whose editorials have appeared in the *Dallas Morning News*, the *Miami Herald*, the *San Jose Mercury*, and the *Houston Post*. He serves as host on "Point of View" (USA Radio Network).

Ray Bohlin, PhD., President of Probe Ministries

He is a graduate of the University of Illinois (B.S., zoology), North Texas State University (M.S., population genetics), and the University of Texas at Dallas (M.S., Ph.D., molecular biology). He is the co-author of the book *The Natural Limits to Biological Change* and has published numerous journal articles. He was named a 1997-98 and 2000 Research Fellow of the Discovery Institute's Center for the Renewal of Science and Culture.

Fazale Rana, PhD., Vice-President Reasons to Believe

He is a graduate of West Virginia State College (BS in chemistry with honors) and Ohio University (Ph.D. in chemistry with an emphasis in biochemistry) where he twice won the Donald Clippinger Research Award. His postdoctoral studies took him to the Universities of Virginia and Georgia. Fuz has published numerous articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals including *Biochemistry*, *Applied Spectroscopy*, *FEBS Letters*, *Journal of Microbiology Methods*, and *The Journal of Chemical Education*. In addition to speaking and writing for Reasons to Believe, Fuz currently lectures for the Master of Science and Religion program in Christian Apologetics at Biola University. Fuz coauthored (along with Hugh Ross) the books *Origins of Life* (2004) and *Who Was Adam?* (2005). He is currently completing a book on biochemical design.

John Morris, PhD., President, Institute for Creation Research

He is a graduate of Virginia Tech (B.S. Civil Engineering) and University of Oklahoma (Ph.D. Geological Engineering). He joined ICR after serving as an assistant professor of Geological Engineering at the University of Oklahoma. He has published articles in peer reviewed engineering journals. He has authored or contributed to many books and video projects on creation science topics for both children and adults.

Jan Chatham, PhD., Probe Ministries, Research Associate Probe Ministries.

She is a graduate of the University of Tennessee Chattanooga (B.S. biology) and the University of North Texas (M.S. genetics and Ph.D. neurophysiology). She has worked with youth for 17+ years. Prior to her position with Probe, she was the director of the Upward Bound Math Science program at UNT and part of the science faculty at Faith Christian School. She speaks on science related issues that are relevant in our culture today such as the creation/evolution debate and stem cell research.