

Understanding Evolution

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Current books on evolutionary theory all seem to take for granted the fact that students find evolution easy to understand when actually, from a psychological perspective, it is a rather counterintuitive idea. Evolutionary theory, like all scientific theories, is a means to understanding the natural world.

Understanding Evolution is intended for undergraduate students in the life sciences, biology teachers or anyone wanting a basic introduction to evolutionary theory. Covering core concepts and the structure of evolutionary explanations, it clarifies both what evolution is about and why so many people find it difficult to grasp. The book provides an introduction to the major concepts and conceptual obstacles to understanding evolution, including the development of Darwin's theory, and a detailed presentation of the most important evolutionary concepts. Bridging the gap between the concepts and conceptual obstacles, *Understanding Evolution* presents evolutionary theory with a clarity and vision students will quickly appreciate.

Contents

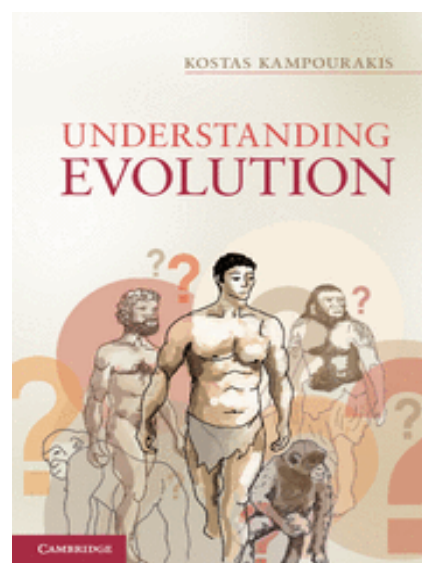
Prolegomena; Acknowledgements; 1. An evolving world; 2. Religious resistance to accepting evolution; 3. Conceptual obstacles to understanding evolution; 4. Charles Darwin and the *Origin of Species*: a historical case study of conceptual change; 5. Common ancestry; 6. Evolutionary change; Concluding remarks; References; Glossary; Index.

'A tour-de-force, beautifully reasoned and written. This masterful tome will be essential reading for anyone interested in the genesis and broader relevance of evolutionary thought.'

John C. Avise, University of California, Irvine, and author of *Evolutionary Pathways in Nature*

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