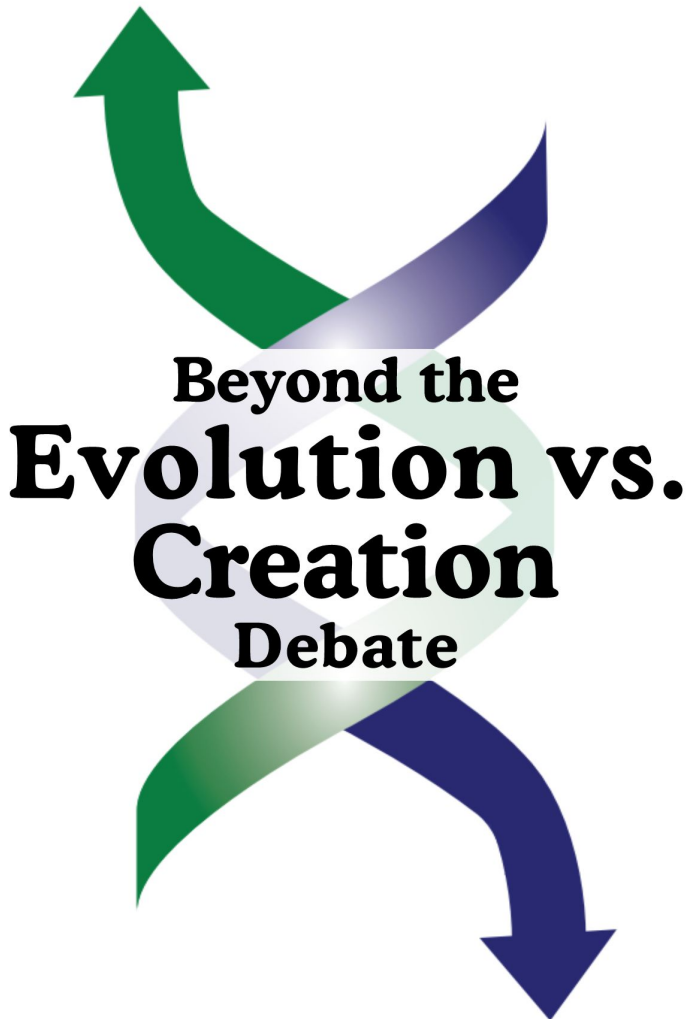


For High School Students



**Beyond the
Evolution vs.
Creation
Debate**

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Evolution & Creation in a Complementary Relationship

Now that we have moved beyond the evolution vs. creation debate, I can propose a way to think about evolution and creation in a complementary relationship, as shown in Figure 5-1. As we saw previously, the word complementary means to make something complete, whole, or perfect. A complementary relationship is a two-way relationship. In a complementary relationship between two people, each person adds something that the other person does not have. Together, they inform, improve, and strengthen one another.

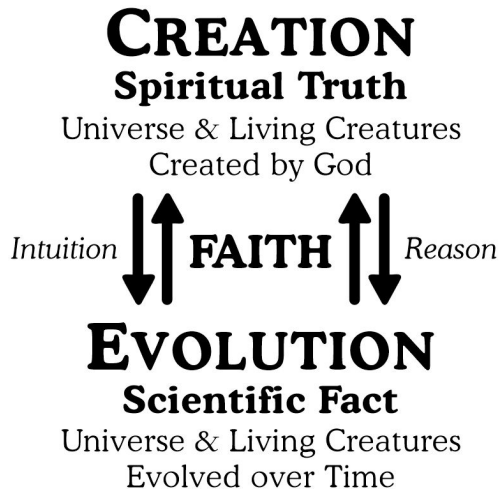


Figure 5-1. Evolution & Creation in a Complementary Relationship

A complementary relationship between evolution and creation is also a two-way relationship. On the one hand, the spiritual truth that the universe and living creatures are the creation of the Creator informs scientists about *who* caused the Big Bang and the process of evolution. The downward arrows in Figure 5-1 show that this religious belief improves our understanding of the ultimate meaning of evolution.

On the other hand, the scientific fact that the world evolved over billions of years informs religious people about *how* God created the world. The upward arrows in Figure 5-1 indicate that evolution improves our knowledge about the Creator and the creation. God used evolution and his world is an evolutionary creation. Together, the religious belief in creation and the scientific theory of evolution complete and strengthen each other.

I need to emphasize that a step of faith (or intellectual leap) always happens in this complementary relationship between evolution and creation, as seen in the center of Figure 5-1. Of course, we use our intuition and our reason in thinking about origins. But in the end, it takes faith to believe that God created the universe and living creatures through evolution.

God's Acts of Creation & the Shooting Billiards Analogy

Let me offer an analogy to explain why I think God using evolution to create is incredibly amazing. Try to imagine that

God's acts of creation are like the stroke of a cue stick in a game of billiards. Divide and label the billiard balls into three groups using the words heavens, earth, and living creatures. And let the eight ball—the most important ball in billiards—represent humans.

With this analogy, we can picture the God of young earth creation and his many miracles to create the universe and living creatures. This Creator makes single shot, after single shot, after single shot, etc. He does not miss a shot. And he clears all the balls off the table into the billiard pockets. To be sure, that's quite impressive.

But an evolutionary creationist sees God using only one stroke of his cue, representing the Big Bang. This single shot is so powerful and so precise that all the balls are sunk! And not only that, they even drop in order: first, the balls labeled the heavens, next the earth, and then the living creatures. The eight ball representing humans is the last ball to fall. God then pulls this ball out of the billiards pocket and holds it to his heart to indicate he is in a personal relationship with men and women.

Isn't the Creator who uses just one single stroke of the cue to sink all the balls so much more spectacular than the God of young earth creationists who takes shot, after shot, after shot? For me, God's tremendous power and planning is best seen with him creating the world through evolution. Just

think about it. With only one act of creation, God caused the Big Bang. The laws of nature emerged and then the entire world self-assembled through evolution. I can't think of a more mind-blowing example of intelligent design.

The Evolution & Creation of the Brain

To further explain the relationship between evolution and creation, let's consider the most complex structure known in the universe—the human brain. We have about 100 billion brain cells and there are roughly 100 trillion connections between them. Fully written out, that's 100,000,000,000 cells and 100,000,000,000,000 connections. When we consider that our Milky Way galaxy has about 1 billion stars, the complexity of the brain is overwhelming. Are we to believe that our brains evolved only because of luck and blind chance? I find that belief completely unreasonable.

Instead, I believe that God planned and intelligently designed evolution to create our brain. The Bible states that we have been created in the likeness and Image of God (Gen. 1:26-27). I believe this is true. So, if the Creator of this marvelous world made us somewhat similar to him, this means that we must have awesome creative gifts. And this is also true.

Think about it. With our incredibly creative brains that God has given us, we have put rovers on Mars. We have made vaccines in a record time to protect us from Covid-19.

We have created computers so we can have Zoom conversations anywhere on earth. Are we to believe that our brain is just a fluke of nature caused only by luck and blind chance? Again, I find that belief completely unreasonable.

The creation and evolution of our marvelous brain can be viewed in the light of the complementary relationship in Figure 5-1. By taking a step of faith downward, my belief that God created everything informs and completes what science says about the evolution of the brain. It tells me that God designed the evolutionary process that created our wonderful brain. The scientific study of the brain demonstrates its spectacular complexity and incredible functionality as seen through its countless achievements, such as modern science. In taking a step of faith upward, I use this scientific evidence to strengthen my belief in both intelligent design and the Creator. Indeed, our brain has been created in the likeness and image of the Mind of God!