

Origins of Evolutionary Thought

HARD COPY - DO NOT WRITE ON!!!

James Hutton (1785)

Hutton proposes that Earth is shaped by geological forces that took place over extremely long periods of time. He estimates Earth to be millions- not thousands- of years old

Thomas Malthus (1798)

In his Essay on the Principle of Population, Malthus predicts that the human population will grow faster than the space and food needed to supply it

Charles Darwin (1831)

Darwin sets sail on the H.M.S. Beagle, a voyage that would provide him with vast amounts of evidence that lead to his theory of evolution.

California Gold Rush (1849)

Darwin publishes *On the Origin of Species* (1859)

Histoire Naturelle (1749)

Written by Georges Buffon, it discussed important ideas about relationships among organisms, sources of biological variation, and the possibility of evolution.

United States Constitution is signed (1787)

Jean-Baptiste Lamarck (1809)

Lamarck publishes his hypotheses of the inheritance of acquired traits. The ideas are flawed, but he is one of the first to propose a mechanism explaining how organisms change over time.

Charles Lyell (1833)

In the second and final volume of *Principles of Geology*, Lyell explained that processes occurring now have shaped Earth's geological features over long periods of time.

Alfred Wallace (1858)

Wallace writes to Darwin, speculating on evolution by natural selection, based on his studies of the distribution of plants and animals. Darwin presents Wallace's essay to the Linnaean society.

The United States Civil War begins (1861)