



# Evolution for Kids



*A research guide for kids interested in finding out about evolution. You can use it for school projects or just for yourself.*

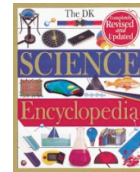
The DVD and all the books mentioned are available in either the Naturalist Center at the California Academy of Sciences or through the San Francisco Public Library (or both). Ask a librarian to help you find them.

## Just what is evolution?

When you're just starting out with research, a good first step is an encyclopedia: You'll get a quick overview and then you can decide what you want to explore. Here are two good places to start:

### The Dorling Kindersley Science Encyclopedia

You can find 'Evolution' and 'How evolution works' in the index at the back. At the bottom of the entries you'll see a 'Find out more' box – this gives you some suggestions of other, linked topics to check out in the encyclopedia.

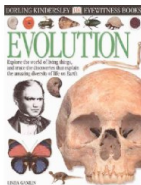


### Kids InfoBits

This is a website you can explore, either in the library or at home. It has many great resources on evolution. Try typing 'evolution' into the search box – you'll get a list of results to explore. There are encyclopedia entries and magazine and newspaper articles, which you can read or even listen to!

How to get there: Have your library card number handy and go to the San Francisco Public Library website <http://sfpl.org/> Click on 'Articles and Databases', then scroll down to the list of 'Student Resources'. Then click on 'Kids InfoBits'.

## OK, so now I want to find out more - what can I look at?



### Evolution by Linda Gamlin (DK Eyewitness Science series).

This book has all the usual terrific DK illustrations and photographs as well as lots of information to read. A great one to browse through.



### Evolution by Paul Fleisher (Great Ideas of Science series).

Full of information about evolutionary ideas and how they were developed: a bit more advanced than the DK book. Check out the biographies of key people! It also has an excellent list of further reading ideas and recommended websites.



### The Sandwalk Adventures by Jay Hosler

A graphic novel in which Charles Darwin explains evolution to a follicle mite in his left eyebrow. Need I say more?

### Evolution 101

[http://evolution.berkeley.edu/evolibrary/article/evo\\_01](http://evolution.berkeley.edu/evolibrary/article/evo_01) (also available through the Naturalist Center online resources).

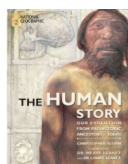
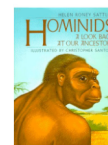
The first page of this website gives a great explanation of evolution. To find out more just follow the links.

## And what about human evolution?

There are lots of books that focus just on this. Try these to start with:

### **Hominids by Helen Roney Sattler.**

This book takes you from *Australopithecines* to *Homo Sapiens Sapiens* (that's us), with lots of pictures along the way. There's a really helpful timeline at the back showing human evolution over 2 million years.



### **The Human Story by Christopher Sloan**

Includes many photos of actual human skulls from our ancestors and some realistic pictures of their everyday life.

Plus it tells you how to pronounce *Australopithecines*.

## So can I find out more about this Charles Darwin?

How about reading a biography of Darwin:

### **Charles Darwin: A Photographic Story of a Life by David King.**

Easy to read bio of Darwin, with plenty of pictures and photos. Check out the timeline of his life at the back.



### **The Tree of Life by Peter Sis.**

This is a mainly visual bio of Darwin. Sis tells Darwin's life story using extracts from his diaries and lots and lots of illustrations including maps and diagrams.

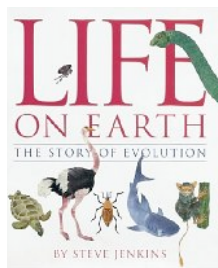


## Those were a bit too hard for me - have you got anything simpler?

Here's a couple of books that still give you a lot of information but don't have quite so much detail:

### **Life on Earth: The Story of Evolution by Steve Jenkins.**

A good explanation of evolution with a fantastic timeline showing the 4.5 billion year life of the Earth as a 24-hour day.



### **Darwin: Nature Reinterpreted by Piero Ventura.**

The story of Darwin's life and work with some information about what was going on in the world at the same time. Lots of pictures too.

## Enough with the reading!

So here's some more things you could do:

### **The Beast in You by Marc McCutcheon.**

This book explains the science behind evolutionary theories and gives you some hands-on activities to do such as living like a prehistoric kid and playing Hare Hide and Seek to find out about natural selection. And find out why some people can wiggle their ears.

### **Darwin's Dangerous Idea from WGBH, Boston.**

A 2-hour DVD which has a dramatized story of key moments in Darwin's life, mixed together with some real life examples of his theories in action. You can watch the whole program or just follow the story of Darwin.

### **Get me out of the house!**

Here are two places in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco you can visit to see the evolutionary process in action:

**The California Academy of Sciences** has a terrific display about the Galapagos Islands, where Darwin first started thinking about evolution. <http://www.calacademy.org/>

**San Francisco Botanical Garden** has a great Ancient Plant Garden showing the evolution of plants. <http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org/>

### **If I want to find out more, where do I go from here?**

Many of the books will have ideas for further reading or websites to explore. Or you could ask a librarian to help you find resources on different aspects of evolution that you might want to find out more about.