

Evolution and Christian Faith

December 7, 2014
High School Ministry
Grace Chapel

Steve Schaffner

Belief in Christ is consistent with science.

Including evolutionary biology.

What does science say about the history of life?

What it *can* tell us

When and how different kinds of life appeared.

What it *cannot* tell us

About God's hand in the process.

Science cannot currently tell us how life got started

Why do people have different skin colors?

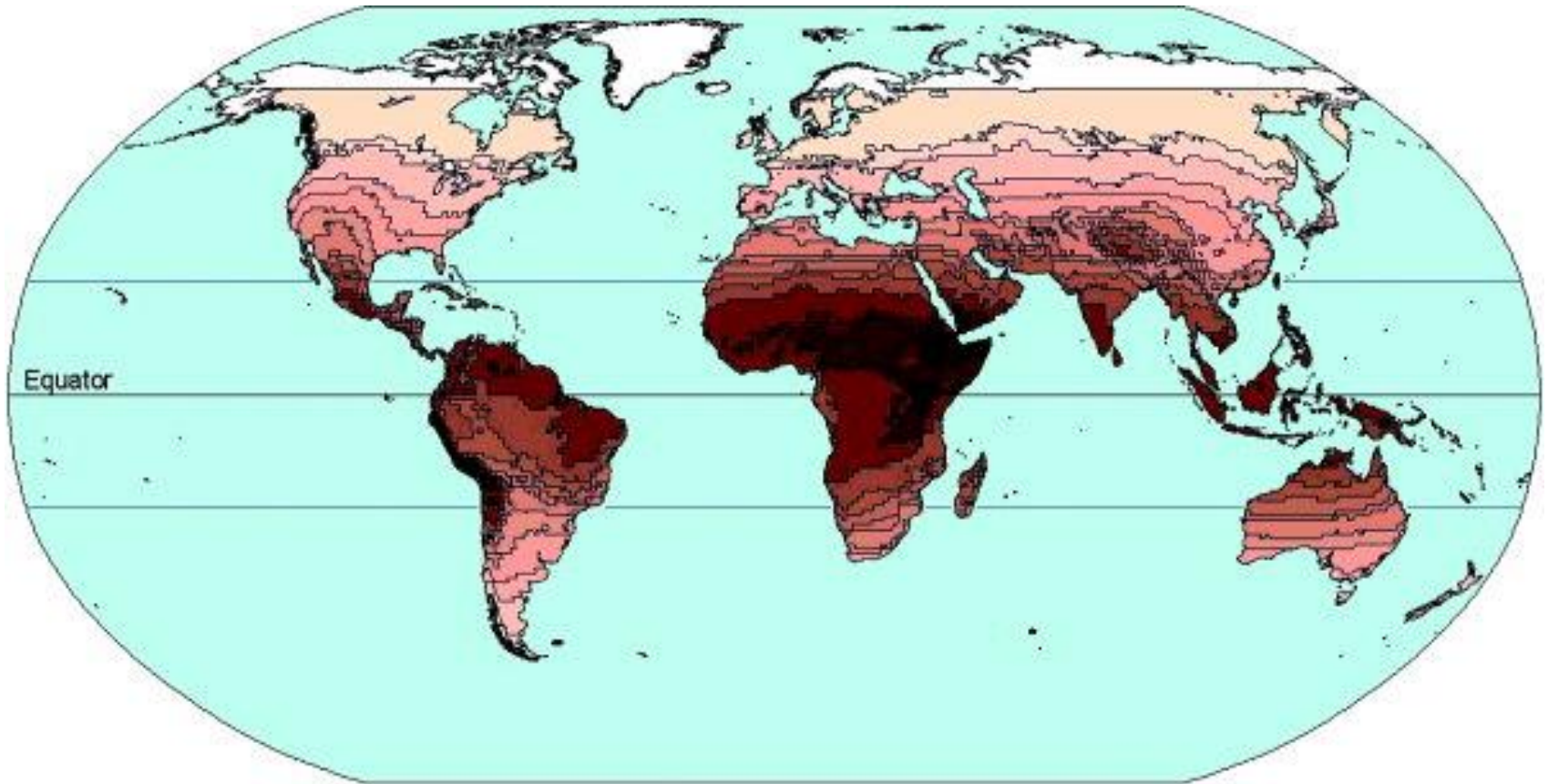


Sturm R A Hum. Mol. Genet. 2009;18:R9-R17

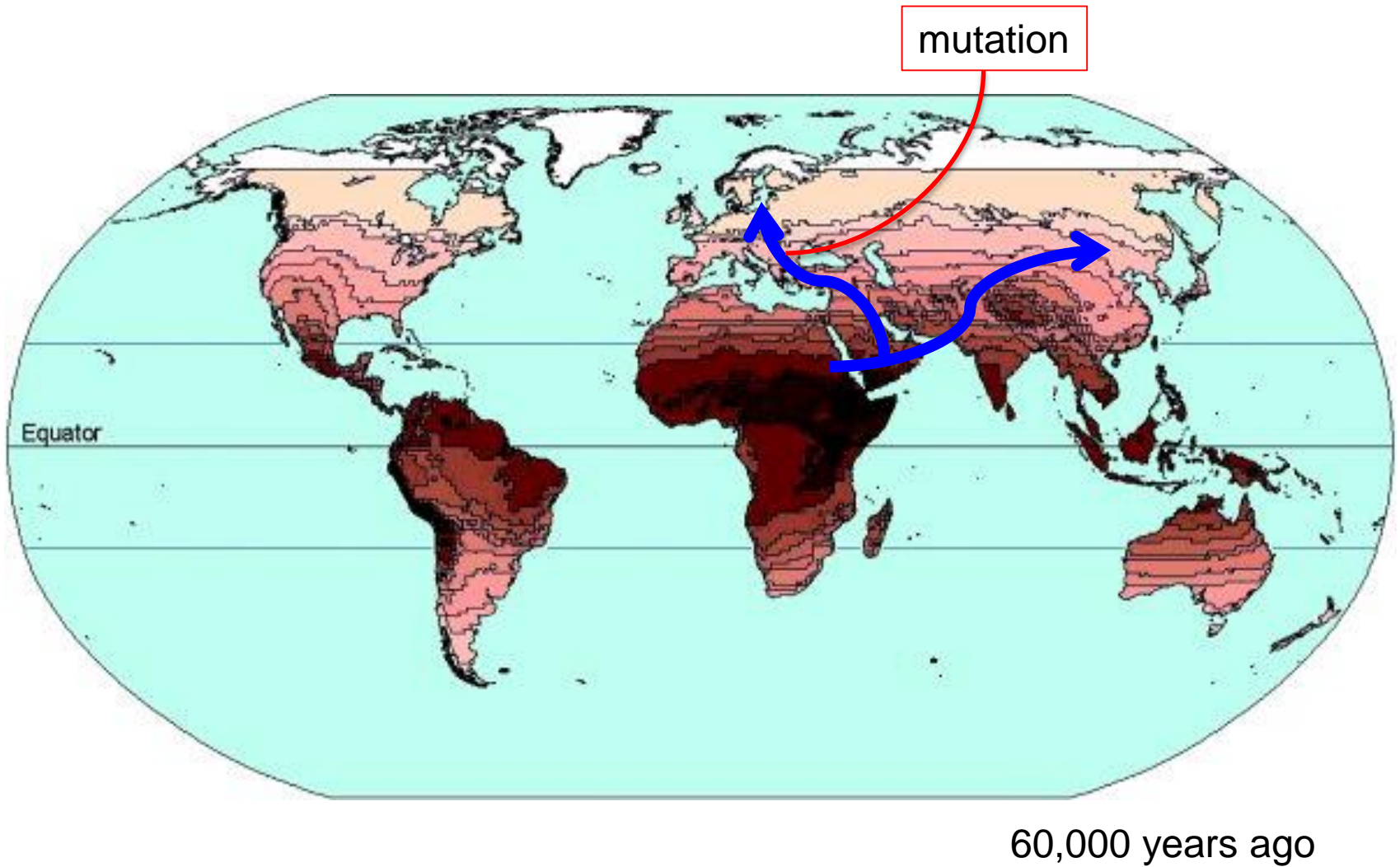
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**Human
Molecular Genetics**

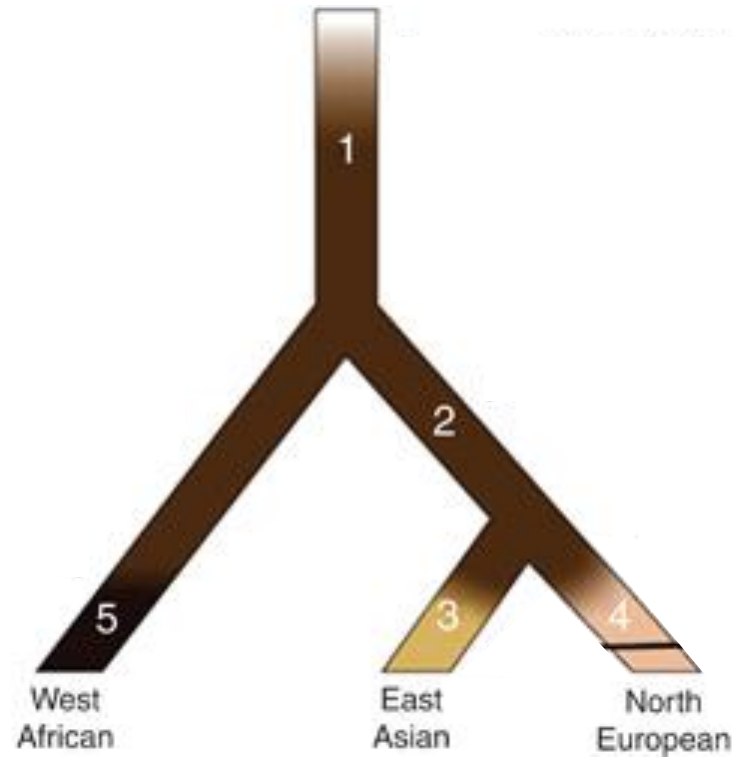
Skin color varies with sunlight



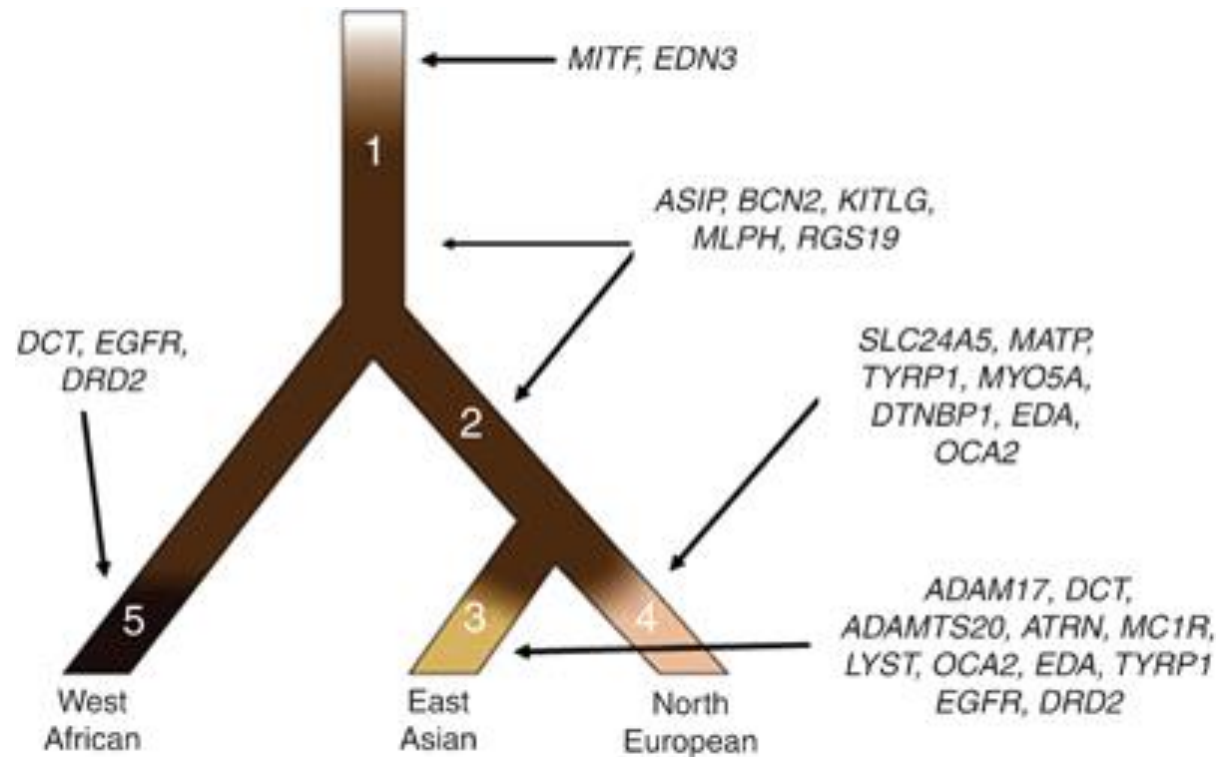
Skin color changed because DNA changed



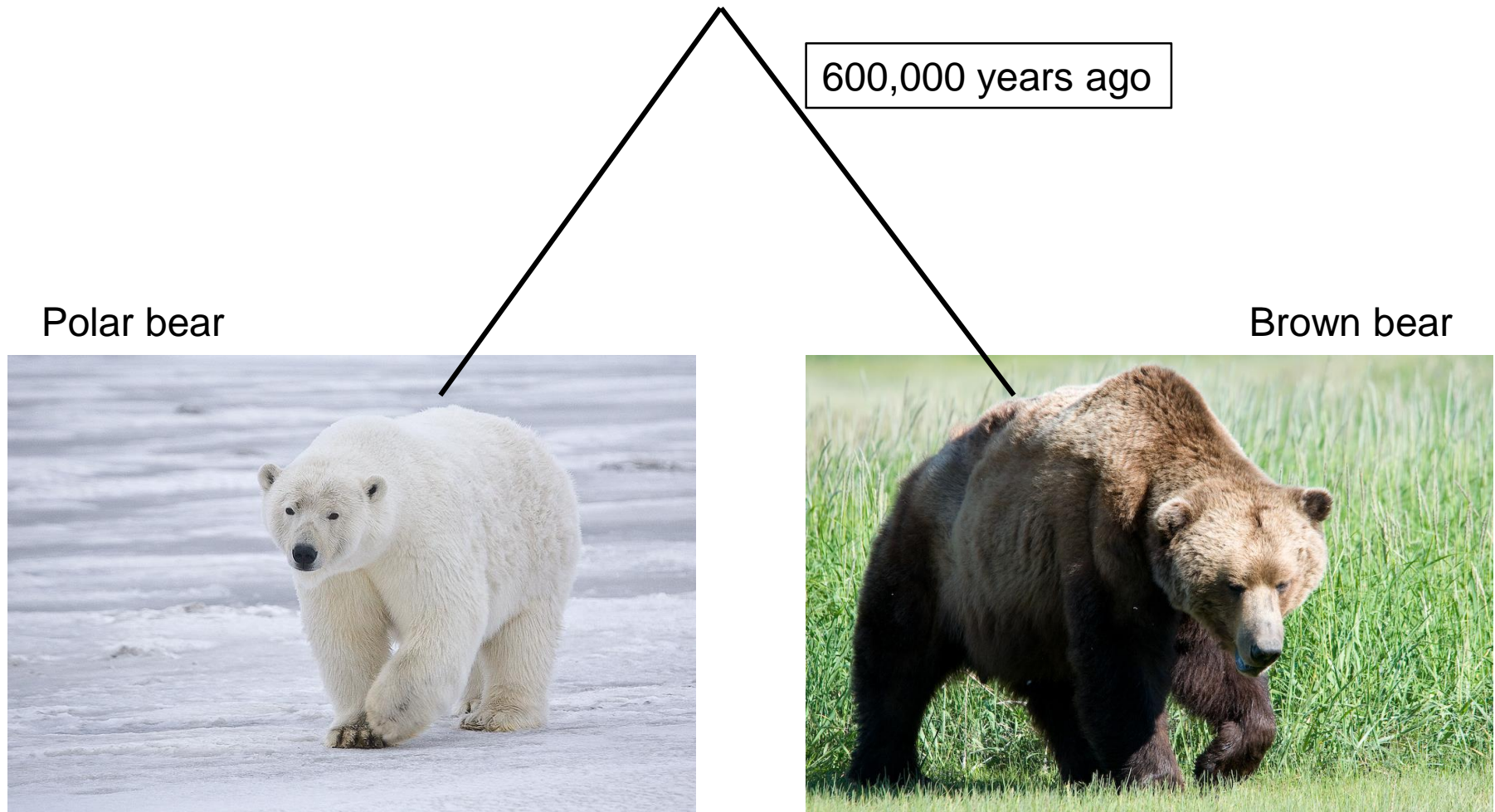
Species are constantly changing



Species are constantly changing



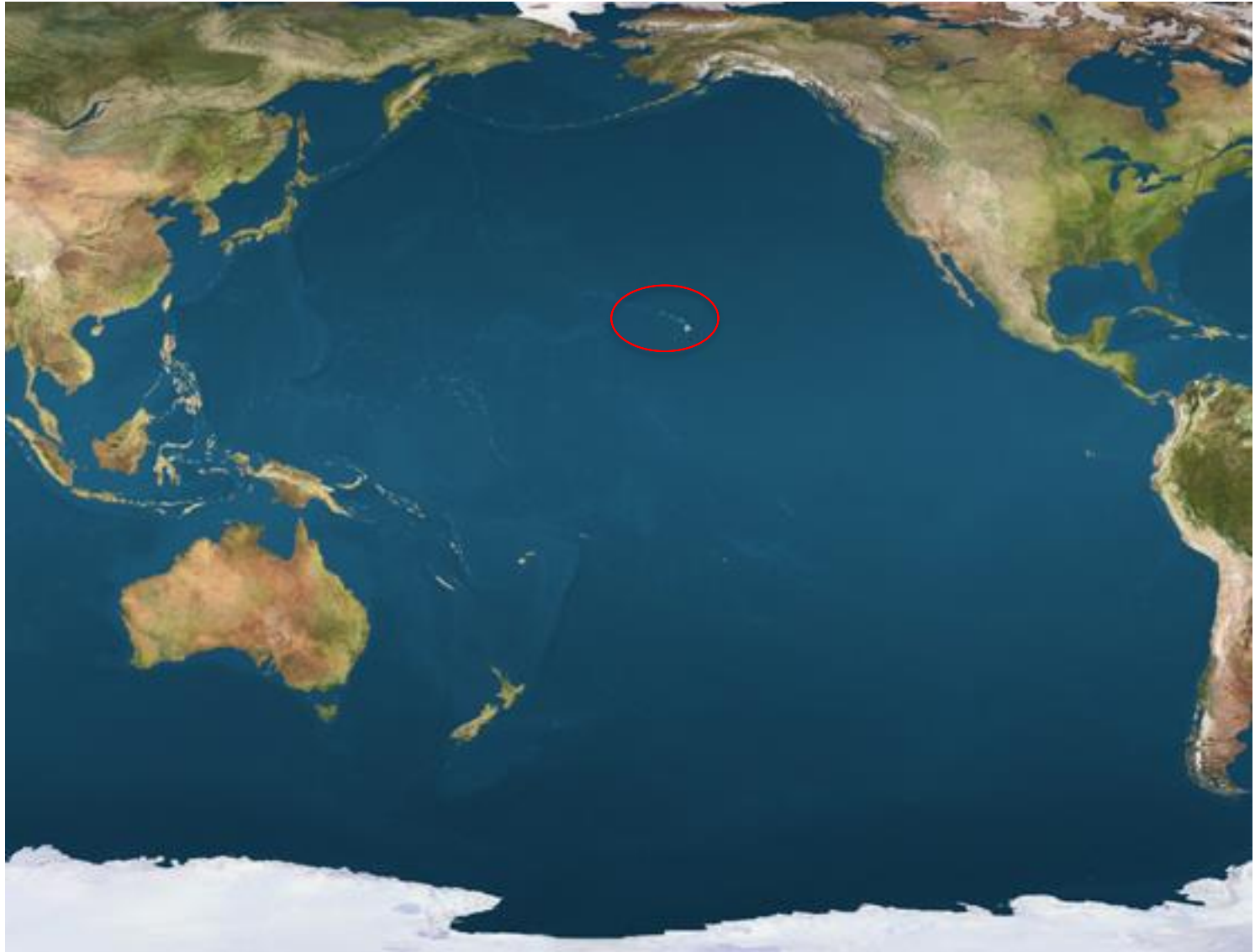
Change produces new species





Hybrid

Change on Hawaii



All life on Hawaii is recent

Volcanic: land animals had to float or fly there

- Snails
- Insects, spiders
- Birds: ~100 species
- Mammals: 1 species

56 species of honeycreeper

Hawaiian honeycreepers

Diverse group of birds

- Different colors
- Different beaks
- Different foods
- Different sizes

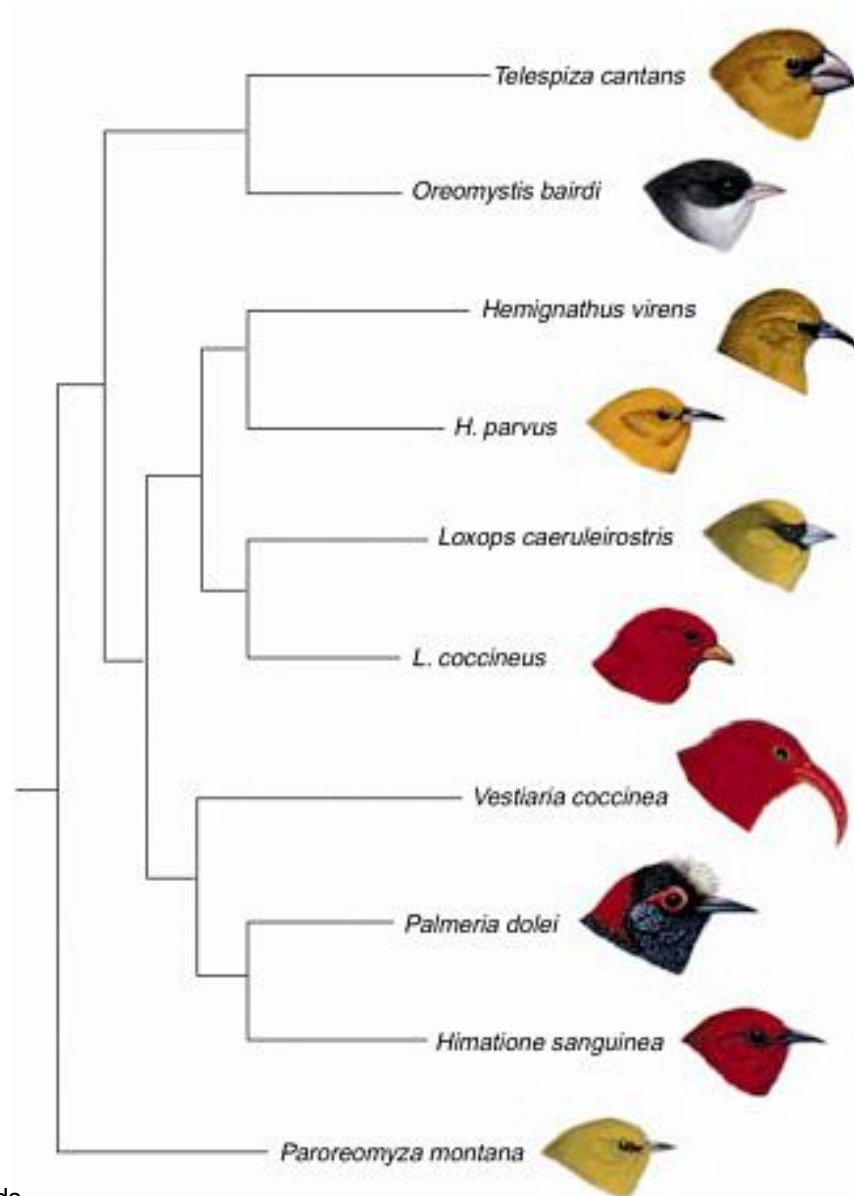


seeds & fruit

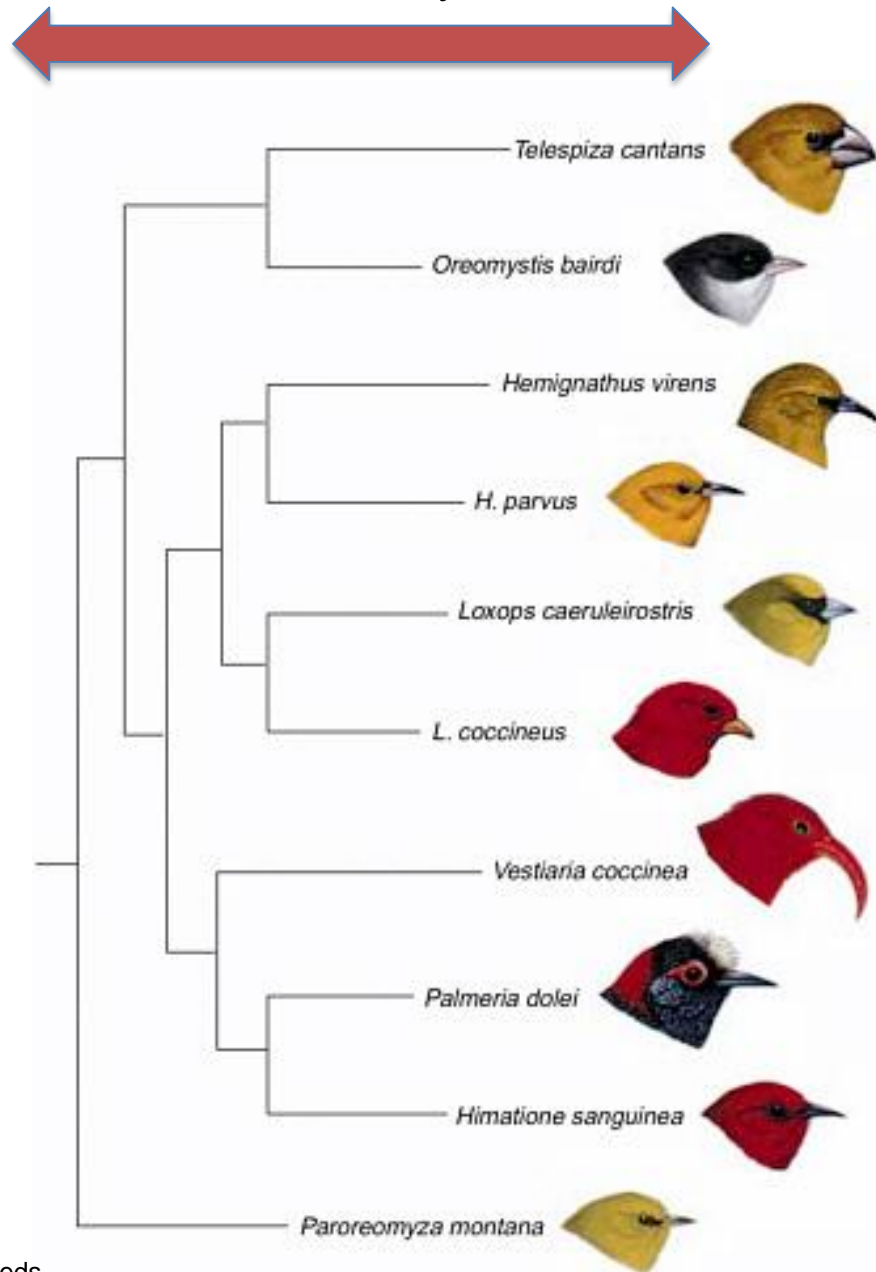
insects

nectar

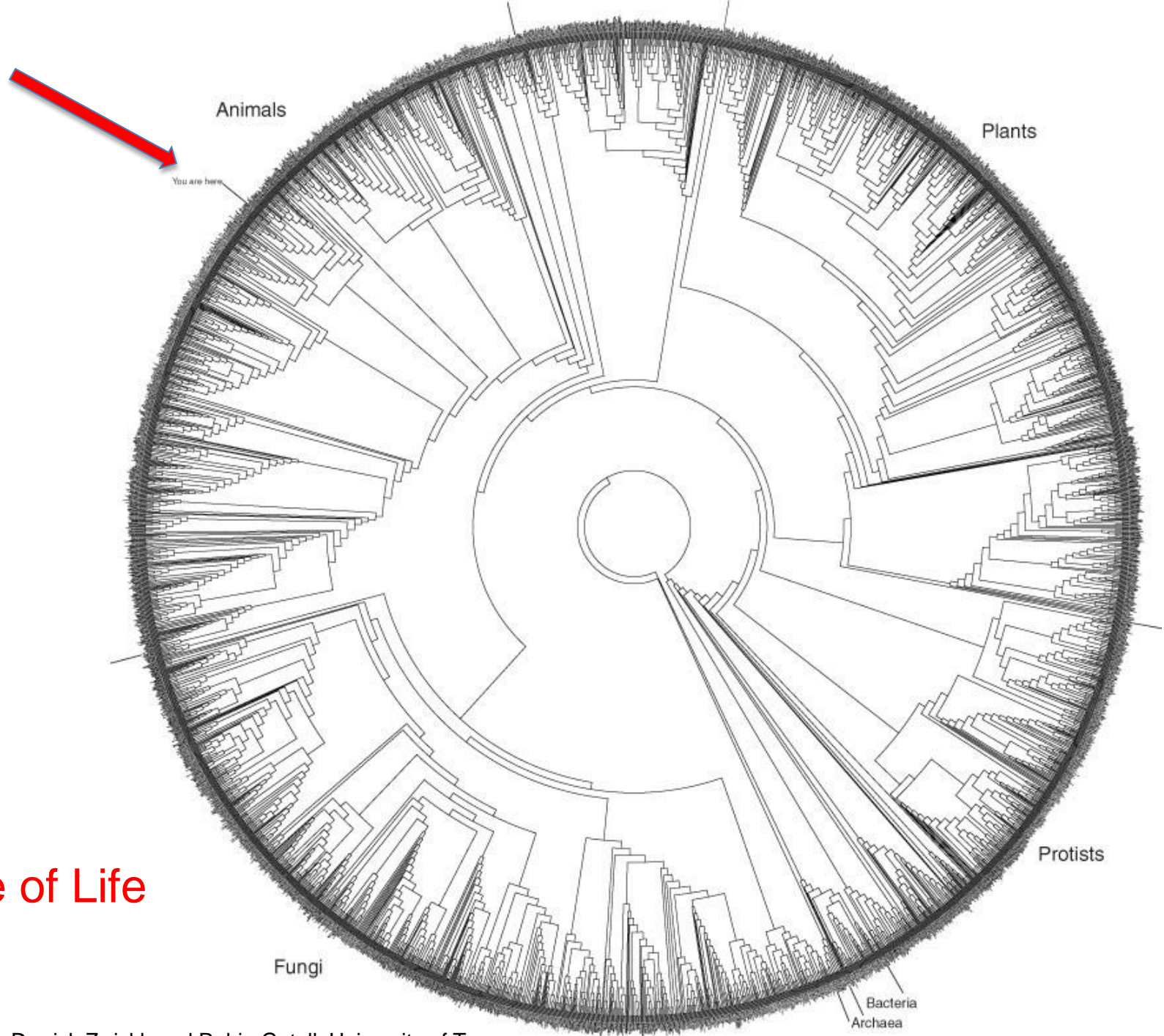
Species get more and more different over time



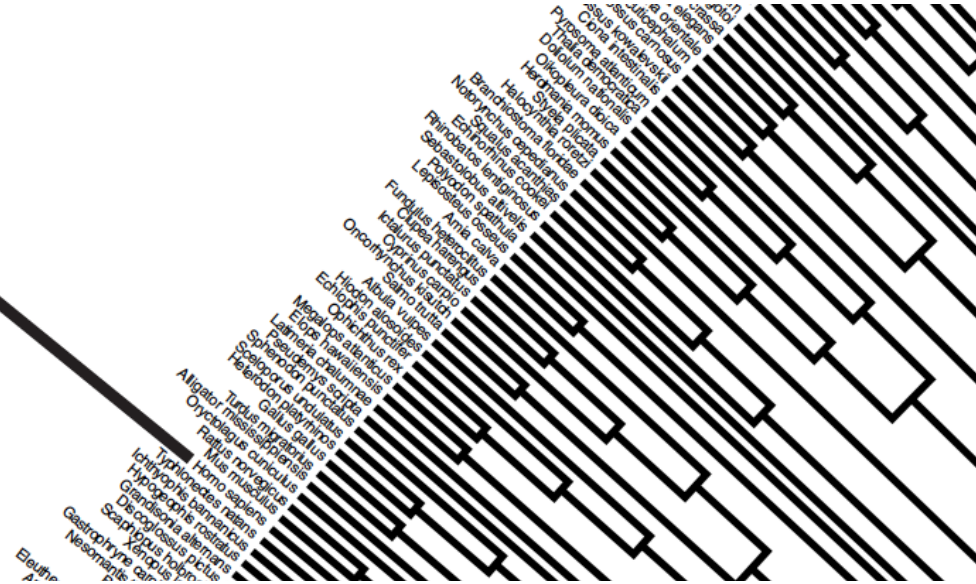
5 million years



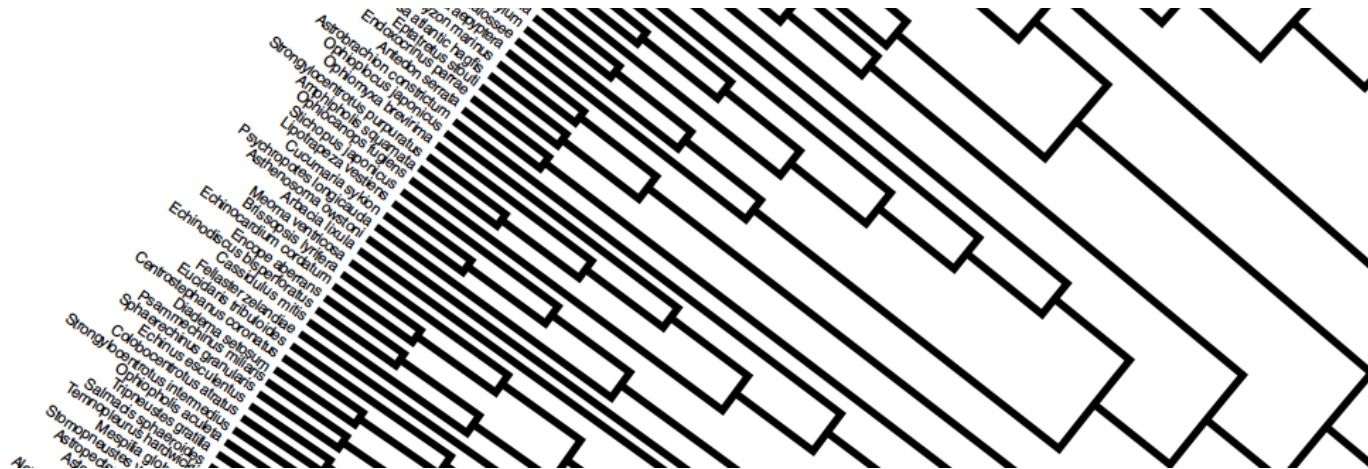
Tree of Life



You are here.



Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution.



Discuss: why do we get goose bumps?



Image: Ildar Sagdejev

Discuss: why do we get goose bumps?

We used to have fur



So what should we make of evolution as Christians?

Question

Does this mean God wasn't involved?

NO

Question

What about Adam and Eve?

Adam and Eve were a real couple

- chosen from a larger group
- given the image of God and the chance to know him
- rejected God

Adam and Eve are archetypes

- represent spiritual state of everyone
- we all choose to reject God
- we are all in exile from the presence of God

Question

Why are humans messed up?

We inherit our tendency to greed, anger, laziness, . . .
from Adam and Eve.

We inherit those tendencies from our primate ancestors
But we now can

- have a relationship with God
- choose between right and wrong

Another answer

“I don’t know”

(Works for lots of questions)

The good news: none of it matters very much

All of these positions are united in the essentials of the faith

- We are all sinners.
- We all stand in need of Gods mercy.
- God entered his creation in his son, Jesus, and redeemed us through his death and resurrection.

Questions for discussion

- Is your Christian faith (if any) compatible with evolution?
 - Why or why not?
- Does it matter to you?