

Evolution before Darwin

在達爾文提出進化論之前的人

Vocabulary: Evolution

You've heard of Charles Darwin, right? The **celebrated** scientist who proposed a **theory of evolution**. You might have just about heard of Alfred Russel Wallace, who co-authored, with Darwin, the revolutionary work *On the Origin of Species*, published in 1859. But what about Patrick Matthew? 'Patrick who?' you might ask. Well, Darwin and Wallace got the fame but Matthew **did the legwork** too.

This British **horticulturalist** actually thought about evolution first, as Dr Mike Weale, geneticist at King's College London, explains. He says: "Matthew published a brief **outline** of the idea of species being able to change into other species through **natural selection**. And he did that 27 years before Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace. And they recognized that he did so but other people since have simplified the story and tended to concentrate just on Darwin."

So Patrick Matthew's relative **obscurity** may simply be down to us – the general public – wanting to simplify things. But Dr Patricia Fara, senior tutor at Clare College Cambridge, points out that Darwin's work might have received more attention because he had powerful friends.

He brought his **allies** on board, she says. The academic explains that "although he was publishing from his **stronghold** down in Kent he had the most famous, most **prominent** members of the scientific society in Victorian times, who were pushing **on his behalf**. Having a scientific theory being accepted is not just a matter of whether the theory's right."

Maybe it is time for us to remember Patrick Matthew, a pioneer of the story of **survival** through **adaptation** that is at the heart of evolution.

Find the answers from the given text

1. What changed the way people thought about the development of living things in the 19th century?
2. What did Matthew work with?
3. True or false? *Darwin claimed that he was the only person who had come up with a theory of natural selection.*
4. What helped Darwin to become more famous than Matthew?
5. What's the central idea of the theory of evolution?

Choose the correct answer

1. The professor published the book but it was his assistant who _____. He collected the evidence which finally proved the theories.

pushed on his behalf	was down to us	did the legwork	recognised
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2. On the Origin of Species is too complicated for my students to read. I've decided to _____ it and gave them a summary of this book on evolution.

simplify	concentrate	point out	co-author
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3. It's through _____ that some animals evolve while others just die out.

evolution	survival	adaptation	Darwin
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4. Ann is such a good student of English that her teachers decided to ask the principal _____ to allow her to jump one semester.

to do her legwork	on her behalf	to do her work	to behalf
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5. When I have an exam to do, I _____ to do the easy questions first and leave the difficult ones for later.

tend	think	recognise	point out
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Vocabulary

You've heard of Charles Darwin, right? The **celebrated** scientist who proposed a **theory of evolution**. You might have just about heard of Alfred Russel Wallace, who co-authored, with Darwin, the revolutionary work *On the Origin of Species*, published in 1859. But what about Patrick Matthew? 'Patrick who?' you might ask. Well, Darwin and Wallace got the fame but Matthew **did the legwork** too.

- celebrated adj. 著名的，受人敬仰的

→補充

- theory of evolution n. 進化論

→補充

- species n. 物種

→補充

- to do the legwork v. 做跑腿的活兒

→補充

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- horticulturalist n. 園藝學家

→補充

- outline n. 概論，概述

→補充

- natural selection n. 物競天擇

→補充

- obscurity n. 無名，默默無聞

→補充

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- **allies** n. 支持者，盟友
→補充
- **stronghold** n. 大本營，居住地
→補充
- **prominent** adj. 著名的，重要的
→補充
- **on one's behalf** 代表某人，為某人的利益
→補充
- **survival** n. 生存
→補充
- **adaptation** n. 改編
→補充