

# Georges Cuvier

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**Born** 23 August 1769  
[Montbéliard](#)

**Died** 13 May 1832  
[Paris](#)

**Nationality** [French](#)

**Known for** establishing [extinction](#), [catastrophism](#), opposition to [evolution](#), [stratigraphy](#)

### Scientific career

**Fields** [natural history](#), [paleontology](#), [anatomy](#)

**Institutions** [Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle](#)

**Baron Georges Léopold Chrétien Frédéric Dagobert Cuvier** (23 August 1769–13 May 1832), usually called **Cuvier**, was a [French naturalist](#) and [zoologist](#).<sup>[1]</sup>

Cuvier was a very important figure in scientific circles in Paris during the early 19th century. He helped establish the fields of [comparative anatomy](#) and [paleontology](#) by comparing living animals with [fossils](#). He proved [extinction](#) was a fact. He was the most influential person believing in [catastrophism](#) in [geology](#) in the early 19th century. His most famous work is the *Règne animal distribué d'après son organisation* 1817; translated into English as *The Animal Kingdom*.

Cuvier was a member of the elite [Académie française](#) and the [French Academy of Sciences](#). He is remembered for strongly opposing the [evolutionary](#) theories of [Lamarck](#) and [Geoffroy](#). Cuvier believed there was no evidence for the evolution of organic forms, but there was evidence for successive creations after catastrophic [extinction events](#).<sup>[2]</sup>

Some of Cuvier's most influential followers were [Louis Agassiz](#), and [Richard Owen](#). His is one of the 72 names inscribed on the [Eiffel Tower](#).

He was the elder brother of [Frédéric Cuvier](#) (1773–1838), also a naturalist. Cuvier died in [Paris](#), of [cholera](#).

## References

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- ↑ Outram, Dorinda 1984. *Georges Cuvier: vocation, science and authority in post-revolutionary France*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- ↑ Larson, Edward J. 2004. *Evolution: the remarkable history of a scientific theory*. New York: Modern Library. [ISBN 0-679-64288-9](#)

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