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Psychology – Evolution

- Phylogenic scale – how a species develops over thousands of years. This scale is anthropocentric.
- Ontogeny – how an individual animal changes over its own lifetime.

Darwin's Theory

- Variation – species differ from each other
- Heritability – offspring tend to resemble parents
- Competition – species tend to reproduce more than can survive
- Adaption – successive generations tend to be more adapted for environment, i.e., if only the fast survive, this will pass on to future generations.

Through natural selection, individuals that survive will have characteristics better suited to their environment.

Changes in a Species – Punctuated Equilibrium

- Efficient use of resources
- Gaining a competitive advantage
- Better ability to attract a mate
- Co-evolution

Adaptation is Imperfect

Natural selection has not produced absolute perfection because:

- Environments change – those better at surviving in an environment are more specialised and less able to adapt
- Evolutionary stable strategies