



Lamarck

Full name: Jean-Baptiste Pierre Antoine de Monet, Chevalier de Lamarck

Famous “wrong” dude

(from France)

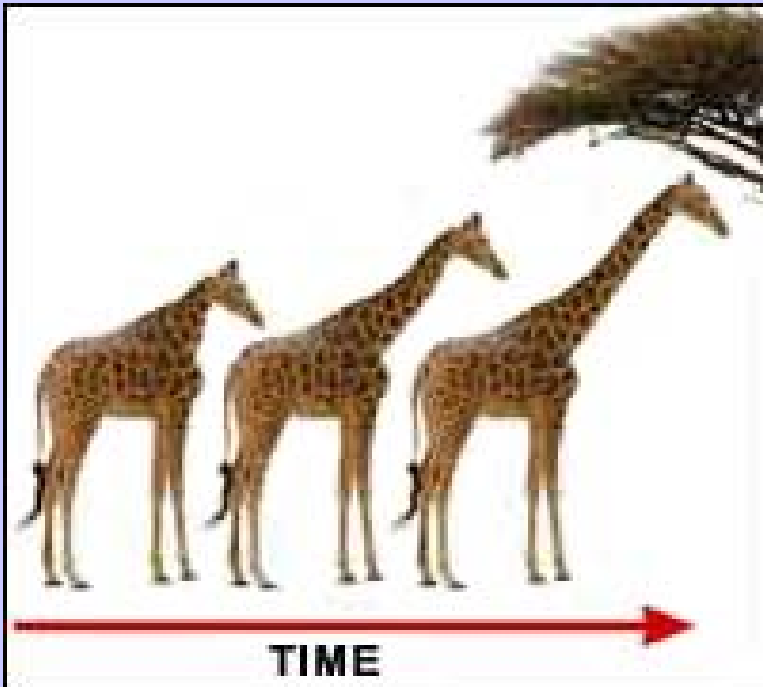
Lamarckism

- Did some great work that not many remember him for. e.g. First person to use the term “biology”
- He believed two theories that most scientists of his day believed as well (including Darwin)
- These were:
 - Theory of **transmission of acquired characteristics**
 - Evolutionary change occurs through “**use and disuse**”
- He *really* thought that all organisms wanted to be perfect (human-like). Striving for perfection caused evolutionary change.
- More a philosopher than a scientist.

Giraffe Necks

The classic example

A story re-written for the text books



As shorter-necked giraffes stretched for higher leaves, their bodies changed and they passed the stretched-neck traits on to the next generation.

He really thought that because having longer necks would make them better suited for the high-leaved environment they would naturally tend to grow longer necks.

“Disproven”

- Weismann and his tail-chopped mice.
- What about circumcision?
- What didn't Darwin know about?
- Lamarck came *before* Darwin. Knew nothing of genetics.
- Knowledge of chromosomes and genes finally silences *Neo-Lamarckists*.

The Message

- Lamarck not as bad as he is written to be.
- What does this say about the “facts” in textbooks?

