

The development of understanding of genetics and evolution

What evidence supports the theory of evolution?

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What are fossils and how may they form?

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Why is the fossil record incomplete?

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What is extinction?

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How do antibiotic-resistant bacteria arise and spread?

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How can the development of antibiotic resistance be reduced?

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What is MRSA, and why do new antibiotics not solve the problem?

Remains of organisms from millions of years ago, found in rocks. They form when decay conditions are absent, by mineral replacement, or as preserved traces.

Characteristics are passed on in genes, the fossil record, and how antibiotic resistance evolves in bacteria.

When there are no remaining individuals of a species still alive. Factors include new predators, diseases or competitors, environmental change, or a single catastrophic event.

Early life forms were soft-bodied and left few traces, and many traces were destroyed by geological activity.

Do not prescribe antibiotics inappropriately (such as for viral infections), complete the course, and restrict agricultural use.

Mutation produces a resistant strain; antibiotics kill other bacteria, so the resistant ones survive, reproduce and spread because people are not immune.

MRSA is resistant to antibiotics. New antibiotics are costly and slow to develop, so unlikely to keep up with new resistant strains.