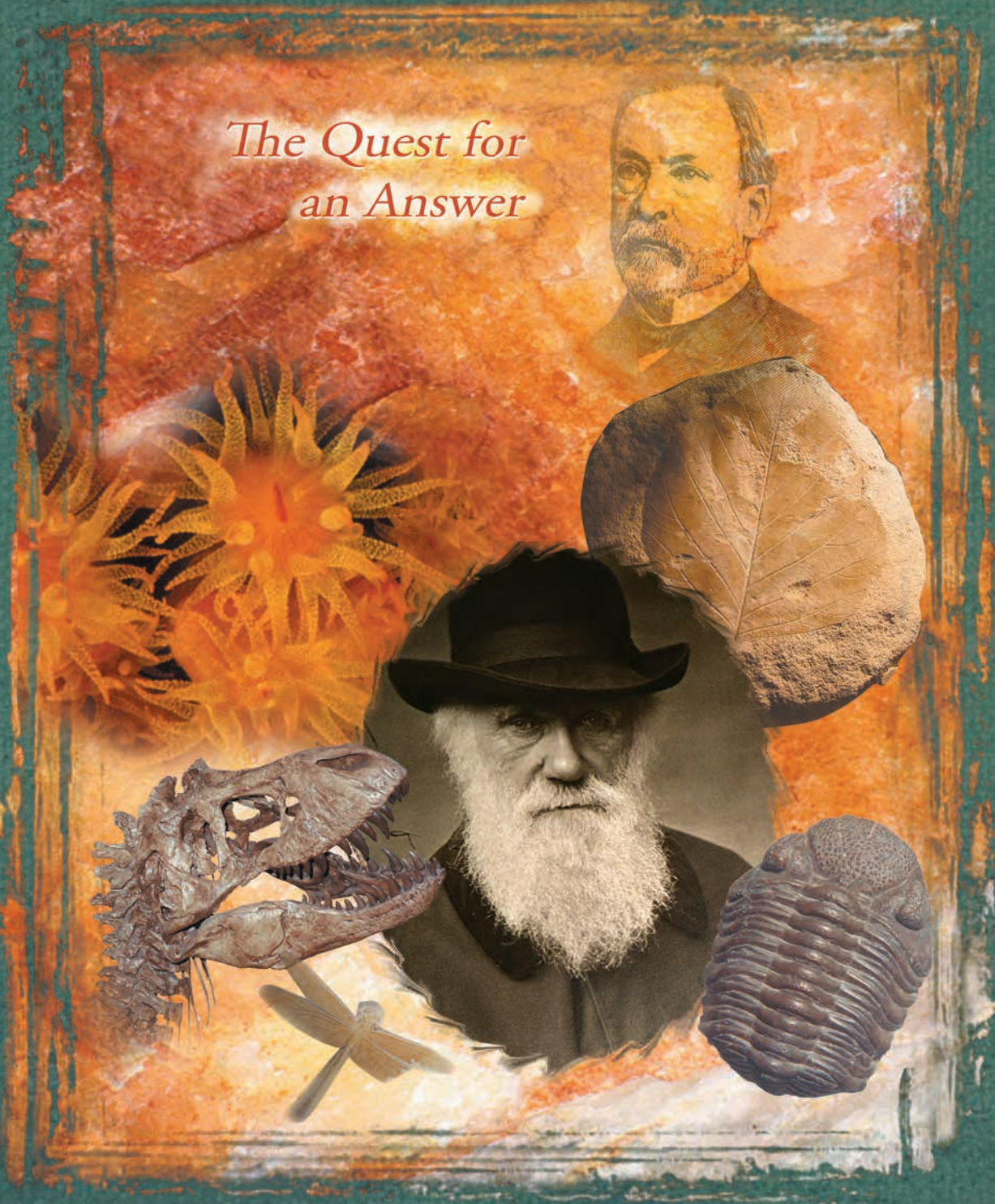


*The Quest for
an Answer*



EVOLUTION:

THE GRAND EXPERIMENT VOL. 1

— Dr. Carl Werner —

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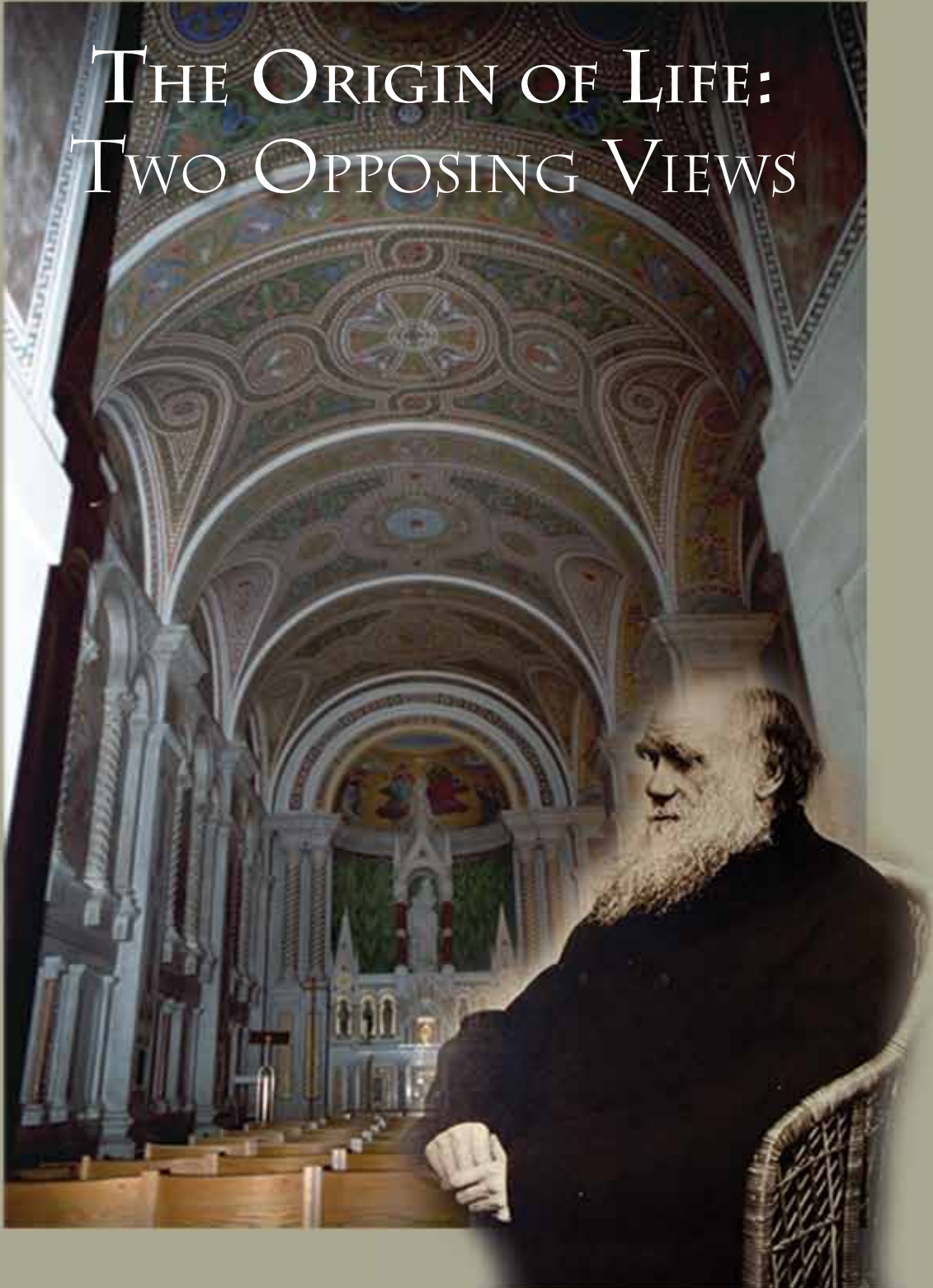
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THE ORIGIN OF LIFE: TWO OPPOSING VIEWS



How Did Life Begin?

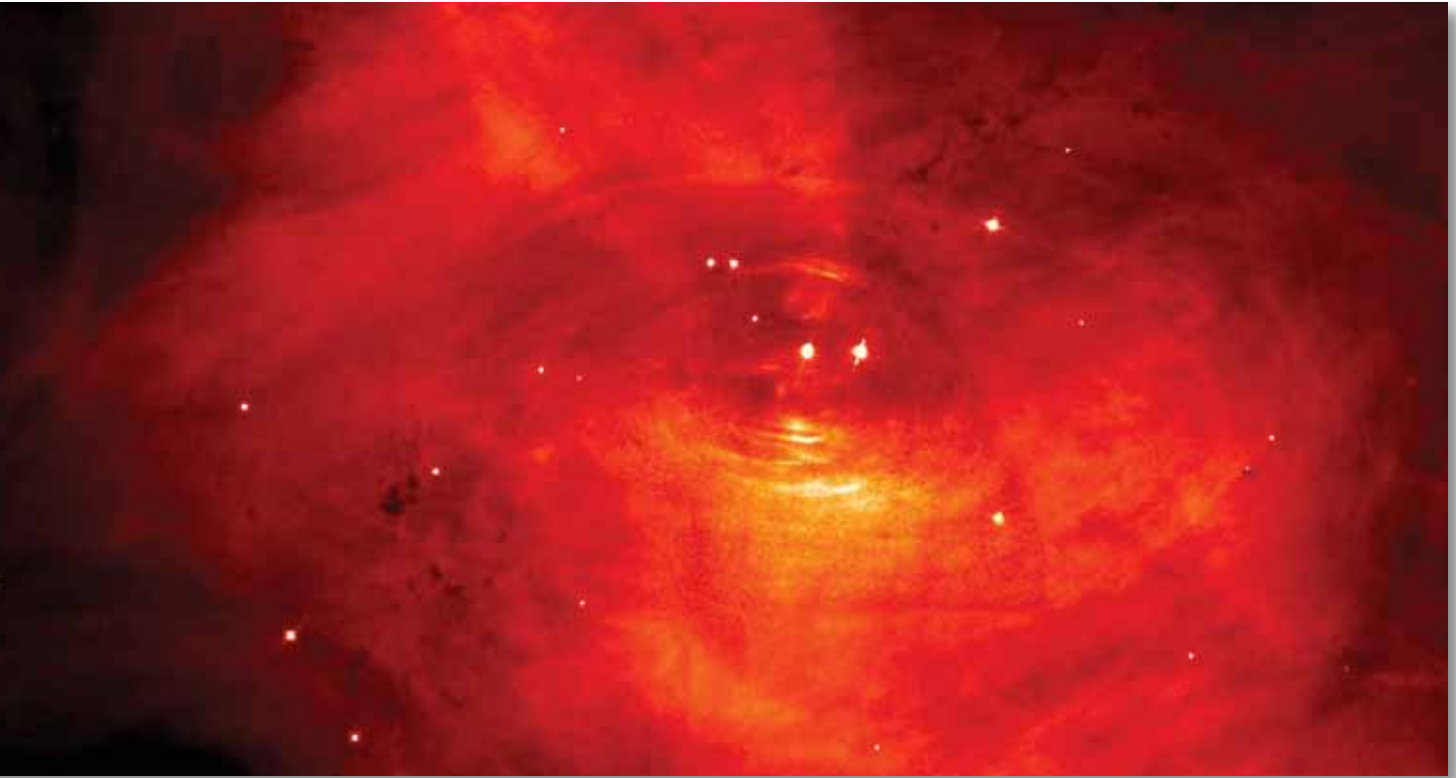


Photo depicting the idea of an explosion in space. Evolution teaches that the universe, and eventually life itself, came about as a result of the big bang.

What are we to believe?

How did life begin? One view is that an all-powerful God created the universe and all forms of life. Another view proposes that the universe began billions of years ago as a result of the big bang. Later, life in the form of a bacterium-like organism arose spontaneously from a mixture of chemicals. Subsequently, this single-cell organism slowly began to evolve into all modern life forms. A third view is that life evolved but God formed the first living organism and then helped the process along.



The Origin of Life

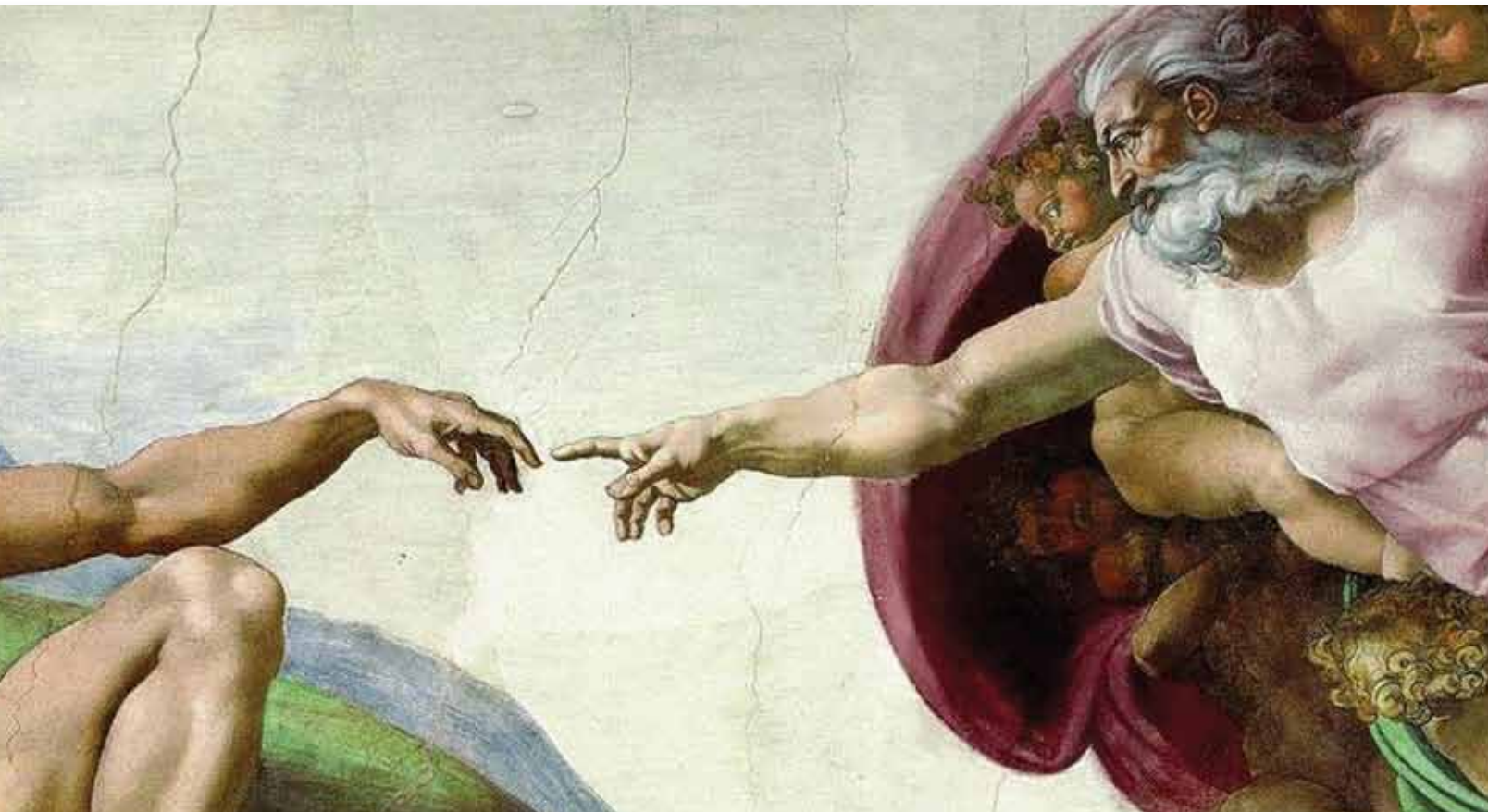
How life came about has been the subject of debate for almost as long as mankind has existed. Did life originate as a result of the intervention by a supernatural deity? Or did life come about as a result of natural laws acting over time? Scientists continue to search for definitive answers to these questions.

The publication of Darwin's theory of evolution in 1859 was a significant catalyst in propelling man's search for a natural understanding of past and present life. Unraveling the mystery of how life began and how life may have changed over time has been the focus of many scientists. Since Darwin's theory was first made public, scientists have collected over 200 million fossils, described

the structure of DNA, and identified how genes are passed on to the next generation. These major scientific developments provide us with relevant and thought-provoking information. They lead us to pause and examine our ideas in view of today's ever-increasing and heated debate over the history of life on earth.

The purpose of this book is to address these important scientific discoveries and present the reader with rare and remarkable facts concerning the origin of life — from spontaneous generation, through Darwin's ideas on evolution, to the present-day understanding of mutations and natural selection.

Michelangelo's painting depicting God creating man (from the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel)



Americans Are Split on Their Beliefs.

According to a Gallup poll taken in 2006, many Americans believe that God created man in the last 10,000 years. This is surprising given the fact that scientists have been teaching evolution for more than a century.

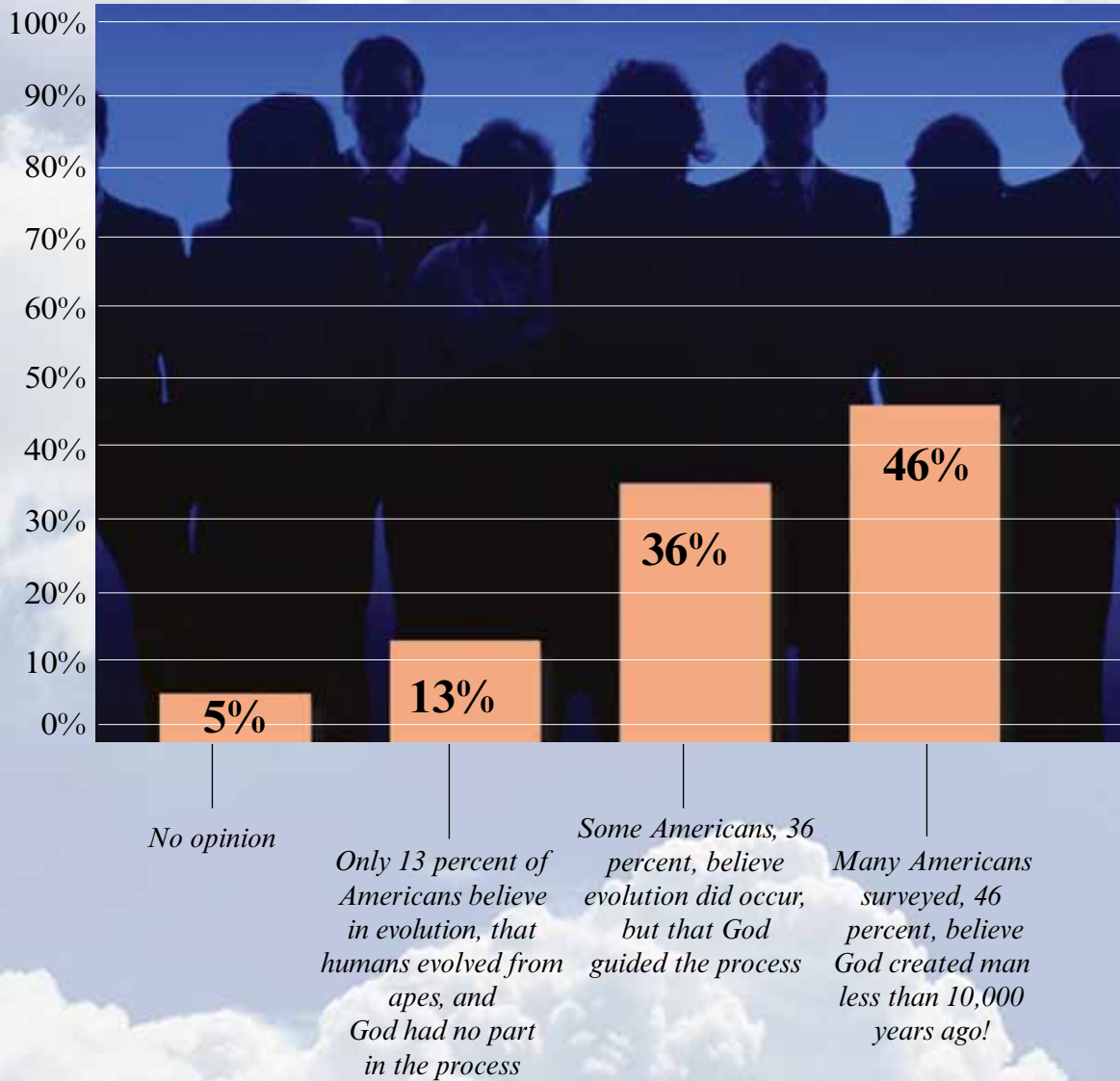
Do most Americans not believe the theory of evolution because it is implausible? Do they not believe evolution because of their religious views? Or, do they not believe in the theory because they are unfamiliar with its concepts?



What Do You Think?



Many Americans Surveyed Don't Believe Darwin's Theory.



Source: Gallup poll, May 2006



Do You Believe in Evolution?

Con



No, I don't believe in evolution at all. I think if you just look at the facts, it's pretty clear; it just can't be.

*Did we come from monkeys?
I don't know. There is evidence for it, but there is also some stuff missing, so making that leap with a missing link there, I have some problems with that.*



From what I've seen and heard, we have not evolved from apes for the simple fact that apes are still around. I mean, if we evolved from them, why are they still here?



Interviews from *Evolution: The Grand Experiment* video series



What Do You Think?



Pro



Yes, I do believe in the theory of evolution because I think that we had to come from some place and you know from ape to man to what we are today. I definitely believe in evolution.

I think it's a very sad thing that we're getting religious views mixed up with governmental involvement with education. I think it's a sad comment on how people are trying to fix what they see as social problems in today's world by falling back on religious dogma.



Evolution: Scientists Can't Agree

Ever since Darwin's time there have been scientists who strongly disagree with the theory of evolution. But since the middle of the twentieth century, there have been a growing number of scientists who reject the theory of evolution based on the discovery of processes and structures of which Darwin was unaware. These scientists cite multiple "lines of evidence" that evolution did not occur, including gaps in the fossil record, problems with the big bang theory,

the amazing complexity of even the simplest organisms, and the inability of scientists to explain the origin of life using natural laws.

Scientists who support evolution state that the evidence for the theory is clear and overwhelming. They offer observations of natural selection in action, the evolution of birds from dinosaurs, the evolution of whales from a land animal, and the evolution of man from apes, as some of the most convincing proofs for evolution.

From the video series

Evolution: The Grand Experiment



Dr. Duane Gish, Biochemist,
Institute for Creation Research

*"Life could not have created itself. Theories on the origin of life, that is the evolutionary origin of life, are modern-day fantasies; they are fairy tales."*¹

— Dr. Gish

Con

*"You really have to be blind or three days dead not to see the transitions among these. You have to not want to see it."*²

— Dr. Padian

Pro



Dr. Kevin Padian, Paleontologist,
UC Berkeley

