

What's the point of sex?

This may seem obvious. But in evolutionary terms, the benefits of sexual reproduction are not immediately clear. Male rhinoceros beetles grow huge, unwieldy horns half the length of their body that they use to fight for females. Ribbon-tailed birds of paradise produce outlandish plumage to attract a mate. Darwin was bothered by such traits, since his theory of evolution couldn't completely explain them ("The sight of a feather in a peacock's tail, whenever I gaze at it, makes me feel sick!" he wrote to a friend).

Moreover, sex allows an unrelated, possibly inferior partner to insert half a genome into the next generation. So why is sex nearly universal across animals, plants and fungi?

Read the full, original story here: [FYI: What's The Point Of Sex?](#)