10 questions we should ask about teaching evolution

1. What do you think are the main factors that influence how effective a biology teacher is at teaching evolution?

It's all about content knowledge. A teacher should know the definition of a scientific theory, current examples of evolution, and, as a result, have confidence when teaching the subject.

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4. What type of evidence is important for students to view in a biology classroom?

It is important that they understand that there are multiple lines of evidence for evolution all leading to the same conclusion. Evidence for evolution comes from many areas, including the fossil record, the law of superposition, biogeography, artificial selection, homologous structures, vestigial organs, and genetics.

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5. What techniques should be used for teaching evolution?

Make sure students understand scientific inquiry first and how science finds answers through observation, experiments, data collection, and sharing results. Try hands-on activities —and it's very important to use modern-day examples of evolution, not just Darwin and his finches.

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8. With the current administration, how do you think science education, mainly evolution, will change?

Americans are becoming more accepting of evolution. The people President Donald Trump has hired and the decisions being made (see for example Florida SB 989) will slow down this positive trend. Darwin said, "Ignorance begets confidence more often than knowledge." People who do not know what they are talking about will make decisions that will hurt us as a nation.

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