

Short List Of Evolutionary Theories Before Darwin

When	Who	What	How	Documents
1726	Charles-Louis de Secondat Baron de Montesquieu	Evolution	?	
1745	Pierre-Louis Moreau de Maupertuis	Evolution	natural selection of the fit	<i>Venus Physique</i>
1754	Denis Diderot	Evolution	change through natural selection	<i>Thoughts on the Interpretation of Nature</i> ; Lettre sur les aveugles ("Letter on the Blind") (1749)
1772	James Burnett Lord Monboddo	Evolution	natural selection of the fit	
1779	David Hume (d. 1776)	Evolution	refuted arguments from design and miracles	<i>Dialogs Concerning Natural Religion</i>
1749- 1778	Georges-Louis Leclerc Compte de Buffon	Evolution	natural selection of the fit	<i>Histoire naturelle, générale et particulière</i> , 36 volumes
1712- 1778	Jean-Jacques Rousseau	Evolution	ape compared to man	
1794	Erasmus Darwin (Charles Darwin's grandfather)	Evolution	acquired characteristics	<i>Zoonomia</i> , 1794; <i>Temple of Nature</i> , 1803
1800	Jean-Baptiste Lamarck	Evolution	acquired characteristics	<i>Hydrogéologie</i> , 1801;
1813	William Charles Wells	Evolution	natural selection	"Account of a female of the white race ... causes of the differences in color and form between...races of men" (Royal Society paper)
1818	Geoffery Saint-Hilaire	Evolution	unity of plan; environment causes changes	<i>Philosophie anatomique</i>
c.a. 1820	Robert Grant	Evolution	spontaneous changes and environment	
1831	Patrick Matthew	Evolution	natural selection	<i>Naval Timber and Arborculture</i>
1844	Robert Chambers	Evolution	acquired characteristics	<i>Vestiges of Creation</i>