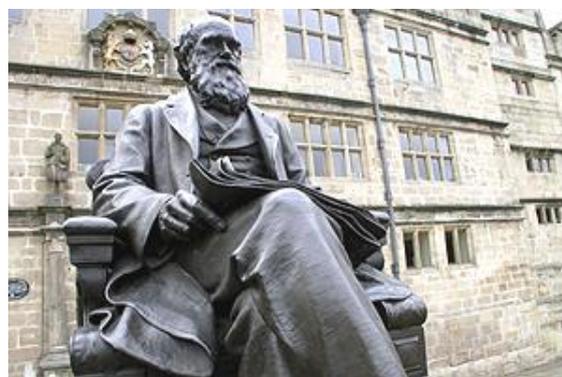


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Vocabulary: Evolution 词汇：进化

You've heard of Charles Darwin, right? The **celebrated** scientist who proposed a **theory of evolution**. You might have just about heard of Alfred Russel Wallace, who co-authored, with Darwin, the revolutionary work *On the Origin of Species*, published in 1859. But what about Patrick Matthew? 'Patrick who?' you might ask. Well, Darwin and Wallace got the fame but Matthew **did the legwork** too.



A statue of Darwin in his home town of Shrewsbury, UK

This British **horticulturalist** actually thought about evolution first, as Dr Mike Weale, geneticist at King's College London, explains. He says:

"Matthew published a brief **outline** of the idea of species being able to change into other species through **natural selection**. And he did that 27 years before Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace. And they recognized that he did so but other people since have simplified the story and tended to concentrate just on Darwin."

So Patrick Matthew's relative **obscurity** may simply be down to us – the general public – wanting to simplify things. But Dr Patricia Fara, senior tutor at Clare College Cambridge, points out that Darwin's work might have received more attention because he had powerful friends.

"He brought his **allies** on board", she says. The academic explains that "although he was publishing from his **stronghold** down in Kent he had the most famous, most **prominent** members of the scientific society in Victorian times, who were pushing **on his behalf**. Having a scientific theory being accepted is not just a matter of whether the theory's right."

Maybe it is time for us to remember Patrick Matthew, a pioneer of the story of **survival** through **adaptation** that is at the heart of evolution.

词汇表

celebrated	著名的，受人敬仰的
theory of evolution	进化论
species	物种
to do the legwork	做跑腿的活儿
horticulturalist	园艺学家
outline	概论，概述
natural selection	物竞天择
obscurity	无名，默默无闻
allies	支持者，盟友
stronghold	大本营，居住地
prominent	著名的，重要的
on one's behalf	代表某人，为某人的利益
survival	生存
adaptation	改编

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What changed the way people thought about the development of living things in the 19th century?
2. What did Matthew work with?
3. True or false? *Darwin claimed that he was the only person who had come up with a theory of natural selection.*
4. What helped Darwin to become more famous than Matthew?
5. What's the central idea of the theory of evolution?

2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. The professor published the book but it was his assistant who _____. He collected the evidence which finally proved the theories.

pushed on his behalf	was down to us	did the legwork	recognised
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2. On the Origin of Species is too complicated for my students to read. I've decided to _____ it and gave them a summary of this book on evolution.

simplify	concentrate	point out	co-author
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3. It's through _____ that some animals evolve while others just die out.

evolution	survival	adaptation	Darwin
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4. Ann is such a good student of English that her teachers decided to ask the principal _____ to allow her to jump one semester.

to do her legwork	on her behalf	to do her work	to behalf
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5. When I have an exam to do, I _____ to do the easy questions first and leave the difficult ones for later.

tend	think	recognise	point out
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What changed the way people thought about the development of living things in the 19th century?
The publication of *On the Origin of Species* by Darwin and Wallace in 1859.
2. What did Matthew work with?
Plants and trees – he was a horticulturalist.
3. True or false? *Darwin claimed that he was the only person who had come up with a theory of natural selection.*
False. Dr Mike Weale, geneticist at King's College London, says that Darwin recognised that Matthew thought of it first.
4. What helped Darwin to become more famous than Matthew?
Dr Patricia Fara, senior tutor at Clare College Cambridge, says he had influential people in the scientific society defending his ideas.
5. What's the central idea of the theory of evolution?
The central idea of the theory of evolution is that species adapted to their environment to survive – the ones which didn't adapt, disappeared.

2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. The professor published the book but it was his assistant who **did the legwork**. He collected the evidence which finally proved the theories.
2. *On the Origin of Species* is too complicated for my students to read. I've decided to **simplify** it and gave them a summary of this book on evolution.
3. It's through **adaptation** that some animals evolve while others just die out.
4. Ann is such a good student of English that her teachers decided to ask the principal **on her behalf** to allow her to jump one semester.
5. When I have an exam to do, I **tend** to do the easy questions first and leave the difficult ones for later.