**Origins 101-1**

**Introduction to the Creation-Evolution Debate**

Script

Instructions: Advance the PowerPoint slides at every new paragraph and anywhere you see “/”

[1] Origins 101: / Introduction to the Creation-Evolution Debate

[2] Origins means beginnings.

[3] There are two main ideas about where we came from: creation and evolution. In the Origins 101 series, we will explore these ideas and look at some of the evidence that is presented to support them.

[4] The Bible states that we were created by God. In contrast, / many scientists claim that the earth’s creatures have evolved through a series of random but fortunate events.

[5] Let’s take a look at some claims about evolution. Remember that these are claims—not truth statements. / One book for children claims that evolution is the most important idea in all of biology / that evolution created both the terrible teeth of a T-rex / and the beauty of a rose petal, / / *and* that it can generate new diseases.

[6] One author claims that the debate ended long ago, and that evolution is now an established fact.

[7] Another author claims that evolution is as much a descriptive fact about nature as the fact that the sky is blue.

[8] In the same place, he compares the fact of evolution to the theory of gravitation.

[9] In order to explore the ideas of creation and evolution, we need to understand some terms. There are different definitions of evolution. / We’ll start with the simplest one: change over time—/ specifically change in living things over time.

[10] Lots of things change—/ babies grow into children and eventually adults; / caterpillars change into butterflies / buds develop into flowers, / and green leaves turn bright colors in the fall. But these kinds of changes are not what we mean when we talk about evolution. What DO we mean?

[11] Not just changes in living things—/ but changes that turn one kind of living thing into another, different kind of living thing.

[12] Perhaps the most robust definition of evolution is the one that says millions of years ago, without direction, *after* life emerged by chance from nonliving materials, living things evolved, producing new kinds of creatures and resulting in the great diversity we see today.

[13] A couple other terms we will be using are microevolution and macroevolution. Since micro means small /and macro means large, /a simple way to think about the terms is to think of small changes and large changes. / All scientists agree that small changes—like the size of Finch beaks—happen over time within populations of living creatures. / But what about big changes? There are different ideas of what constitutes macroevolution, but the bottom line is that macroevolution describes a process of much greater change— the kind and amount of change necessary to transform single living cells into various kinds of animals…

[14] and eventually humans.

[15] Are microevolution and macroevolution two different processes?

[16] Or are they the same thing?

[17] Some scientists believe—like Darwin did—that lots of microevolutionary change over millions of years adds up to macroevolution.

[18] Other scientists do not.

[19] While there is scientific evidence for microevolution, / the evidence indicates that the amount of change that can happen in nature is limited.

[20] Throughout the Origins 101 series, / we will continue to explore the claims of evolution / and learn how to evaluate the evidence used to support both evolution and creation. / Next time we will see how the life and death of finches on the Galapagos Islands can help us understand and evaluate the claims of evolution.