

Public Perceptions of Evolution, Religion and Science 2023



Public perceptions of evolution



90%

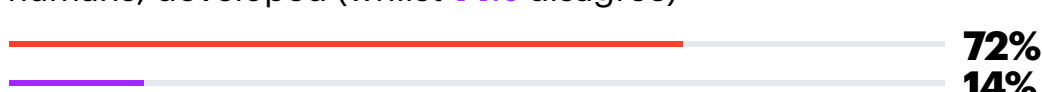
Have heard of evolutionary science, however, only **25%** say they know a lot or a fair amount about it



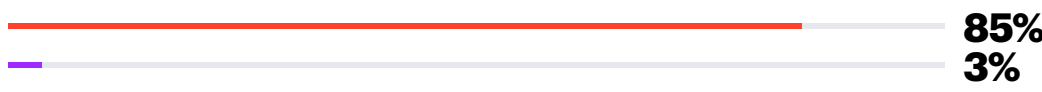
79%

Think evolutionary processes can explain how all organisms, including humans, have developed and continue to develop. Only **8%** disagree

72% of those who are religious or spiritual agree that evolutionary processes explain how all organisms, including humans, developed (whilst **14%** disagree)



85% of those who are not religious or spiritual agree that evolutionary processes explain how all organisms, including humans, developed (whilst **3%** disagree)



84%

Do **not** find it difficult to accept evolutionary science in reference to their own beliefs. For those who identify as religious or spiritual this is **72%**

Public perceptions of others' beliefs around evolution

Think that a member of the general public would find it difficult to accept evolutionary science **12%**



Think that a member of the public who is religious would find it difficult to accept evolutionary science **56%**



Think a scientist would find it difficult to accept evolutionary science **6%**



Think a scientist who is religious would find it difficult to accept evolutionary science **31%**



(In)compatibility of religion and evolution



45%

Think the media represents evolutionary science and religion as being in more conflict than they themselves perceive them to be (vs. **13%** who think the media present them as more compatible)



Views are split on whether science and religion are in conflict:

34% say they are, whilst **28%** say they are compatible



Believing in God and evolution

When asked to what extent you think it would be possible to believe in a God or higher power and still hold the view that life on earth, including human life, developed over millions of years as a result of evolutionary processes, **41%** said it would be difficult



Trust in information sources

Feel **scientists** are reliable **76%**



Perceive **evolutionary science** experts to be reliable **67%**



Science, religion, evolution and social identity

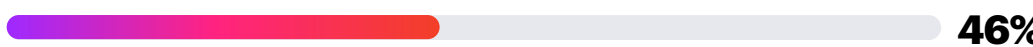
Feel **evolutionary science** is important to their sense of self and how they view the world **46%**



Feel **science** is important to their sense of self and how they view the world **55%**



Feel their **religious, spiritual or non-religious position** is important to their sense of self and how they view the world **46%**



For more information, visit yougov.com/business

These findings are from a study conducted by YouGov on behalf of the University of Birmingham which explored perceptions of religion, science and the relationship between them. The Australian sample size was n=2,000 and the data has been weighted to be representative of all adults in Australia (aged 18+).