

# Public Perceptions of Evolution, Religion and Science 2023



## Public perceptions of evolution



**92%**

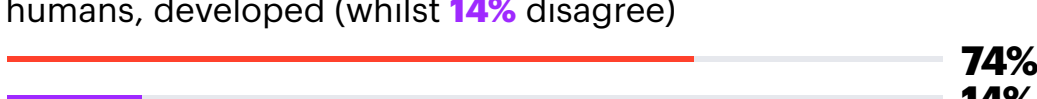
Have heard of evolutionary science, however, only **29%** say they know a lot or a fair amount about it



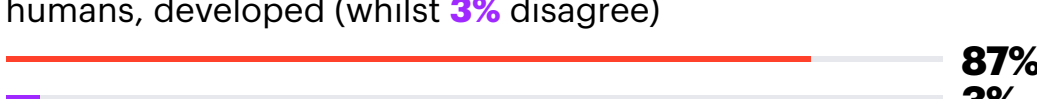
**81%**

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

**74%** of those who are religious or spiritual agree that evolutionary processes explain how all organisms, including humans, developed (whilst **14%** disagree)



**87%** of those who are not religious or spiritual agree that evolutionary processes explain how all organisms, including humans, developed (whilst **3%** disagree)



**85%**

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 **76%**

## 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 **62%**

Think a scientist would find it difficult to accept evolutionary science **7%**

Think a scientist who is religious would find it difficult to accept evolutionary science **34%**

## (In)compatibility of religion and evolution



**46%**

Think the media represents evolutionary science and religion as being more in 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:

**35%** 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, **33%** said it would be difficult



## Trust in information sources

Feel **scientists** are reliable **80%**

Perceive **evolutionary science** experts to be reliable **69%**

## Science, religion, evolution and social identity

Feel **evolutionary science** is important to their sense of self and how they view the world **53%**

Feel **science** is important to their sense of self and how they view the world **62%**

Feel their **religious, spiritual or non-religious position** is important to their sense of self and how they view the world **45%**

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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 Canada sample size was n=2,027 and the data has been weighted to be representative of all adults in Canada (aged 18+).