

Public Perceptions of Evolution, Religion and Science 2023



Public perceptions of evolution



92%

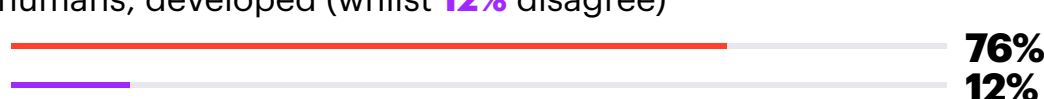
Have heard of evolutionary science, however, only **22%** say they know a lot or a fair amount about it



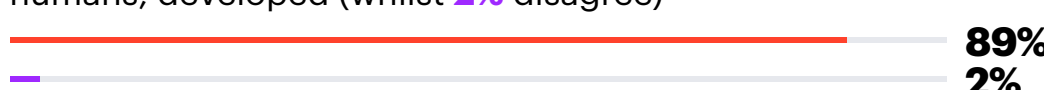
82%

Think evolutionary processes can explain how all organisms, including humans, have developed and continue to develop. Only **7%** disagree

76% of those who are religious or spiritual agree that evolutionary processes explain how all organisms, including humans, developed (whilst **12%** disagree)



89% of those who are not religious or spiritual agree that evolutionary processes explain how all organisms, including humans, developed (whilst **2%** disagree)

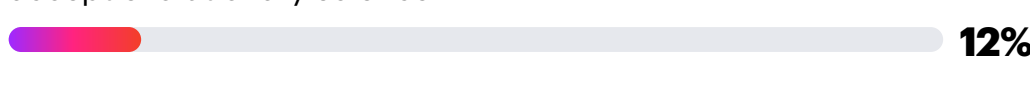


87%

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 **78%**

Public perceptions of others' beliefs around evolution

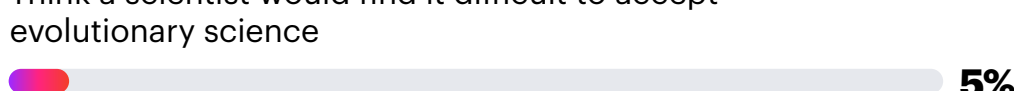
Think that a member of the general public would find it difficult to accept evolutionary science



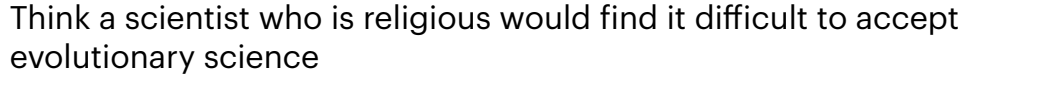
Think that a member of the public who is religious would find it difficult to accept evolutionary science



Think a scientist would find it difficult to accept evolutionary science



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



(In)compatibility of religion and evolution



50%

Think the media represents evolutionary science and religion as being more in conflict than they themselves perceive them to be (vs. **9%** who think the media present them as more compatible)



Views are split on whether science and religion are in conflict

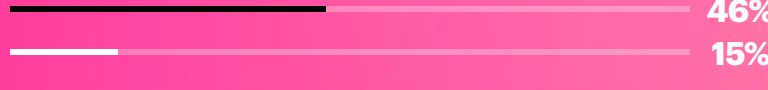
35% say they are, whilst **27%** say they are compatible

● They are compatible ● They are in conflict

For those who are religious or spiritual



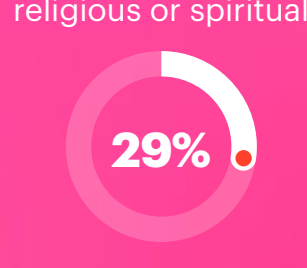
For those who are not religious or spiritual



Believing in God and evolution

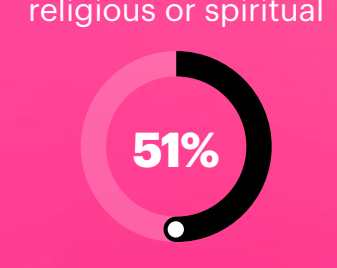
When asked to what extent you think it would be possible to believe in a God or higher power and still hold the view that life on earth, including human life, developed over millions of years as a result of evolutionary processes, **40%** said it would be difficult

For those who **are** religious or spiritual



said it would be difficult

For those who **are not** religious or spiritual



said it would be difficult

Trust in information sources

Feel **scientists** are reliable

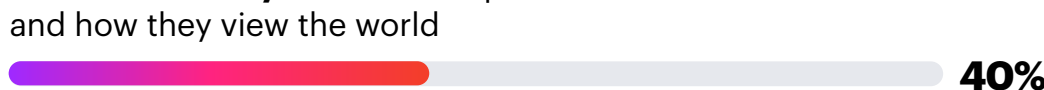


Perceive **evolutionary science** experts to be reliable

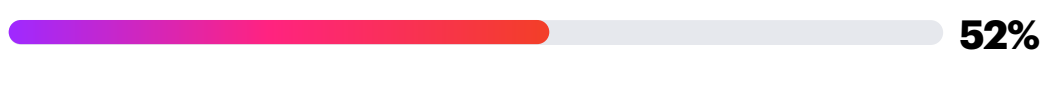


Science, religion, evolution and social identity

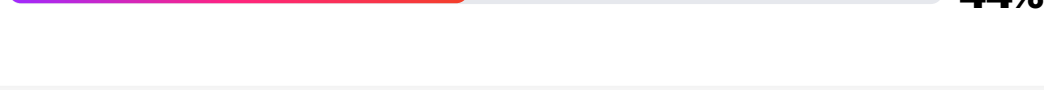
Feel **evolutionary science** is important to their sense of self and how they view the world



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



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



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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 UK sample size was n=2,133 and the data has been weighted to be representative of all adults in the UK (aged 18+).