SECTION 10.1

EARLY IDEAS ABOUT EVOLUTION

Power Notes

Linnaeus:

Developed a classification system for all types of organisms known at the time based upon their physical similarities.

Buffon:

Proposed that species shared ancestors and suggested that Earth is much older than 6000 years.

Darwin:

Proposed that all organisms descended from a common ancestor, and that more complex forms of life arose from less-complex forms.

Lamarck:

Proposed that all organisms evolved toward perfection and complexity and that structures became larger or smaller with use or disuse.

Theories of Biological Change

Early Ideas About Evolution

Theories of Geologic Change

Catastrophism:

Natural disasters such as floods and volcanic eruptions have shaped landforms and caused species to become extinct.

Gradualism:

Changes in landforms resulted from slow changes over a long period of time.

Uniformitarianism:

The geologic processes that shape Earth are uniform through time.