

Darwin's Theory of Evolution: Socio-historical Context

Read the text about the Theory of Evolution and its socio-historical context and complete the following sentences:

The socio-historical context was fundamental in building Darwin's Theory of Evolution by 1. _____.

The 2. _____ and the Rise of Capitalism: The Victorian England where Darwin lived was a hotbed of change. The Industrial Revolution had transformed society, emphasizing 3. _____, efficiency, and the idea of "survival of the fittest" in economic and social spheres.

The Influence of 4. _____ Thought: Darwin read "An Essay on the Principle of Population" (1798) by Thomas Malthus, an economist who argued that human population tends to grow faster than available 5. _____, leading to an inevitable struggle for existence. Darwin applied this idea to the natural world, realizing that in nature, many more individuals are born than can survive.

Advances in Geology and the Idea of "Deep Time": The works of geologists like Charles Lyell (6. _____) were crucial. Lyell proposed 7. _____, the idea that geological processes we observe today have acted in the same way over vast periods of time. This provided Darwin with the necessary timescale for 8. _____ to act gradually.

Exploration and Data Collection: The expansion of the British Empire and scientific exploration voyages, such as Darwin's famous journey on the 9. _____, were key. These trips allowed naturalists like Darwin to observe the variety of life in different environments and collect a large number of specimens and fossils. His observations in the 10. _____ Islands were a turning point for developing his theory.

The Debate on the 11. _____ of Species: Although the idea of evolution wasn't entirely new, the scientific context of the time was ripe for a more solid explanation. The accumulation of fossil evidence and knowledge of comparative anatomy already raised questions about the origin of species.

In summary, Darwin's Theory didn't emerge in a vacuum. It was the result of Darwin's genius, but also of a particular socio-historical context that provided ideas, data, and an intellectual environment conducive to the development of one of history's most influential scientific theories.