

Key Words	Definitions
Atheist	Someone who does not believe in any god.
Social Darwinism	The now largely discredited theory that individuals, groups, and peoples are subject to the same Darwinian laws of natural selection as plants and animals.
Geology	The study of the Earth's physical structure and the processes that have shaped it over time
Uniformitarianism	The idea that the geological processes shaping the Earth today (such as erosion, and volcanic activity) had also operated in the past at similar rates.
Palaeontologist	A person who studies or is an expert in the branch of science concerned with fossil animals and plants.
Theology	The study of the nature of God and religious beliefs.
Natural Selection	The process through which populations of living organisms adapt and change in order to suit their environment.

Was there a 'faith crisis' in 19th century Britain?

Dates	Key events
1811	Mary Anning discovers an Ichthyosaur – the first discovery of dinosaurs.
1823	Mary Anning discovers a Plethiosaur. Her second dinosaur.
1831 - 1836	Charles Darwin goes on expedition to the Galapagos Islands on the HMS Beagle.
1859	Darwin published <i>On the Origin of Species</i> ; it explained how evolution works through natural selection.

Key individuals	Why are they important?
James Hutton	Developed ideas about geology, having studied how blood circulates and is made/renewed. His geological ideas also involved renewal and recirculation. He proposed that rocks and soil are eroded and swept into the sea.
Charles Lyell	Argued for the theory of (see definition in key terms). This contradicted the biblical idea of a young Earth and suggested a much longer timescale for the formation of landscapes and geological features.
Mary Anning	A geologies from Norfolk. She discovered many fossils, including the first discoveries of dinosaurs.
Charles Darwin	Developed the theories of evolution, natural selection, and survival of the fittest.