

Evolution

LUNDQUIST -- 2014

Evolution

- ▶ For most of us we encountered the word: “evolving” around age 10
- ▶ In Pokémon
 - ▶ You play a 10 yr old
 - ▶ You collect pets / pocket monsters
 - ▶ You force them to fight to the “feint”
 - ▶ Eventually they change and grow



Evolution?



- ▶ If your Pokemon trains hard it changes
- ▶ Each evolution is “better” than its un-evolved form

What? MAREEP
is evolving!

Evolution

- ▶ Change in the inherited traits found with in a population over time
- ▶ POPULATION
 - ▶ All the individuals of one species
 - ▶ NOT INDIVIDUALS



EVOLUTION OF THE CYLON

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Not evolution



- ▶ An individual cannot change it's genes



- ▶ Zubat + Zubat \neq Golbat

- ▶ Nidoking + Nidoqueen = nidoran



Not evolution

- ▶ Some evolutions make no sense
 - ▶ Evolution via special stones
 - ▶ Evolution via trade



Real evolution



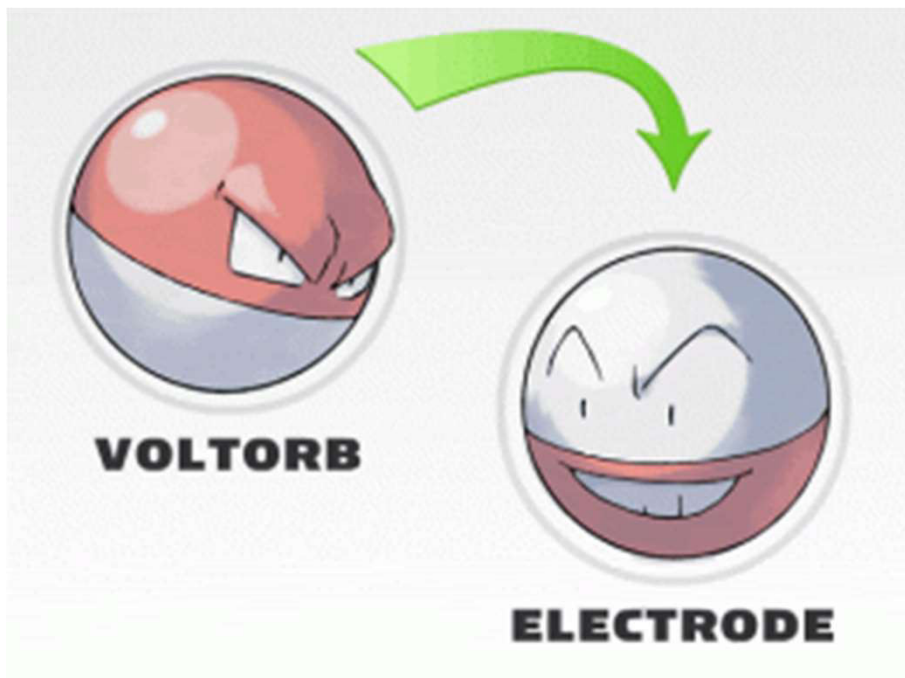
Successful traits (beneficial traits) are passed on

- ▶ Increase the chance of survival and reproduction

Useless traits are killed off

- ▶ Decrease chances of survival

How is this helpful??



So what is it?

- ▶ For some it follows nature:
 - ▶ Metamorphosis -- abrupt change in behavior and body structure
 - ▶ Holometabolous -- the young look VERY different from the adult



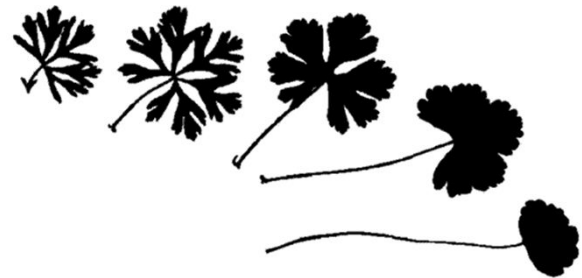
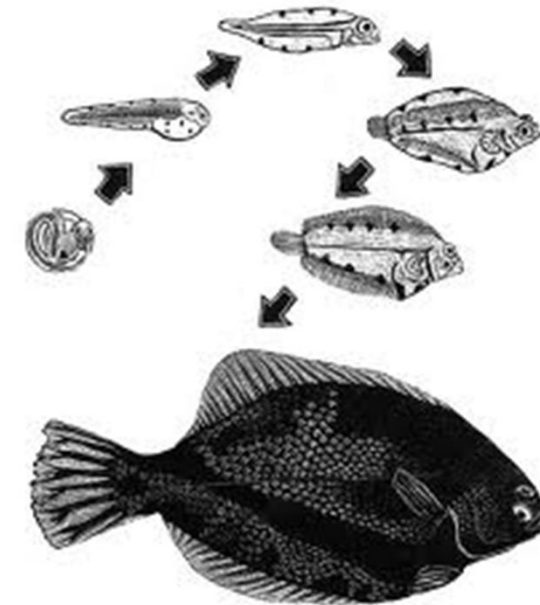
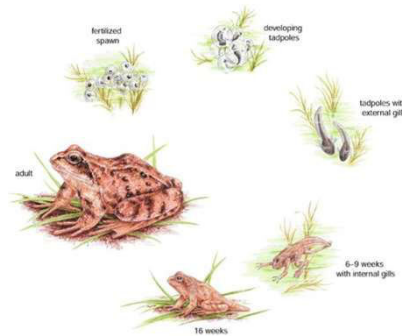
What is it?



- ▶ For some it follows nature:
 - ▶ Hemimetabolous -- Immature individuals are missing parts
 - ▶ Usually sexual parts, but can be functional

What is it?

- ▶ So that covers the insect Pokémon
- ▶ It also is seen in other organisms
 - ▶ Reptiles (frogs)
 - ▶ Fish
 - ▶ Maybe even plants (still a theory)



What is it?



▶ Pokémon types:

- ▶ insect
- ▶ Fish
- ▶ Plant
- ▶ Ghost (??) – well ghost can be anything so that's easy
- ▶ Mammals
 - ▶ puberty??

Evolution NOT
seen in
Pokémon



Or is there???

SOME EVOLUTION IS HIDDEN
IN THE GAME LORE

Game Lore

Random documents & audio logs

We find them stuck to notice boards,

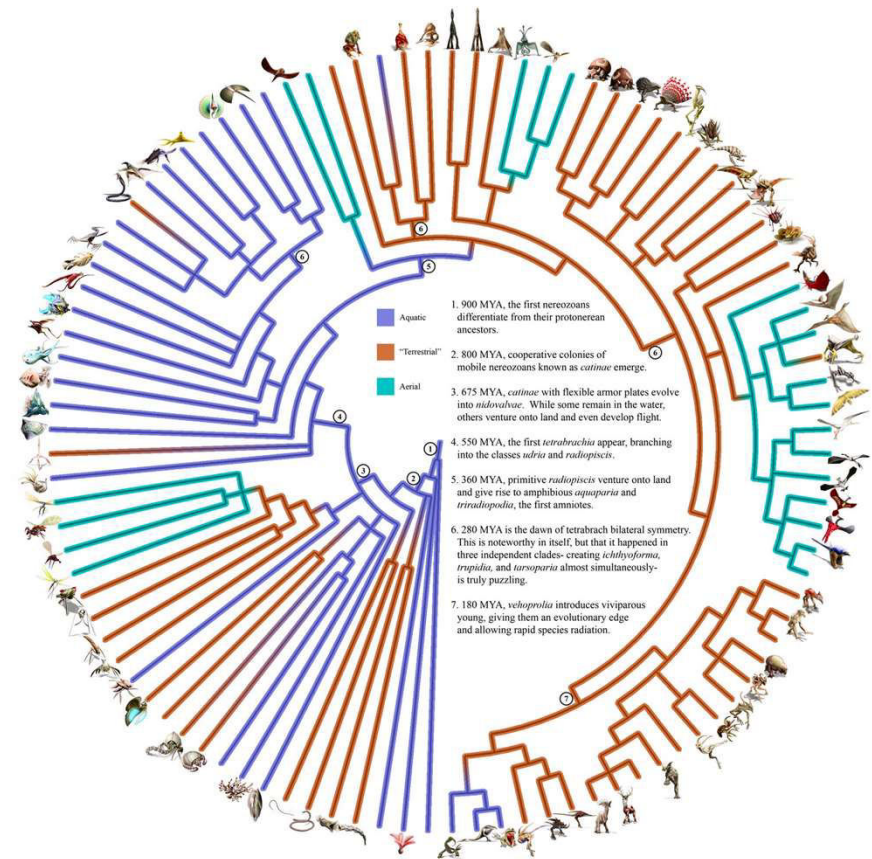
We find them under dogs

We're gonna put it in a file and give 'em a review

When we're board of all the game play but we've nothing else to do

Theory of Evolution

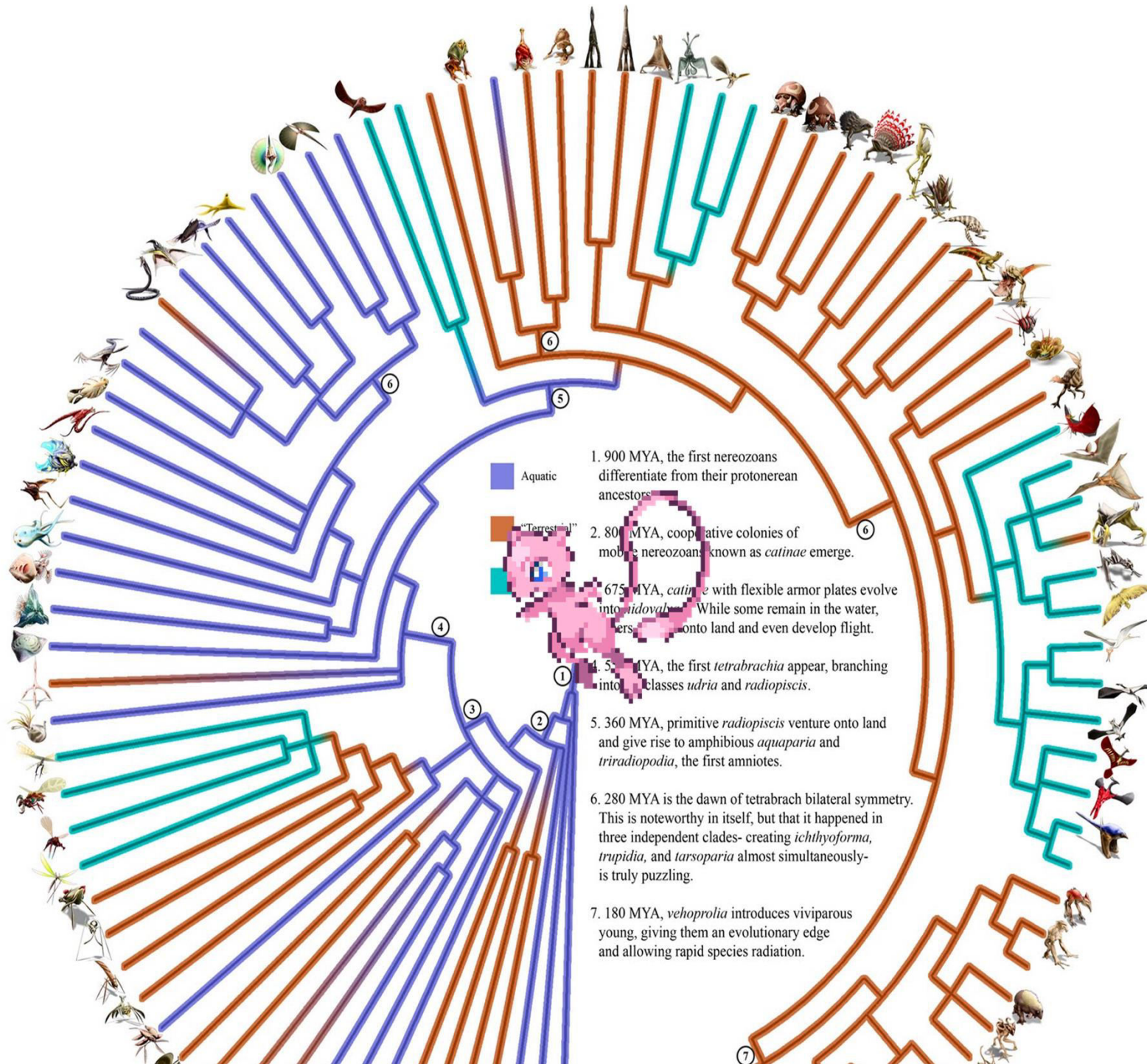
- ▶ Attempt to explain why everything is different but has similarities
- ▶ Key points
 - ▶ Organisms struggle for survival
 - ▶ Any traits that increases survival will lead to more reproduction
 - ▶ That trait becomes more common
 - ▶ Organisms share a common ancestor who adapted best to it's environment



Mew



- ▶ “all Pokémon share DNA with [it]”
(pokedex, Red)
- ▶ “scientist believe it to be the first
pokemon”
(SSB Wii)



Mew

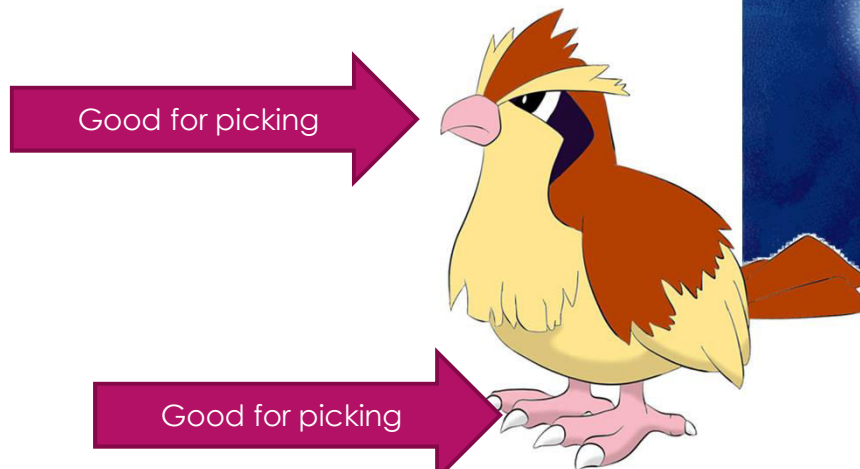
- ▶ The missing link
 - ▶ Every other Pokémon must be descendants of Mew adapting over time to optimize in their environment



Theory of the birds

▶ Pidgey

- ▶ generation 1 – Set in Kanto
 - ▶ Mostly plants and grasslands
 - ▶ “Pidgeys dig an pick at the ground for their food” (Pokedex)



Theory of the birds



▶ Taillow

- ▶ generation 3 – set in Hoenn (group of islands far apart)
- ▶ “When it gets cold, they migrate flying over 180miles a day. [...]” (Pokedex)



Theory for the birds

- ▶ Pidove
 - ▶ generation 5 – Set in Unova (urban)
 - ▶ Grey & black = good camouflage
 - ▶ Very loud – good for noisy city
 - ▶ Very stupid – actually a good thing



Stupid = good?

Lives in a city of PEOPLE

Heart marking makes it cute

Low intelligence makes it cuter

Humans are suckers for the cute
(see cats)



Pidove = coevolve

- ▶ Coevolution = when traits in one species results in evolution in another



Theory for the birds



- ▶ All evolved forms look very similar
- ▶ May have evolved from a common ancestor?

Not just birds

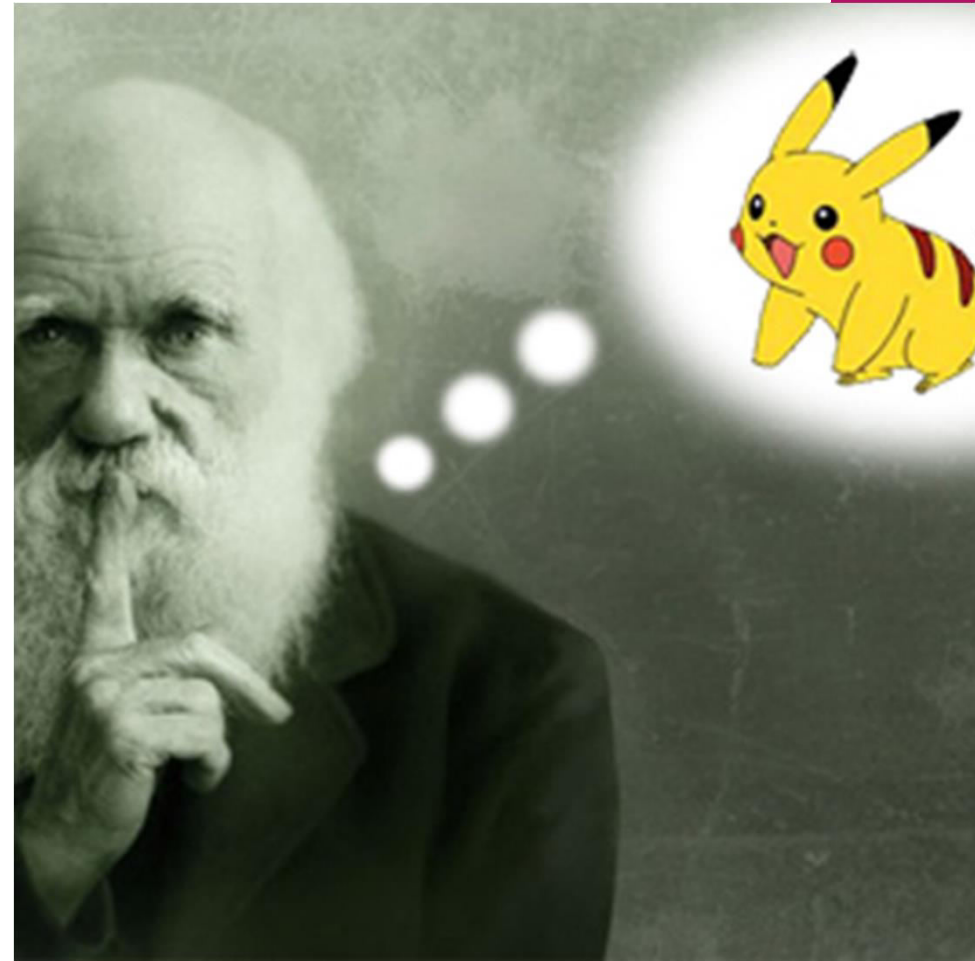
- ▶ poison type Pokémon may have evolved to take advantage of urban environments

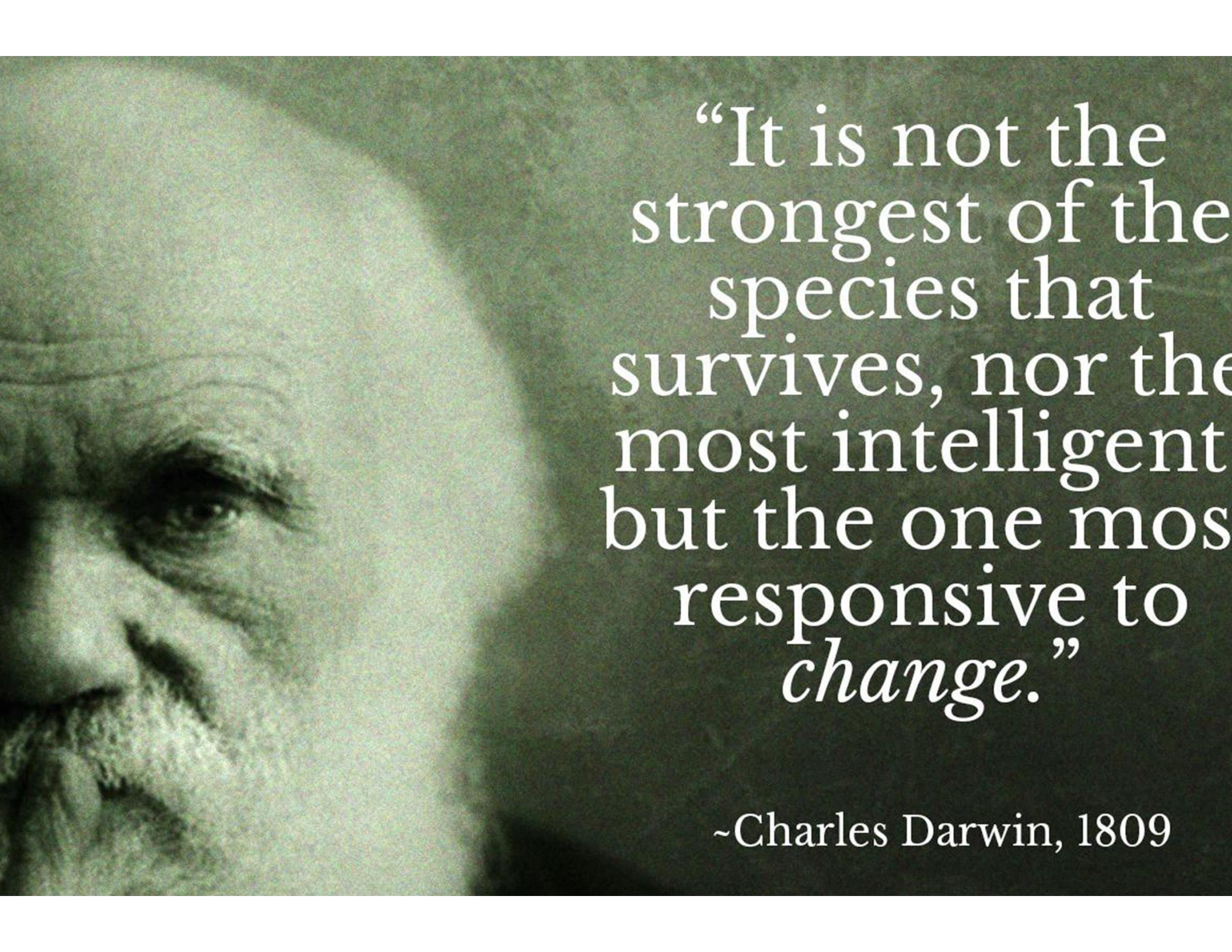


Finally verdicts

Pokémon does not teach evolution to the casual player

However, there is some lore in the game that allows one to hypothesize that Pokémon evolved from Darwinian evolution – descent with modification





“It is not the
strongest of the
species that
survives, nor the
most intelligent
but the one most
responsive to
change.”

~Charles Darwin, 1809