

# George Gaylord Simpson Quotes

*Science, Men, Doe, Character, Animal, Tree, Unique, Order, Teaching,  
Paleontology, Splitting, Atheism, Fire, Real, Earth, Debt, Mistake, Dog, Repeats,  
Loyalty*

Splitting and gradual divergence of genera is exemplified very well and in a large variety of organisms.

~George Gaylord Simpson

The fact -- not theory -- that evolution has occurred and the Darwinian theory as to how it occurred have become so confused in popular opinion that the distinction must be stressed.

~George Gaylord Simpson

I have a debt, a loyalty to the museum; the best place for me to do what I wanted to do.

~George Gaylord Simpson

I don't know where to put whales. I'm sticking them here, but I don't have any reason for it.

~George Gaylord Simpson

Man is the result of a purposeless and natural process that did not have him in mind

~George Gaylord Simpson

Species evolve exactly as if they were adapting as best they could to a changing world, and not at all as if they were moving toward a set goal.

~George Gaylord Simpson

The search for historical laws is, I maintain, mistaken in principle.

~George Gaylord Simpson

...the argument from absence of transitional types boils down to the striking fact that such types are always lacking unless they have been found.

~George Gaylord Simpson

It is inherent in any definition of science that statements that cannot be

checked by observation are not really saying anything or at least they are not science.

~George Gaylord Simpson

The science of systematics has long been affected by profound philosophical preconceptions, which have been all the more influential for being usually covert, even subconscious.

~George Gaylord Simpson

Almost all paleontologists recognize that the discovery of a complete transition is in any case unlikely.

~George Gaylord Simpson

It is now firmly established that ontogeny does not repeat phylogeny

~George Gaylord Simpson

To put it crudely but graphically, the monkey who did not have a realistic perception of the tree branch he jumped for was soon a dead monkey-and therefore did not become one of our ancestors.

~George Gaylord Simpson

A rill in a barnyard and the Grand Canyon represent, in the main, stages of valley erosion that began some millions of years apart.

~George Gaylord Simpson

Human judgment is notoriously fallible and perhaps seldom more so than in facile decisions that a character has no adaptive significance because we do not know the use of it.

~George Gaylord Simpson

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