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Evolution

The sequence of gradual changes that takes place in an organism over a million of years and leads to the formation of new species is known as evolution.

J.B. Lamarck was the first scientist who gave the theory on evolution. He gave the theory of inheritance of acquired characters. Later on, Charles Darwin came and gave the theory of natural selection or Darwinism. According to his theory, evolution occurs through natural selection.

1. Theory of Lamarckism

This theory is also known as “Theory of inheritance of acquired characters”. Lamarckism is based on the following postulates-

1. Living organism tends to increase in size.
2. New needs lead to the formation of new organs.
3. Continued use of a particular organ makes it more developed and disuse of an organ leads to its degeneration.
4. New characters are acquired by individuals during their lifetime