

Index

Locators followed by 'n' refer to notes. Locators followed by 'g' refer to the glossary.

acidity (pH), 38 active causation (efficient cause), 169, 177-178, 189 adaptability driver (Baldwin effect), 222-224, 233 adaptive improvisation, 209n ageing, 117 altruism, 260-261 amoeba aggregation in Dictyostelium, 51-52 movement, 97-98 anthropic principle, 263 antibiotic resistance, 118-119n antibodies and antigens, 61-62, 195 apoptosis (cell death), 117-118 Archaea, 103, 106 Aristarchus, 7 astronomy, 1-12, 22-24 see also cosmology atomic number, 36 atoms, 35-39 attractors, 76, 179-180 axons, 59-60 bacteria, 33, 102-105, 107 evolution in, 103-105, 196 in the gut, 206 Baldwin effect (adaptability driver), 222-224, 233 Bangham, Alex, 41 behavioural transmission of epigenetic markers, 221 Bernard, Claude, 163, 193-194 Beurton, Peter, 201 big bang theory, 74-75, 262

Big Dipper (Ursa Major), 3 Biological Relativity, 181-182, 269 and the author's autobiography, 161-165 components constrained by the whole, 167-168, 174 and evolution, 190-206, 232-238 levels and emergent properties, 64-65, 176 no privileged level of causation, 34-35, 160-161, 163-164, 168-173 organisms as open systems, 63-64, 173-174, 256-260 Spinoza's influence, 164-168 stochasticity, 174-176, 185n 'blind chance', 131, 249 'blueprint', as a metaphor, 132, 148-149 'Book of Life', 149-150 boundary conditions, 170 brain, 90 Brownian motion, 135 Buddhism, 254-255

Caenorhabditis elegans (nematode), 220 calcium ions, 50, 52–53, 101–102 Cambrian explosion, 108, 230, 245n canalisation, 216–217 cancer, 119n cardiovascular system, 56–57, 68n cardiac rhythm, 83–86, 90, 214–215 Cartesian philosophy, 165–166, 261 catastrophism, 124 causality/causation circular, 49–50, 63–64, 163–164 feedback loops, 80–81, 84–86

276



INDEX 277

and genes, 145-146, 150 no privileged level, 34-35, 160-161, 168-173 forms of, 169, 176-181, 189 in neo-Darwinism, 140-142, 189-190 and the time dilation effect, 19 cells, 32, 48-51, 97-98, 171 compartmentalisation, 50-51, 98-99 death (apoptosis), 117-118 evolution, 113-114, 204-205 lipid membranes, 40-41, 50, 60 movement, 97, 99-102 polarity 88 see also eukaryotes; prokaryotes Central Dogma, 127, 136-137, 197-200 chaos theory, 75-76 chemical elements, 35-39 chloroplasts, 204-206 chromatin, 202 chromosome replication, 109–110 cilia, 60-61 circadian rhythm, 78-83, 147-148 circular causality/causation, 49-50, 63-64, 163-164 feedback loops, 80-81, 84-86 and genes, 145-146, 150 no privileged level, 34-35, 160-161, circulatory system, 56-57, 68n classical (Newtonian) mechanics, 12-15 'clock' genes (period), 79-83, 147-148 clones, 148 closed systems, 173-174 code, genetic, 136-137, 145-146 coding, as causation, 180 Coen, Enrico, 147 common sense, 252-253 complexity, 46, 73-76 computers, early, 146, 162 Comte, August, 252 conditioned arising, 75-76, 176, 210n

conjugation, bacterial, 103, 104-105 connexins, 114-115 consciousness, 68n, 257-258 contextual logic, 256-260 Copernicus, Nicolaus, 7-9 cosmological constant, 26n, 263 cosmology, 74-75, 262-263 in history, 1-12 number of particles in the universe, 23-24 creative purposiveness (spirituality), 247-248, 251-252, 255-256 Crick, Francis, 35, 197 Cuvier, Georges, 124, 229 cyclins, 110-111 cytoskeleton, 99-102 Darwin, Charles, and Darwinism, 121-126, 241-242n, 271g Darwin, Erasmus, 153n Darwin's finches, 122, 226-227 Dawkins, Richard, 208n Selfish Gene, 131, 261 Voices from Oxford debate, 132, 138, 204, 205-206 death, of cells, 117-118 Denoth, Christoph, 187 Descartes, René, 165-166, 261 developmental biology, 132, 133-134, 217 Dictyostelium discoideum (slime mould), 51-52 DiFrancesco, Dario, 214-215 digestive system, 58-59 DNA as an aperiodic crystal, 91, 134-135 as a blueprint, 132, 148-149 in the Central Dogma, 136-137, 197-200 centrality/non-centrality of, 35, 53, 91-92, 150-152

as a code, 136-137, 145-146



278 INDEX

DNA (cont.) in the evolution of Darwin's finches. junk, 89, 228-229 as a programme, 146-148 modern, 219-222 recombination, 112 Waddington's work, 169, 216-219 replication, 102 epistemology transcription, 110 relativity of, 262-264 transposition, 120n, 201-204, 206, 231 science vs religion debate, 247-256 mobile genetic elements, 196, eukaryotes, 107-108 200-201, 274g cell cycle, 108-112 in prokaryotes, 103, 104-105, 106 evolution, 107-108, 117, 204-206 in symbiogenesis, 204-205, 231 horizontal DNA transfer, 120n, 206 meiosis, 112 dogmatism, a bad thing, 127, 164, 236 organelles, 47-48, 99 downward causation, 80-81, 169 Drosophila (fruit fly), 196 evolution, 73, 88 drug discovery, 215 bacteria, 103-105, 196 Dupré, John, 158n Darwinism, 121-126, 241-242n, 271g epigenetics, 216-222, 226-227, Earth, position in the cosmos, 5-12, 231-232 17-18 eukaryotes, 107-108, 117, 204-206 Eckhart von Hochheim (Meister genomic re-organisation see Eckhart), 265n transposition efficient cause (active causation), 169, Lamarckism, 123-125, 256, 270-271g 177-178, 189 neo-Darwinist view of, 126-128, Einsteinian relativity, 17-23, 26n 132, 236 electron microscopy, 30-31, 42 neo-Darwinism and the Modern electrons, 37-38 Synthesis, 126-152, 268-269, emergent properties, 64-65, 176, 274g 271-272g cardiac rhythm, 83-86 criticisms of, 189-190, 199-200, circadian rhythm, 78-83 205-206, 222-224, 236 metronome synchronisation, 89-90 extensions to the theory, 133-134, molecular level, 42-46 233-236 endocrine system, 62 origin of life, 48-49, 86, 113-114 environmental interactions, 49-50, relativistic theory, 190-206, 232-238, 250 269 organisms as open systems, 63-64, speed of, 229-232 173-174, 256-260 tree of life, 103, 115-117 evolutionary developmental biology see also epigenetics enzymes, 71-72 (evo-devo), 133-134 epicycles, 26n evolvability, 234 epigenetics, 231-232, 273-274g excretory system, 58



INDEX 279

greenish warbler, 224–225 guitar manufacture, 187–189

extended evolutionary synthesis, 233-236 eye colour, 129 facilitated variation, 208n feedback loops cardiac rhythm, 84-86 circadian rhythm, 80-81, 147-148 final cause, 178-179 Fischer, Paul, 187-189 flat Earth model, 5, 6 formal cause, 177 fractal structures, 57 free will, 257-258 fruit fly, 196 function, 178-179, 273g Galileo Galilei, 9-11 gastrointestinal system, 58-59 'gemmules', 125, 241-242n General Theory of Relativity, 20-23, 27n genes definitions, 140-143, 159n, 189, 228, 229, 273g Mendelian genetics, 129-130 non-centrality of, 35, 91-92, 150-152 variation in expression patterns, 87-89, 175, 198, 219 genetic assimilation, 217-218, 231, 233 genetic code, 136-137, 145-146 genetic drift, 133, 223-224 genetic 'programmes', 146-148 genome re-organisation see transposition geocentric model, 5-6, 7 geothermal vents, 114 glycolytic pathway, 72

Hampshire, Stuart, 164-165 Harold, Franklin, 116, 172 Harvey, William, 56-57 heart and circulatory system, 56-57, 68n cardiac rhythm, 83-86, 90, 214-215 heliocentric model, 7-10 Hodgkin Cycle, 84-86, 164 Holarctic redpoll finch, 244n holism, 274g horizontal DNA transfer, 103, 104-105, 106, 120n, 206 hormones, 62 Hubble telescope, 22-24 Human Genome project, 149-150 Huxley, Hugh, 30-31 hydrogen ions, 38

immune system, 61-62, 195 inheritance of acquired characteristics in bacteria, 103-105, 124-125, 196 epigenetics, 216-222, 226-227, 231-232 genetic assimilation, 217-218, 231, 233 Lamarckism, 123-125, 256, 270-271g neo-Darwinist view of, 126-128, 132, 236 mobile genetic elements, 196, 200-201, 274g in plants, 153n symbiogenesis, 138, 206, 231 integrationism, 274g see also emergent properties integuments, 62-63 ions, 37-38, 39 isolation of the germ cell line, 104, 127, Weismann Barrier is not absolute,

191-194

goal-directedness *see* teleology gravitational lensing, 22–23

gravity, 20-23, 27n



280 INDEX

Jacob, Francois, 147
Johannsen, Wilhelm, 140, 141
'jumping genes' (mobile genetic
elements), 196, 200–201, 274g
junk DNA, 89, 228–229
Jupiter (planet), 10

Keller, Evelyn Fox, 158n Kelvin, William Thomson, 1st Baron, 14 Kimura, Motoo, 133

Lamarck, Jean-Baptiste, and
Lamarckism, 123–125, 256,
270–271g
epigenetics, 216–219, 226–227,
231–232
neo-Darwinist view of, 126–128, 132,
236

landscape concept, 75–76, 217, 258–259 Laplace, Pierre-Simon, 14, 166 Leeuwenhoek, Antony van, 48 levels in biology, 32–56, 64–65 and function/purpose, 54, 176,

222–223, 250 light, speed of, 18–20 light microscopy, 48, 56, 97 lipids, 40–41 lock and key model, 62, 71 Lorentz transformation, 28n LUCA (last universal common ancestor), 117

lungs, 57 lymphocytes, 195

Malpighi, Marcello, 56 Margulis, Lynn, 138, 204, 205–206 Martiensson, Robert, 241–242n material cause, 177 mathematics, 14, 193 and reductionism, 163 Mattick, John, 201

Mayr, Ernst, 132, 140 McClintock, Barbara, 200-201 meiosis, 112 Meister Eckhart, 265n membranes, cellular, 40-41, 50 in early evolution, 114 insulation of nerve cells, 60 Mendel, Gregor, 129-130 metabolic networks (pathways), 69-72 metaphysics, 1-5, 11, 248-249, 262-264 metronomes, synchronisation, 89-90 Michelson-Morley experiment, 18, 28n microscopes, 30-31, 42, 48, 56, 97 microtubules, 99-102 mitochondria, 204-206 mitosis, 108-112 mobile genetic elements, 196, 200-201, 274g Modern Synthesis see neo-Darwinism and the Modern Synthesis modularity, 82-83 molecules, 39-46 movement of/within cells, 97, 99-102

natural genetic engineering, 274g

see also transposition
natural purposiveness, 111–112, 190,
194–197, 223, 249
natural selection, 122, 125–126, 132,
154n
neo-Darwinism and the Modern
Synthesis, 126–152, 268–269,
271–272g
criticisms of, 189–190, 199–200,
205–206, 222–224, 236
extensions to the theory, 133–134,
233–236

movement of organisms, 60-61, 97

mutations, variable effects, 92, 216

muscle filaments, 30-31

musculoskeletal system, 61



INDEX 281

quantum mechanics, 15-17, 135-136

problems with terminology, 138-152 oscillators, 76-86 view of Lamarckism, 126-128, 132, 236 cardiac rhythm, 83-86, 90 nervous system, 59-60, 63, 90 circadian rhythm, 78-83 networks, 46-47 synchronisation, 89-90 complexity, 46, 73-76 gene expression patterns, 87-89, 198, paradigm shifts in science, 7, 131 parsimony, 132-133, 138, 249 interactions between levels, 46-47, particle-wave duality, 15-16 72, 80-81 period gene, 79-83, 147-148 metabolic, 69-72 periodic table, 36 no privileged level of causality, Perutz, Max, 35, 65-66n 168-173 pH, 38 oscillators and attractors, 76-86, phylogenetic tree, 103, 115-117 89-90, 179-180 physics, 12-24, 38-39, 135-136 neutral theory of molecular evolution, physiological (whole body) systems, 55-63, 97-98 Newton, Isaac, 12, 14 plants, inheritance in, 153n Newtonian mechanics, 12-15 plastids, 204-206 niche construction, 222-224, 233 Plough (Ursa Major), 3 Nicholas of Cusa, 8-9 Polaris (pole star), 3 Noble, Denis, autobiography, 161-165 Popper, Karl, 65-66n, 199-200, 222, 223 Noble, Raymond, 162, 207n prime mover, 174, 177-178 Nottale, Laurent, 29n 'programme', as a metaphor, 146-148 nucleotides, 40 prokaryotes, 33, 102-107 nucleus, 47, 98 evolution in, 103-105, 196 gut bacteria, 206 Occam's razor (law of parsimony), protons, 35-36 132-133, 138, 249 hydrogen ions, 38 ocelloid, 212n pseudopodia, 60-61, 97 Oldenburg, Henry, 166-167 Ptolemiac model of the universe, 5-6, 7 punctuated equilibrium, 229-230 open systems, 63-64, 173-174, 256-260 Oresme, Nicole, 8 purposefulness (teleology), 45, 54-55, organelles, 47-48, 99 249-250 evolution by symbiogenesis, final cause, 178-179 204-206, 231 natural purposiveness, 111-112, 190, organisms as open systems, 63-64, 194-197, 223, 249 173-174, 256-260 purposive creativity (spirituality), organs as systems, 54-55 247-248, 251-252, 255-256 origin of life, 48-49, 86, 113-114 Origin of Species (Darwin), 121-123, quantum computers, 16-17

125-126



282 INDEX

randomness (stochasticity), 91-92, sea slug, 206 Selfish Gene (Dawkins), 131, 261 174-176, 185n, 272g selfish gene theory, 67n, 143-145, 208n, of genetic change not random, 194-197, 203 228-229 random, 131, 133, 223-224, 249 sexual reproduction in physics, 135-136 in bacteria, 103, 104-105 reductionism, 63, 65-66n, 73, 163, in eukaryotes (meiosis), 112 sinus node, 90 247-249, 251-252, 274g Cartesian 165-166 skeleton, 61 see also neo-Darwinism skin, 62-63 relativity, 24-25 Skinner, Michael, 226-227 in astronomy, 6, 7-9 sky at night, 1-4 Einstein's theories, 17-23 slime mould, 51-52 in Newtonian mechanics, 13 Smith, John Maynard, 155n, 236 see also biological relativity space-time, 20-23 religion vs science, 247-256 Special Theory of Relativity, 17-20 in astronomy, 8-9, 10-11 speciation, 224-227 Replicator theory, 234 speed of, 229-232 respiratory system, 57 see also evolution retrotransposons, 201 spherical Earth model, 5-6 reverse transcription, 198-199 Spinoza, Bernard de, 164-168, 174 spiral formations, 76-77 ring species, 224-225 **RNA** spirituality (creative purposiveness), inheritance of sRNA in C. elegans, 247-248, 251-252, 255-256 squid, 53 reverse transcription, 198-199 stochasticity (randomness), 91-92, transcribed from 'junk' DNA, 229 174-176, 185n, 272g RNA world, 113-114 of genetic change Romanes, George, 126 not random, 194-197, 203 rotifers, 206 random, 131, 133, 223-224, 249 in physics, 135-136 saltatory evolution, 230-232 Strategy of the Genes (Waddington), 169, scale 216, 218, 247 in biology, 30-33, 65, 171-172 subatomic particles, 38-39 of spiral waves, 76-77 sun, heliocentric model, 7-10 scale relativity, 29n suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN), 79 Schrödinger, Erwin (What is Life?), symbiogenesis, 138, 204-206, 231 symbiosis, 51 91-92, 134-136 science vs religion, 247-256 symmetry, breaking, 75-76, 88 in astronomy, 8-9, 10-11 synchronisation of oscillators, 89-90



INDEX 283

teleology, 45, 54-55, 249-250 contextual logic, 256-260 final cause, 178-179 natural purposiveness, 111–112, 190, 194-197, 223, 249 teleonomy, 45 temperature, 38 Third Way of Evolution (website), 245n, time dilation effect, 19 tissues, 51-53, 114-115 trace elements, 37, 114 transcription, 110 transcription factors, 198, 219 transposition, 120n, 201-204, 206, 2.31 mobile genetic elements, 196, 200-201, 274g in prokaryotes, 103, 104-105, 106 in symbiogenesis, 204-205, 231 tree of life, 103, 115-117

uncertainty principle, 16 unicellular organisms, 124–125 physiology, 58, 59, 60–61, 97–98 *see also* bacteria University College London (UCL) in the 1950s/1960s, 161 urinary system, 58 *Ursa Major* (Plough), 3

vacuoles, 48 vascular system, 56–57, 68n viruses, 115 vital energy, 41–42, 255–256 *Voices from Oxford* (videoed debate), 132, 138, 204, 205–206

Waddington, Conrad, 169, 216–219, 247

Wallace, Alfred Russel, 123
water, properties of, 43–44
Watson, James, 65, 207n
wave–particle duality, 15–16
weather systems, 75–76
Weismann, August, 126–128, 194
Weismann Barrier, 104, 127
not absolute, 191–194
West-Eberhard, Mary Jane, 133–134
What is Life? (Schrödinger), 91–92, 134–136
white blood cells, 195
Wilkins, Adam, 147
Woese, Carl, 102, 106

yeast, knockout mutations, 92, 216