

Phoebe Kim  
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Dr. Amy Flavin  
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## Chapter 6 – Functionalism: Antecedent Influences

This chapter talks about the beginnings of Functionalism and the works of Darwin, Galton, and early students of animal behavior. This is important because this was a precedent of developing a new kind of psychology called functional psychology. Charles Darwin (1809-1882) is credited in influencing the idea of functionalism. Before functionalism, there was structuralism and experimental psychology. According to Schultz, functionalism is concerned with how the mind functions or how it is used by an organism to adapt to its environment. In other words, functional psychology is the study of how a mental process functions together to adapt to our environment.

There were many theories and ideas about evolution before Darwin's notion of evolution about natural selection became evident in 1859. Aristotle (384-322 BC) recognized that the human hand might have been related to the wings of birds and the fins of fish. Although there was no mention of evolution, his awareness led other scholars to investigate this idea. A direct influence on Darwin was his own grandfather, Erasmus Darwin (1731-1802). He believed that God created the earth and life, but over time, animals began to shift their forms and adapted according to their ever-changing environment. Jean-Baptiste Lamarck (1744-1829) suggested that animals changed their body to adapt to their environment and suggested that the giraffe probably developed its long neck to stretch and reach higher branches to eat. Charles Lyell (1797-1875) finally introduced the notion of evolution. He argued that the earth went through multiple transformations and was the first to suggest that humans came from primates.

This chapter goes into depth about Charles Darwin's life. He was born with a silver spoon in his life, and as a young boy he was known to be boisterous and mischievous. He did poorly in school but was very interested in natural history. He went on to be a naturalist and went on many excursions around the world. He enjoyed his solitude, and even went away from his wife and family to develop his theory about evolution. Thus his famous idea of natural selection and that "the survival of the fittest" was born.