

Evolving Science

Background:

Science is tentative. It's subject to change with new observations over time. This doesn't mean the scientific theories we now accept will one day be replaced by new and better theories. It does mean that it is possible they will be. We have to wait and see what skeptical scientists like you observe in the future. Many theories have come and gone in the history of science. Every major branch of science has seen great ideas rise and fall with the progress of scientific research.

Your assignment:

Choose one of the superseded theories from the list below and write a report about what happened to this theory. You must use at least one reputable website, one book, and one magazine/journal article. Please cite all sources on a separate Works Referenced page at the end of the report. In your report, answer the following basic questions:

1. Who came up with the idea and when?
2. What experiments and evidence supported the idea?
3. How long was the idea accepted by scientists?
4. Name three noteworthy people who believed the theory.
5. How was the idea falsified or modified?

Superseded Physics Theories

- Aether Theory
- Aristotelian Gravity
- Horror Vacui
- Newtonian Mechanics
- Caloric Theory

Superseded Chemistry Theories

- Philosopher's Stone
- Elixir of Life
- Phlogiston
- The Four Elements
- Alkahest

Superseded Biology Theories

- Spontaneous Generation
- Recapitulation
- Miasma
- Four Bodily Humours
- Homunculus

Superseded Astronomy Theories

- Astrology
- Geocentric Universe
- Circular Orbits
- Planet Vulcan
- Steady State Universe



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