

HUMAN BEINGS: WHERE DO WE COME FROM?

HUMANISTS BELIEVE THE UNIVERSE IS A NATURAL PLACE.

They don't believe in a god or that life was created. They believe that **science** is the best way to answer questions about where we come from.



THE BIG BANG

The universe is enormous and very old. Over 13 billion years ago everything in the universe was squeezed into a tiny space smaller than the full stop at the end of this sentence. Then, suddenly, the universe got bigger, very quickly – scientists call this **the Big Bang**. At first, tiny particles called atoms were formed.



JIM AL-KHALILI, humanist and scientist

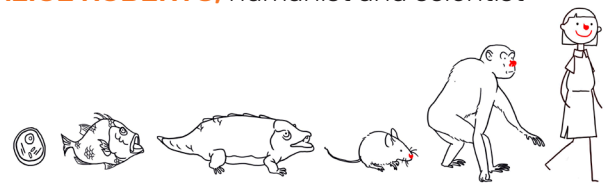
These clumped together and, over millions of years, formed everything we see around us: stars, planets, and life!

EVOLUTION

All life, including human beings, evolved naturally. At first, life was simpler. Many small changes over a long, long period of time led to big changes and to all the plants and **animals** we can see around us today. Human beings are animals and we are related to all other living things on Earth.



ALICE ROBERTS, humanist and scientist



Humanists look for **evidence** and there is a huge amount of evidence for the Big Bang and evolution.

WHAT ARE WE?

Human beings are made from the same stuff as everything else around us. The atoms that we are made from were first formed inside stars. When we die, the atoms that our bodies are made from will return to nature and become parts of new things.

Many humanists find the scientific story of where we came from amazing and full of **wonder**.

“ Learning about the nature of space and time or the structure of atoms fills me with awe and wonder. It makes me want to learn more.” ”

JIM AL-KHALILI,
Vice President of Humanists UK