

## 10.1 Early Ideas About Evolution

### KEY CONCEPT

There were theories of biological and geologic change before Darwin.



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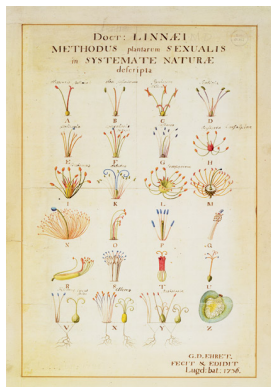
- **Early scientists proposed ideas about evolution.**
  - Evolution is the biological change process by which descendants come to differ from their ancestors.
  - **A species is a group of organisms that can reproduce and have fertile offspring.**

**HORSE ANCESTOR (55 MYA)**



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- There were many important naturalists in the 18th century.
  - Linnaeus: classification system from kingdom to species
  - Buffon: species shared ancestors rather than arising separately
  - E. Darwin: more-complex forms developed from less-complex forms
  - Lamarck: environmental change leads to use or disuse of a structure



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- ▶ **Theories of geologic change set the stage for Darwin's theory.**
  - There were three theories of geologic change.
    - catastrophism
    - gradualism
    - uniformitarianism



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- Uniformitarianism is the prevailing theory of geologic change.

