



Ontogeny and Phylogeny

By Stephen Jay Gould

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Ontogeny and Phylogeny By Stephen Jay Gould

"Ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny" was Haeckel's answer--the wrong one--to the most vexing question of nineteenth-century biology: what is the relationship between individual development (ontogeny) and the evolution of species and lineages (phylogeny)? In this, the first major book on the subject in fifty years, Stephen Gould documents the history of the idea of recapitulation from its first appearance among the pre-Socratics to its fall in the early twentieth century.

Mr. Gould explores recapitulation as an idea that intrigued politicians and theologians as well as scientists. He shows that Haeckel's hypothesis--that human fetuses with gill slits are, literally, tiny fish, exact replicas of their water-breathing ancestors--had an influence that extended beyond biology into education, criminology, psychoanalysis (Freud and Jung were devout recapitulationists), and racism. The theory of recapitulation, Gould argues, finally collapsed not from the weight of contrary data, but because the rise of Mendelian genetics rendered it untenable.

Turning to modern concepts, Gould demonstrates that, even though the whole subject of parallels between ontogeny and phylogeny fell into disrepute, it is still one of the great themes of evolutionary biology. Heterochrony--changes in developmental timing, producing parallels between ontogeny and phylogeny--is shown to be crucial to an understanding of gene regulation, the key to any rapprochement between molecular and evolutionary biology. Gould argues that the primary evolutionary value of heterochrony may lie in immediate ecological advantages for slow or rapid maturation, rather than in long-term changes of form, as all previous theories proclaimed.

Neoteny--the opposite of recapitulation--is shown to be the most important determinant of human evolution. We have evolved by retaining the juvenile characters of our ancestors and have achieved both behavioral flexibility and our characteristic morphology thereby (large brains by prolonged retention of rapid fetal growth rates, for example).

Gould concludes that there may be nothing new under the sun, but permutation of the old within complex systems can do wonders. As biologists, we deal directly with the kind of material complexity that confers an unbounded potential upon simple, continuous changes in underlying processes. This is the chief joy of our

science."

 [Download Ontogeny and Phylogeny ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Ontogeny and Phylogeny ...pdf](#)

Ontogeny and Phylogeny

By *Stephen Jay Gould*

Ontogeny and Phylogeny By Stephen Jay Gould

"Ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny" was Haeckel's answer--the wrong one--to the most vexing question of nineteenth-century biology: what is the relationship between individual development (ontogeny) and the evolution of species and lineages (phylogeny)? In this, the first major book on the subject in fifty years, Stephen Gould documents the history of the idea of recapitulation from its first appearance among the pre-Socratics to its fall in the early twentieth century.

Mr. Gould explores recapitulation as an idea that intrigued politicians and theologians as well as scientists. He shows that Haeckel's hypothesis--that human fetuses with gill slits are, literally, tiny fish, exact replicas of their water-breathing ancestors--had an influence that extended beyond biology into education, criminology, psychoanalysis (Freud and Jung were devout recapitulationists), and racism. The theory of recapitulation, Gould argues, finally collapsed not from the weight of contrary data, but because the rise of Mendelian genetics rendered it untenable.

Turning to modern concepts, Gould demonstrates that, even though the whole subject of parallels between ontogeny and phylogeny fell into disrepute, it is still one of the great themes of evolutionary biology. Heterochrony--changes in developmental timing, producing parallels between ontogeny and phylogeny--is shown to be crucial to an understanding of gene regulation, the key to any rapprochement between molecular and evolutionary biology. Gould argues that the primary evolutionary value of heterochrony may lie in immediate ecological advantages for slow or rapid maturation, rather than in long-term changes of form, as all previous theories proclaimed.

Neoteny--the opposite of recapitulation--is shown to be the most important determinant of human evolution. We have evolved by retaining the juvenile characters of our ancestors and have achieved both behavioral flexibility and our characteristic morphology thereby (large brains by prolonged retention of rapid fetal growth rates, for example).

Gould concludes that there may be nothing new under the sun, but permutation of the old within complex systems can do wonders. As biologists, we deal directly with the kind of material complexity that confers an unbounded potential upon simple, continuous changes in underlying processes. This is the chief joy of our science."

Ontogeny and Phylogeny By Stephen Jay Gould Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #542000 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Harvard University Press
- Published on: 1985-01-17
- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1

- Dimensions: 9.25" h x 1.30" w x 6.13" l, 1.66 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 520 pages

 [Download Ontogeny and Phylogeny ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Ontogeny and Phylogeny ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Ontogeny and Phylogeny By Stephen Jay Gould

Editorial Review

Review

Steve Jay Gould has given us a superb analysis of the use of ontogenetic analogy, the controversies over ontogeny and phylogeny, and the classification of the different processes observable in comparing different ontogenies. His massive book (in each chapter of which there is as much material as in whole books by other writers) is both a historical exposition of the whole subject of ontogeny and phylogeny, and...a fascinating attempt at a functional interpretation of those phylogenetic alterations that involve changes of timing developmental processes in related organisms. (A. J. Cain *Nature*)

In Gould's...new book...*Ontogeny and Phylogeny*, a scholarly study of the theory of recapitulation, he not only explains scientific theory but comments on science itself, with clarity and wit, simultaneously entertaining and teaching...[This] is a rich book. (James Gorman *New York Times Book Review*)

It is rare indeed to read a new book and recognize it for a classic...Gould has given biologists a new way to see the organisms they study. The result is a major achievement. (S. Rachootin *American Scientist*)

Gould's book--pervaded, I should say, with an erudition and felicity of style that make it a delight to read--is a radical work in every sense...It returns one's attention to the roots of our science--the questions about the great pageant of evolution, the marvelous diversity of form that our theory is meant to explain. (D. Futuyma *Quarterly Review of Biology*)

A distinguished and pioneering work. (Ernst Mayr)

This [is a] fat, handsome book crammed with provocative ideas...*Ontogeny and Phylogeny* is an important and thoughtful book which will be a valuable source of ideas and controversies for anyone interested in evolutionary or developmental biology. (Matt Cartmill *Science*)

From the Back Cover

In this, the first major book on the subject in fifty years, Stephen Jay Gould documents the history of the idea of recapitulation from its appearance among the pre-Socratics to its demise in the early twentieth century.

About the Author

Stephen Jay Gould was Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology at Harvard University and Vincent Astor Visiting Professor of Biology at New York University. A MacArthur Prize Fellow, he received innumerable honors and awards and wrote many books, including *Ontogeny and Phylogeny* and *Time's Arrow, Time's Cycle* (both from Harvard).

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robert Warden:

The book Ontogeny and Phylogeny can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. Exactly why must we leave the good thing like a book Ontogeny and Phylogeny? Some of you have a different opinion about book. But one aim this book can give many data for us. It is

absolutely correct. Right now, try to closer with your book. Knowledge or info that you take for that, you can give for each other; you are able to share all of these. Book Ontogeny and Phylogeny has simple shape nevertheless, you know: it has great and massive function for you. You can appear the enormous world by open and read a reserve. So it is very wonderful.

Shawn Farr:

Now a day people who Living in the era wherever everything reachable by interact with the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not need people to be aware of each information they get. How individuals to be smart in having any information nowadays? Of course the correct answer is reading a book. Studying a book can help folks out of this uncertainty Information particularly this Ontogeny and Phylogeny book as this book offers you rich facts and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred pct guarantees there is no doubt in it you probably know this.

Ila Petty:

Reading a book tends to be new life style within this era globalization. With reading through you can get a lot of information that may give you benefit in your life. Having book everyone in this world may share their idea. Ebooks can also inspire a lot of people. Plenty of author can inspire their reader with their story or maybe their experience. Not only situation that share in the publications. But also they write about the data about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your young ones, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors on earth always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some investigation before they write on their book. One of them is this Ontogeny and Phylogeny.

Donald Sams:

Reading can called brain hangout, why? Because when you find yourself reading a book mainly book entitled Ontogeny and Phylogeny your brain will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every single aspect that maybe unknown for but surely can be your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a reserve then become one web form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get previous to. The Ontogeny and Phylogeny giving you yet another experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful information for your better life in this particular era. So now let us show you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind will be pleased when you are finished reading it, like winning a sport. Do you want to try this extraordinary paying spare time activity?

Download and Read Online Ontogeny and Phylogeny By Stephen Jay Gould #L1P52KFHIRT

Read Ontogeny and Phylogeny By Stephen Jay Gould for online ebook

Ontogeny and Phylogeny By Stephen Jay Gould Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Ontogeny and Phylogeny By Stephen Jay Gould books to read online.

Online Ontogeny and Phylogeny By Stephen Jay Gould ebook PDF download

Ontogeny and Phylogeny By Stephen Jay Gould Doc

Ontogeny and Phylogeny By Stephen Jay Gould MobiPocket

Ontogeny and Phylogeny By Stephen Jay Gould EPub