

Intelligent Design proponents do not understand (or accept) how scientists establish relationships among organisms.

Establishing relationships is not a never-ending search for the direct ancestors of all other living and extinct forms.

Paleontologists are not searching the rocks for the “missing links” that are the “direct ancestors” of other forms.

The relationships of ALL organisms, living and extinct, are assessed on the basis of *shared characteristics*, not on notions of “direct ancestry” or “missing links.”

Establishing the relationships of organisms is not a matter of “transitional forms,” but of transitional *features*, the shared characteristics that indicate common ancestry.