



Published on NCSE (<https://ncse.com>)

[Home](#) > Evolution education under attack in Turkey

---

SHARE TWEET EMAIL [PRINT](#) [1]

[Glenn Branch](#) [2]

01.20.2017

## [Evolution education under attack in Turkey](#) [3]



A draft of a new national curriculum in Turkey omits evolution, [according](#) [4] to soL international (January 15, 2017). A unit entitled "The Origin of Life and Evolution" will be replaced with a unit entitled "Living Beings and the Environment." The final decision on the curriculum is expected in February 2017.

"[T]he Minister of National Education, İsmet Yılmaz[,] said that the draft is open for feedback ... and the Evolution Theory is not an exception," soL International reported, adding, "Yılmaz claimed that 'whether it is scientific, merely a hypothesis, or just theoretical, all these are debatable.'"

The teaching of evolution has been periodically contentious in Turkey, owing in part to the efforts of Islamic fundamentalist groups and politicians. Perhaps as a result, Turkey enjoys the lowest rate of acceptance of evolution in the developed world, [according](#) [5] (subscription required) to a 2005 study published in *Science*.

[Anti-Evolution](#) [6]

[2017](#) [7]

[International](#) [8]

**Press related:**

No

[+ read](#) [3]

---

**Source URL:** <https://ncse.com/news/2017/01/evolution-education-under-attack-turkey-0018439#comment-0>

**Links**

[1] <https://ncse.com/printpdf/18439>

[2] <https://ncse.com/users/glenn>

[3] <https://ncse.com/news/2017/01/evolution-education-under-attack-turkey-0018439>

[4] <http://news.sol.org.tr/government-remove-evolution-high-school-curriculum-171440>

[5] <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/313/5788/765.full>

[6] <https://ncse.com/news/anti-evolution>

[7] <https://ncse.com/news/2017>

[8] <https://ncse.com/news/international>