Evolutionary Biologist Copymaster: Interview with an Evolutionary Biologist

Why did you go into your field?

I am interested in finding out about how things work, and living things are the most interesting things to study. I was influenced by an inspirational high school chemistry teacher. He was someone who could make science seem alive in the same sense that going to the movie or theatre can make Shakespeare come alive.

Andrew W. Murray
Professor of Biology,
Director of The Bauer Center for Genomics Research at Harvard University.

What do you find most interesting or exciting about your work?

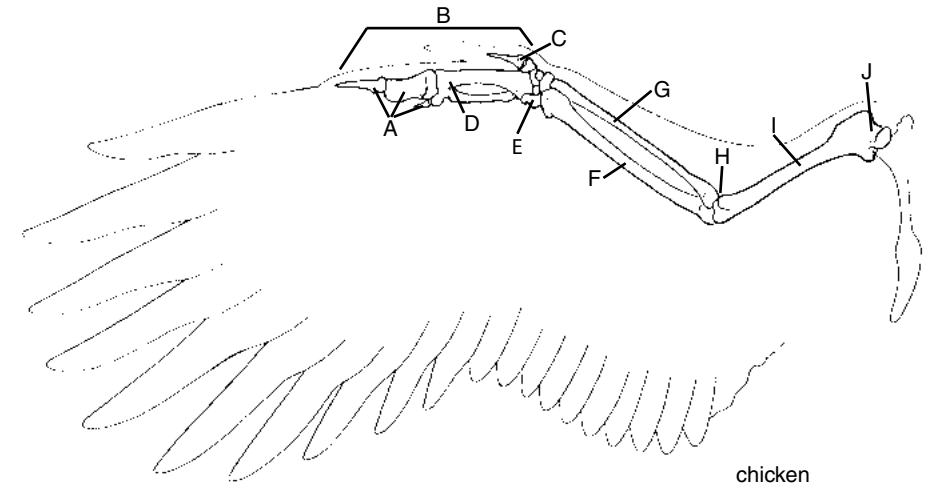
I find that my work is like being underneath the hood of the car of life. We are starting to see exactly how cells work in a way that we have never seen before. I think of cell biology as one of the final frontiers of human knowledge and find it very exciting to be standing at this frontier with other pioneers.

What do you find most challenging or frustrating about your work?

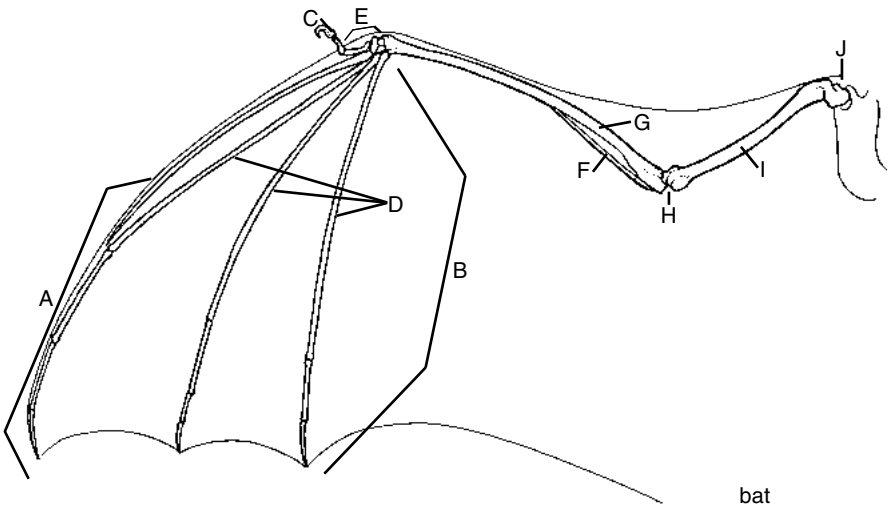
There is so much to know and so little time to learn it. There are not 48 hours in a day!

Explore/Explain: Evidence for Change across Time

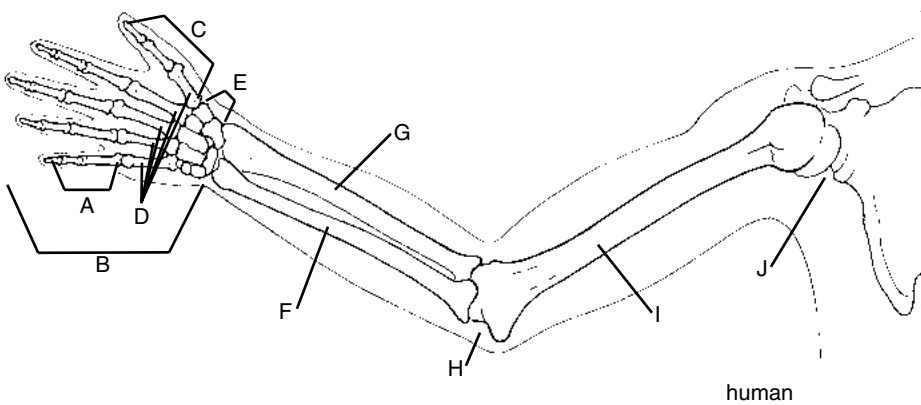
Evolutionary Biologist Copymaster: Animal Limbs



chicken



bat



human

A. phalanges
B. manus (or hand)
C. alula (or first digit)
D. metacarpals
E. carpals (or wrist)
F. ulna
G. radius
H. "elbow"
I. humerus
J. "shoulder" joint

Illustration by Marjorie C. Leggitt

Explore/Explain: Evidence for Change across Time

Evolutionary Biologist Copymaster: Human Vestigial Structures

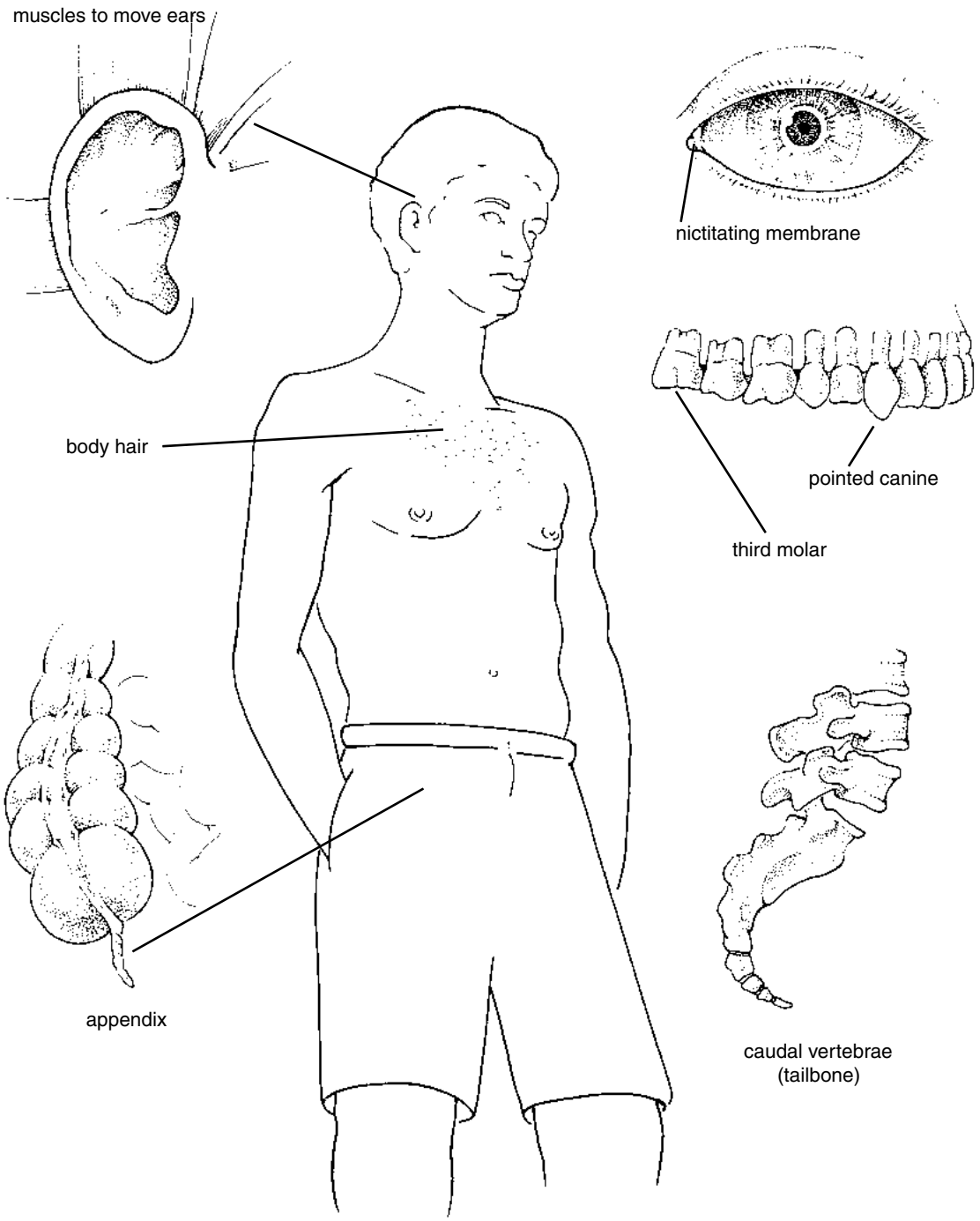
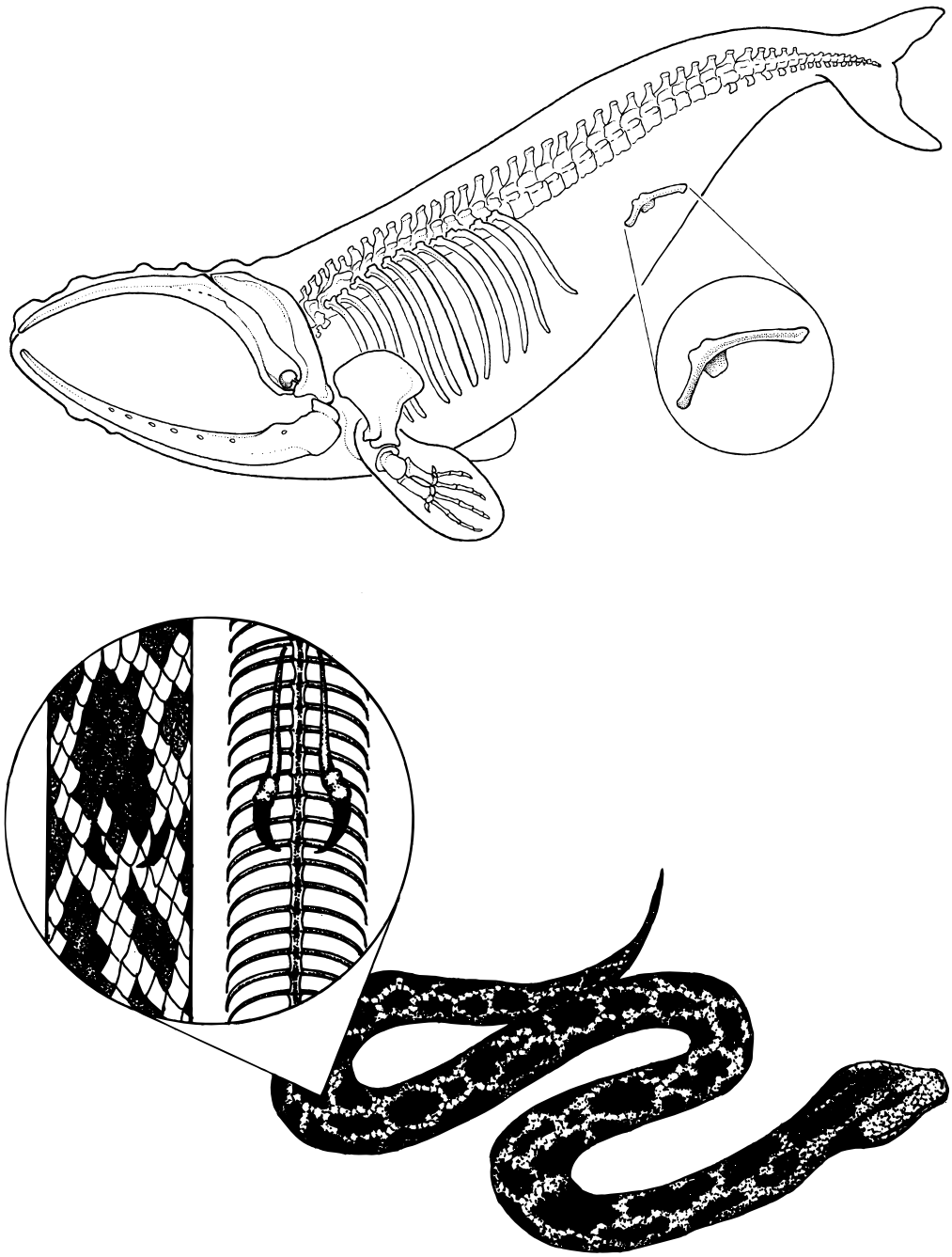


Illustration by Marjorie C. Leggitt

Explore/Explain: Evidence for Change across Time

Evolutionary Biologist Copymaster: Whale and Snake Vestigial Hind Limbs



Special thanks to Valerie Furey, exhibit developer at the Paleontological Research Institution for her help with the right whale skeleton.

Whale Illustration by Marjorie C. Leggitt