

# Inside the Theory Of Evolution, Vestigial Organs: Did Snakes and Whales have legs?

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According to the searches carried out on different web pages; evolution is a fundamental stage for the survival of a species since it changes to adapt to a new habitat or a situation. However there have been cases in which some parts of the body have been eliminated.

In this case, we will review a special question:

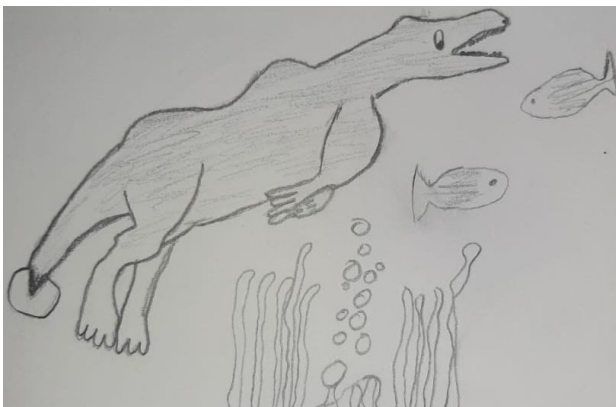
*Did snakes and whales have legs?*

We will go into ancient times, in which the human did not exist, and we will answer one of the most debated questions by the scientific and religious community.

First of all, let's talk about vestigial structures...

Maybe you are all wondering why we are talking about vestigial structures if the main topic is about snakes and whales, it is because they used to have vestigial structures, but we will mention that later. Now about this topic, in short words, vestigial structures are organs that were used in the past by our ancestors but nowadays those vestigial organs are no longer useful. These structures do not wear out or disappear, they remain as sequels. This supposes that vestigial organs do not carry out a function, and have no benefit.

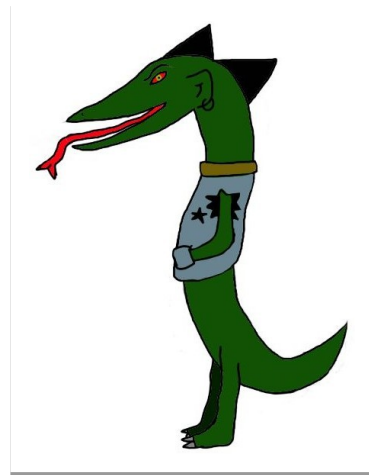
So now it's time to start answering the intriguing question!



We will start with the whales. According to LiveScience in the past, whales were said to have legs because they needed to be able to move on land and sea at the same time. Approximately 50 million years ago, our whale's ancestor, Georgiacetus, lived as a type of mammal that could walk on land and in water, but most of the time they were in the water. Due to this, years later the legs of the whale's offspring would not disappear but became fins to

improve their stay in the water.

Well first you have to know something, snakes had legs, yes, these animals were 4-legged living being but could not walk on 4 legs because its legs were super tiny. According to scientists, it has been extinct for over 100 million years ago and its named Tetrapod phis. According to National Geographic, this is a very ancient type of animal. Scientists have been trying to target this ancient animal for years and during their investigation, they have found different types of fossils that prove that the four-legged snake existed on this planet. This snake (Tetrapod phis) could slide thanks to their muscles and could not walk as I said before. As a result, the legs did not fall off or disappear, they just became a part of the snake's internal body.



Everything we said is also explained by 2 different reasons, one is by natural selection, the whales and snakes didn't need the legs because nature made the legs useless for them, the legs would of made them slower and they had to carry them where ever they went, even if they didn't use them. And also Lamarck said that the vestigial organs (in general) desappeared because the animals didn't use them, but then came Darwin when he said that it was random, that nature randomly made in this case a no legged snake and whale that can reproduce themselves and make more no legged snakes and whales

In conclusion, our research has led us to the realization that the animals mentioned above did indeed have legs. Whales, meanwhile, had legs to walk on land and swim, their ancestors resembled amphibians. As for the snakes, they also had legs but they did not use them as often since they were very small and it was easier for them to crawl since they had muscles in that area.

Now... what made this possible? Changes in climate? Change in the ecosystem? For sure it is not very well known since several factors can influence the so-called vestigial organs.

