

Big Ideas Group

Who Wins? The history of Eugenics

Simon Jarrett

The theory of evolution

Meet the great grandparents... and some genes

We **change** and **adapt** so that we **survive**

We have learned to breed
stronger plants and animals

We can change and adapt plants

We can do the same with animals

Francis Galton (1869)

Eugenics

If we can breed strong animals and plants, we can breed strong humans

Eugenics - 'social problems' caused by

1)poor people

2)bad genes

3)breeding too much

Stop 'bad breeding'
Encourage 'good breeding'

People with learning disabilities –
a target of eugenics

1913 Mental Deficiency Act

1933-45 the Nazi party in Germany – killing disabled people.

After the war the hospitals finally began to close and people moved to their communities.

Some still believe in eugenics
Some laws are eugenic

Peter Singer

Richard Dawkins

Eugenics = bad science (1)
we are not just what our parents make

Eugenics = bad science (2)
heredity is not simple

Just because our parents have some characteristics, does not mean we will have them too. Other things make us too

Eugenics = bad science (3)
What's wrong with diversity?
Nothing!