Charles Darwin was a famous “Naturalist” whose observations led him to realize that natural selection acts on the variation of the natural world, so the most fit members of each species survive and the species evolves overtime.

Gregory Mendel was a scientist who grew many generations of pea plants from self- and cross-fertilizations, observing the variation in each generation. For example, how the plant size, color and other physical features varied. Mendel determined that information was being passed down from each parent to the offspring: “Genes” that determined these patterns.

Reginald Punnett further studied the work of Gregory Mendel and helped found the new science of genetics. He invented the Punnett square, which can predict the genes of the offspring based on the genes of the parents, giving further insight into the how variation comes about.