

# Evolution & Religion: Dayton, TN

## Contents

Objectives	1
Introduction	1
Results Section	2

## Objectives

- To gain a better understanding of the events surrounding the Scopes Trial
- To gain a better perspective on potential tensions between science and society

## Introduction

In the summer of 1925, people throughout the country learned of the small Tennessee town of Dayton. Here, John Scopes, a high school science teacher was on trial for teaching the theory of evolution in violation of a recently enacted state law. From around the country, advocates for both sides of the issue quickly marshaled their forces and descended on the town. The stage was set for what was being called the most sensational trial of the century, otherwise known as 'The Monkey Trial.'

Download and run the simulated field trip to Dayton, Tennessee, 1925. This requires that you have Shockwave installed on your computer. If you do not have this program, go to the course syllabus for a link to download and install Shockwave.

To view the text within the simulation, click on the blue 'i' in the upper right corner.

The field trip file is relatively large so if your connection speed is slow you may want to use the text only file at [http://www.f-onedesign.com/BioOne\\_Modules/Scopes\\_text.pdf](http://www.f-onedesign.com/BioOne_Modules/Scopes_text.pdf)

# ***Results Section***

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## ***Questions***

What do you think the outcome of the Scopes trial represented to the debate between evolutionary theory and religion?

Do you think one side 'won'? Which? Why?

Other than evolutionary theory, can you think of a societal issue that has been raised due to advances in science? What is this issue and briefly, what are the positions of the different sides of the issue?