

A close-up photograph of a dinosaur skull, showing the jaw and teeth. The skull is brown and textured, with sharp teeth visible in the lower jaw. The background is dark and out of focus.

KNOWING THE TRUTH about GOD'S AWESOME CREATION



LAWRENCE O. RICHARDS

A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK

IT COULDN'T JUST HAPPEN

© 1987, 1989 by Word, Inc.; 2011, 2016 by Thomas Nelson

All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, scanning, or other—except for brief quotations in critical reviews or articles, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Published in Nashville, Tennessee, by Thomas Nelson. Thomas Nelson is a registered trademark of Thomas Nelson.

Thomas Nelson titles may be purchased in bulk for educational, business, fund-raising, or sales promotional use. For information, please e-mail SpecialMarkets@ThomasNelson.com.

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are taken from the HOLY BIBLE: NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®.

© 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked ICB are from INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S BIBLE®. © 1986, 1988, 1999 by Thomas Nelson. All rights reserved.

All images were used by permission. See also Photograph and Illustration Credits, page 237.

The Agency Collection.

Biblewalks.com.

Brett Eloff, courtesy Lee Berger and the University of the Witwatersrand.

Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress.

iStockphoto LP. © 2011. iStockphoto LP and iStock® are trademarks of iStockphoto LP. All other marks are the property of their respective owners.

NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration); NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory of Space Science in Washington, D.C.; NASA/JPL-Caltech/ESA/Harvard-Smithsonian CfA; NASA/JPL; NASA Lunar and Planetary Institute.

National Geographic Society, © 1996–2011. All rights reserved.

Photos.com. © 2011 Photos.com, a division of Getty Images. All rights reserved.

Smithsonian Institute, D.C.

Consulting editors: Dr. John N. Moore, founding member of Creation Research Society, and John N. Clayton, author and producer of “Does God Exist?” film series.

ISBN 978-1-4003-1714-1 (Paperback)

The Library of Congress has cataloged the earlier printing as follows:

Richards, Larry, 1931–

It Couldn't Just Happen.

Reprint. Originally published: Fort Worth Tex.: Sweet Pub., © 1987.

Includes index.

Summary: Presents Biblical and scientific evidence that the natural world was created by God rather than through evolution.

ISBN 0-8499-0715-2 (formerly ISBN 0-8344-0145-2)

ISBN 0-8499-3583-0 (Paperback)

1. Creation—Juvenile literature. 2. Evolution—Religious aspects—Christianity—Controversial literature. 3. Creationism—Juvenile literature. [1. Creation. 2. Evolution—Religious aspects. 3. Creationism] I. Title

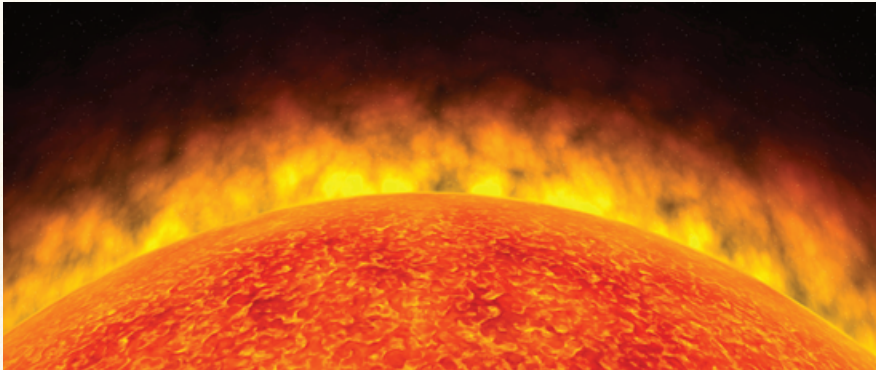
BS651.R526 1989 231.7'65 89-14611

89014611

Mfr.: RR Donnelley/Shenzhen, China/April 2017/PPO# 118706

ONE

THE UNIVERSE AND ITS ORIGINS

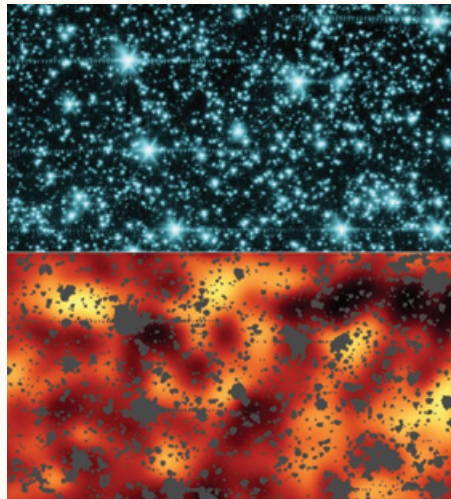


© iStockphoto LP / David Marchal



© NASA / Juliya Sunagatova

If the center of the Sun and the center of the Earth were nine inches apart, where would you draw the nearest star?



© NASA / JPL-Caltech / A. Kashlinsky (GSFC)

Infrared background light from first stars taken by the Spitzer Space Telescope.



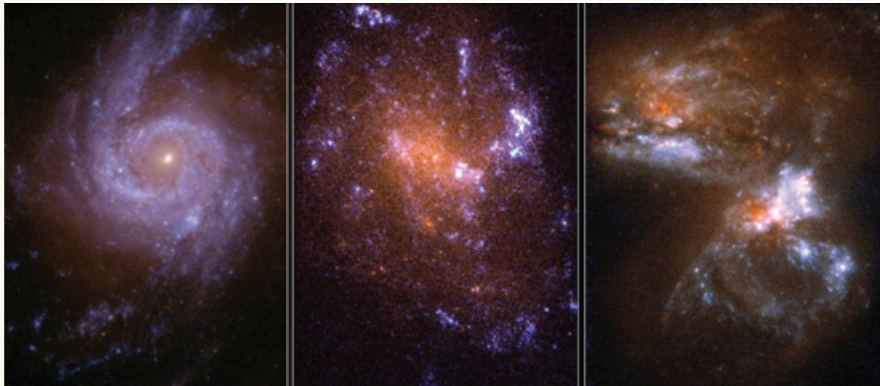
© iStockphoto LP / Michael Phillips

When the light from our Sun is separated into its spectrum, the lines tell us what the Sun is made of.



© NASA/JPL-Caltech/ESA/Harvard-Smithsonian CfA

This spiral galaxy known as Messier 81 or M81 is like our own Milky Way. The blue areas show the hottest, youngest stars, while the reddish-pink denotes lanes of the dust that line the spiral arms. The orange center is made up of older stars.



© NASA / Hubblesite

Galaxies, which have millions of stars, have different shapes and forms.



JUST FOR FUN

- 1 Take a friend outside at night. Ask him to hold out a dime at arm's length. Then ask him to guess how many stars that dime covers. (The answer: 15 million!)
- 2 Measure off a mile and then time yourself as you run it. Write your time here _____. How long would it take you to run, at that speed, from Earth to the Sun? (HINT: There are 1,440 minutes in a day. First figure how far you would run in a day. Multiply that number by 365—the number of days in a year. Then divide 93,000,000, the approximate number of miles to the Sun, by that number.)
- 3 Sit outside one night for five minutes, just looking at the stars. Then read Psalm 8. Can you understand how the psalmist felt? How did you feel?
- 4 Astronaut Jack Lousma says that while he can see God's work in the heavens, what is most important is the effect God can have in our lives. Lousma wrote, "I pray daily to God, asking him to guide me. I have seen him directing my life." Which do you think is the best evidence for God's existence: the universe or God's effect in your life? Why?
- 5 Look up the Big Bang in a science book or encyclopedia. What did you find?

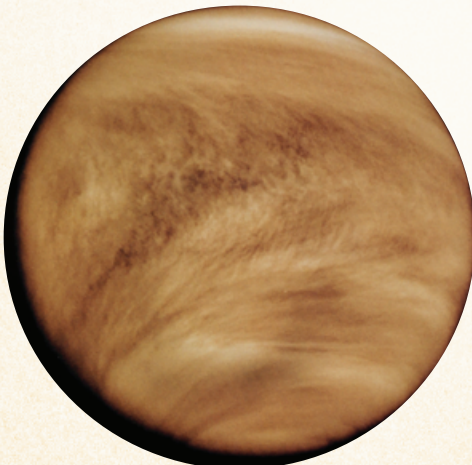
TWO

DEAD PLANETS, LIVING WORLD



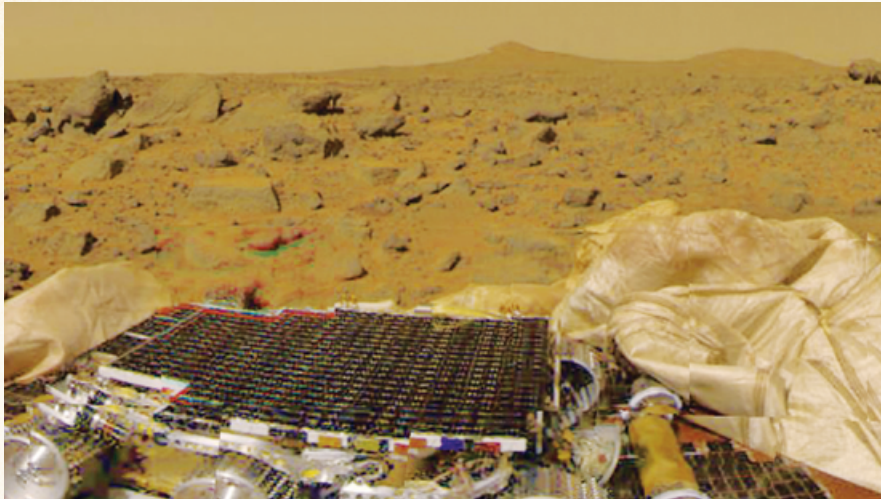
© NASA / JPL

This mosaic of Mercury was constructed of images taken by the *Mariner 10* mission. The tiny, brightly rayed crater (just below center top), was the first recognizable feature on the planet's surface. The mission was managed by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory for NASA's Office of Space Science in Washington, D.C.



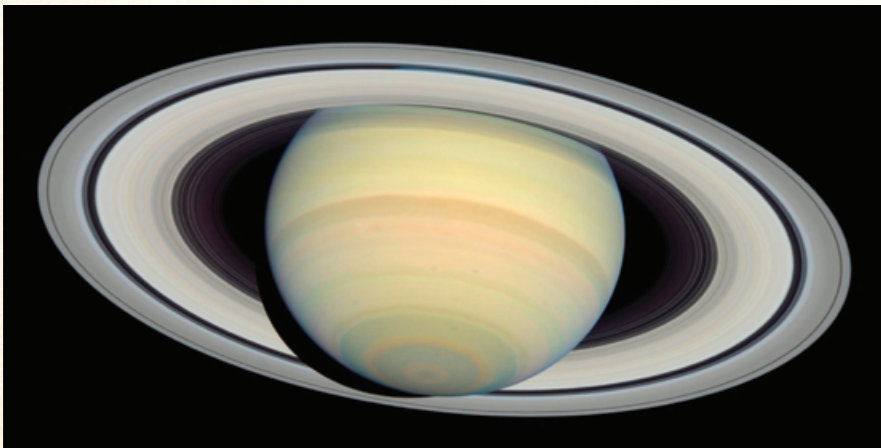
© NASA / NSSDC Photo Gallery

This full-disk image of Venus was taken by the *Pioneer Venus Orbiter*. The thick atmosphere of Venus was photographed in ultraviolet light.



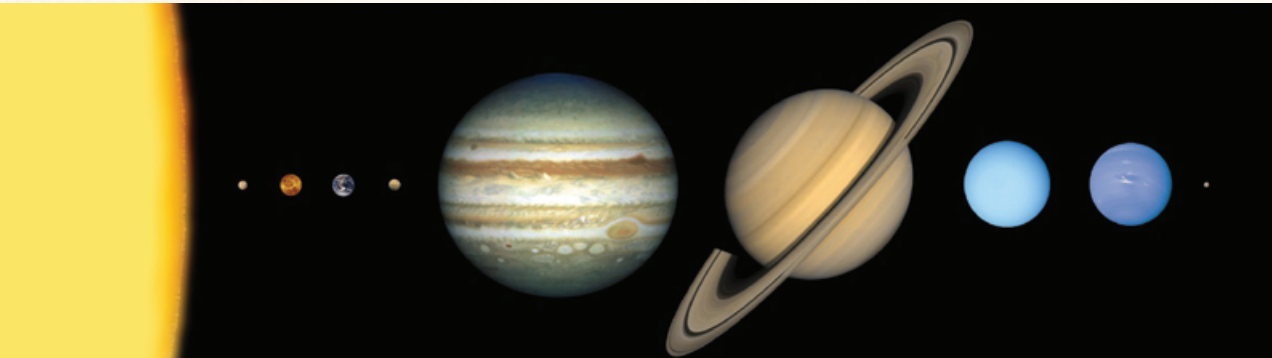
© NASA / JPL-Caltech

This is one of the first images taken by the *Mars Pathfinder* lander. The images showed the dry, empty surface of Mars.



© NASA, ESA, and Erich Karkoschka (University of Arizona)

The Hubble Space Telescope sent back these spectacular pictures of Saturn's rings.



© NASA / Lunar and Planetary Institute

Our Sun's planets (from the Sun outward—Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune) and the asteroid Pluto. The planets differ in size, in distance from the Sun, and in other important ways.



© NASA

Even in this photo taken from space, Earth seems to be a friendly, welcoming planet. It is the solar system's only host to life.

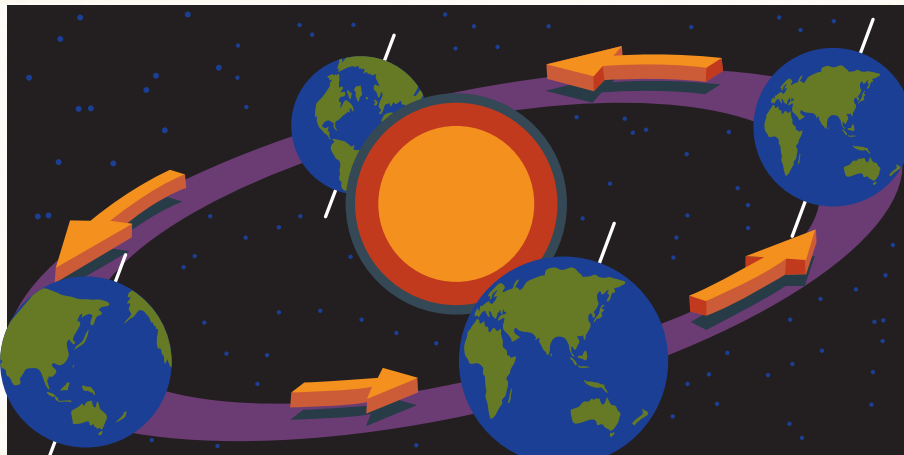


JUST FOR FUN

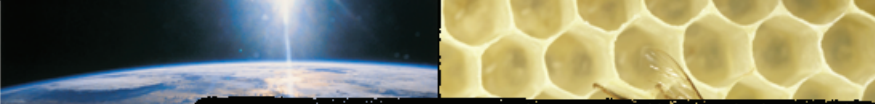
- 1 If you could travel to one of the planets, which would you choose? Use the Internet to learn more about that planet.
- 2 How many ways does the planet you chose seem to differ from Earth? How many things about that planet make it impossible for life to exist there?
- 3 Visit a planetarium or find someone with a telescope to look at the planet you read about.
- 4 Write a fiction story about visiting the planet of your choice. Tell what a visit would be like and what might happen to you and your spaceship.
- 5 Do you think Earth “just happened” to be different from the planet you chose? Why, or why not?

THREE

THE "ODD PLANET"

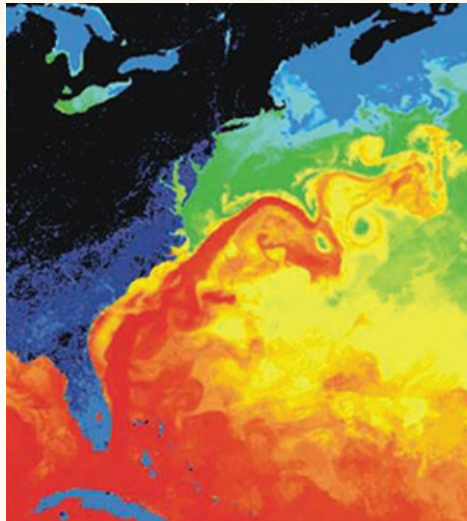


Earth's spin and 23° tilt give us our 24-hour day, our four seasons, and our many different climates.



Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress

In 1786, Benjamin Franklin published a map of the Gulf Stream, one of the rivers in the sea.



© NASA / Shizhao

This illustration shows some of the swirling currents caused by gyres, great rivers in the sea.



© Photos.com

Cutting down and burning forests to make farmland destroys plants that use carbon dioxide. Scientists worry that a buildup of extra carbon dioxide may turn Earth into a giant greenhouse and cause a global catastrophe.



© Photos.com

Tropical termites, living in mounds like this one, add millions of tons of methane gas to the atmosphere each year.



© iStockphoto LP / johnnyscriv

Living things, like our planet itself, are able to use energy in an organized way and counteract the tendency toward disorganization. This simple fact convinced one Russian physicist that there must be a God controlling everything!



© Photos.com

This flower's delicate petals and orderly symmetry are part of nature's balance.



JUST FOR FUN

- 1 Look up one of the following cycles (balanced systems that make life on Earth possible). Look up the water cycle, the carbon dioxide cycle, or the oxygen cycle. How does the cycle suggest that it was planned rather than just happened?
- 2 Use sheets of clear plastic wrap taped to a wooden frame, to make a small, *totally enclosed* greenhouse. Put one thermometer inside and another outside. Leave the greenhouse outdoors, and check the temperature on both thermometers at noon, 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. What did you discover? How do you explain the temperature differences?
- 3 When you burn wood, oxygen in the atmosphere combines with carbon in a chemical reaction. Drop a small piece of burning wood in a jar and cover the jar tightly. What happens? Why? (As the free oxygen is used up, the reaction stops.) What would happen to Earth if free oxygen in the air were not replaced in some way?
- 4 If you had been brought up in Russia and taught that there is no God, what do you think would be most likely to bring you to believe in him?
- 5 If you found a radio, you would be sure that someone had made it and that it didn't "just happen." List all the reasons you can think of *why* you would think someone made the radio. How many of the same reasons make you think that God made our world?

FOUR

WORLD IN THE MAKING



© Photos.com



© iStockphoto LP / rusm

An exploding volcano in the Santorini Islands created a 1,300-foot-deep hole in the sea and destroyed the ancient Minoan civilization.



© Photos.com

Giant lizards once lived on Earth and then died out. The dragon lizards of Indonesia and our own crocodiles have been called “living” dinosaurs. Looking at the picture, can you see why?



© iStockphoto LP / Marcio Silva

Dinosaur fossils suggest that some died in a terrible catastrophe.



© iStockphoto LP / Stephan Hoerold

The Barringer Crater, or Meteor Crater, was made by a meteor that struck near Flagstaff, Arizona. If the Earth had been struck by a giant asteroid as the Alvarezs believe, it would have made a hole many times larger than this one.



Scientists now believe that at one time all of Earth's continents were joined in one great super-continent that has been named Pangaea.



© Photos.com

Layers of sedimentary rock were formed of minerals deposited by water. Broken and twisted sedimentary rock is evidence of powerful forces that have also shaped the crust of the Earth.



JUST FOR FUN

- 1 Look up meteors in an encyclopedia. What do you read about cataclysms that have been caused by meteors?
- 2 Trace the continents on a map of the world. Ask a friend to try to fit the shapes together like a jigsaw puzzle. Ask your friend to explain what he discovers.
- 3 In 2 Peter 3:3–7, we read about people who believe that “everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” Are they right or wrong? Why? What do you think this passage has to do with scientific ideas about the history of our Earth?
- 4 Another volcano that erupted was on the island of Krakatoa. Look it up in an encyclopedia under volcanoes or vulcanism. What happened when the volcano on Krakatoa erupted? How many volcanoes are there on Earth? What kind of cataclysms might volcanoes have caused?
- 5 Read what the Bible says about the Flood in Genesis 7:11–12, 19–20. What features of the Earth do you think might have been caused by that terrible Flood?

FIVE

MYSTERIES OF THE EARTH



What happened to this baby woolly mammoth, found flash-frozen near the Yuribei River in Russia? Another woolly mammoth found flash-frozen in Siberia still had the buttercups it was eating unswallowed in its mouth. How could it, and other animals, have been frozen to death almost instantly?

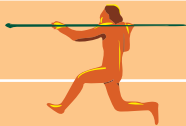
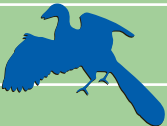
Photo © Erik LeCar



Evolutionists say that these trilobites, preserved as a fossil, lived 550 million years ago. But can we really tell how old they are?

© iStockphoto LP / Dave Sangster

The Geologic Column

Era	Period	Ages in Millions of Years before Present at base of Period	
Cenozoic	Quaternary	0.6	
	Tertiary	66	
Mesozoic	Cretaceous	145	
	Jurassic	201	
	Triassic	252	
Paleozoic	Permian	299	
	Pennsylvanian	323	
	Mississippian	359	
	Devonian	419	
	Silurian	445	
	Ordovician	485	
	Cambrian	540	
Precambrian	Late Precambrian	2500	
	Early Precambrian	4600	No Life

The kinds of fossils shown are typically found in these rock stratas. But often rocks and fossils do not fit this pattern. And there is no way to be sure that the dates assigned are correct.



© Photos.com

Millions of germ-sized organisms live in Earth's soil. The effect of this organic matter is important in the cycle of plant life. And we depend on plants for our lives.



JUST FOR FUN

- 1 Do you think that the age of the Earth makes much difference to a person who believes in creation? Why or why not? Does it make a difference to someone who believes in the Theory of Evolution? Why or why not?
- 2 After reading this chapter, what would you think if you saw this headline in a newspaper: "Fossil Remains of Two 225-million-year-old Crows Found!"?
- 3 Look on a map of the world. How many mountain ranges seem to lie along the edges of continents? How many lie in the middle?
- 4 Some of the rock formations on Mount Everest, the highest mountain on Earth, are sedimentary rocks formed by moving water. Can you think of any way those rocks might have gotten there?
- 5 If someone claims that radiometric dating has proven Earth is billions of years old, invite him to Google "Radiometric Dating Flaws."

HOW SCIENCE WORKS

Testing Red's Theories		
His Hypotheses	My Tests	Possible Test Ideas
1. I can run faster than you can.		Race with Red. Find out the best time of each in past races.
2. Redheads are the best runners.		Find out hair colors of champion runners. Line up lots of redheads and other people and see which group does best. Line up all the people in the world and see if redheads do best.
3. Any redhead can beat any blond any day.		Race any redhead against any blond. Race all redheads against all blonds.



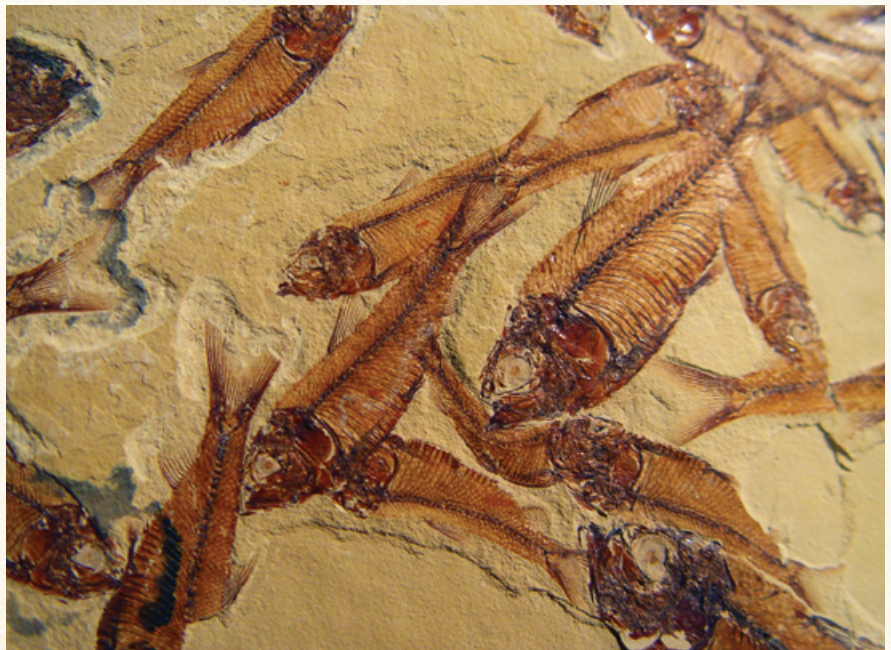
"Water boils at 212°F" has been proven many times. But in some places water will boil at a much lower temperature. How should we make our statement so it will always be true?

Water boils at 212°F at sea level.



© Photos.com

With instruments such as the Hubble Space Telescope, astronomers have discovered that earlier theories about how stars form may be wrong. New facts nearly always bring changes in scientific theories.



© Photos.com

Early evolutionists predicted that they would find fossils showing a series of changes proving that fish turned into amphibians or reptiles turned into birds. We now have hundreds of thousands of fossils, but none reveals the kind of changes needed to demonstrate the Theory of Evolution.



JUST FOR FUN

- 1 Choose one of these theories and decide what evidence might prove or disprove it: (a) Girls are smarter than boys. (b) Girls grow faster than boys. (c) Most women are older than their husbands.
- 2 What could you say to a teacher who says that the Theory of Evolution is a fact?
- 3 Here is a statement from a geology textbook. What is the writer saying? "No scientific report is ever more than a progress report. It is something someone has found out and that someone else will modify, expand, or replace. This has been true in geology as in all the sciences."
- 4 What might be fun about being a scientist? What might not be fun?
- 5 Do you think "scientific evidence" can prove creation? Why or why not?

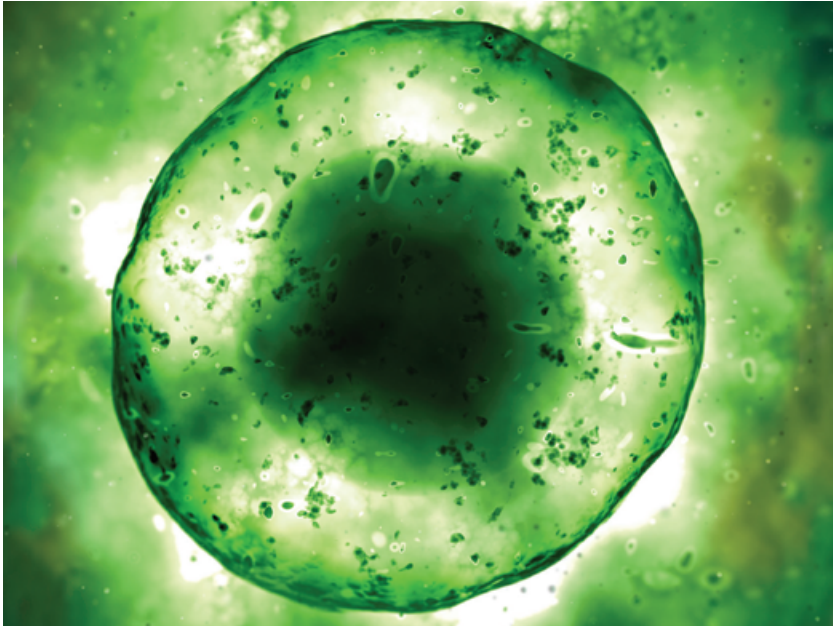
SEVEN

"LIFE" IN A TEST TUBE?



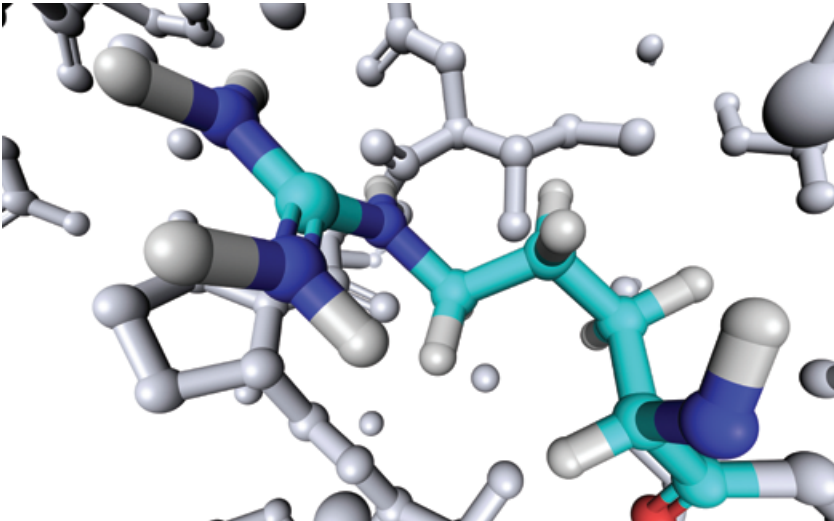
© Photos.com

Scientists think that life began in ancient seas. They say chemicals mixing in shallow warm pools just happened to come alive.



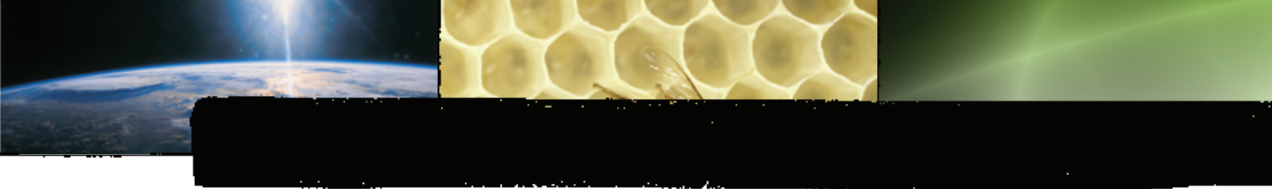
© iStockphoto LP / Henrik Jonsson

Even the smallest of living cells is made up of many different chemicals, all linked in unbelievably complex relationships.



© iStockphoto LP / Shunyu Fan

This is a molecular model of the protein amino acid arginine. A protein molecule consists of anywhere from a hundred to several thousand amino acids.



© iStockphoto LP / David Marchal

Digital illustration of DNA magnified.



JUST FOR FUN

- 1 You can do Redi's experiment (outdoors). Watch to see what happens on uncooked meat in a covered and uncovered jar.
- 2 "Fish either live out of the water or will die out of water." Can you write five other statements in which one thing or another *must* be true?
- 3 Explain what the author means when he says either life began by chance or God created life. Why, if we can prove one is *not* true, must the other be true?
- 4 How many reasons can you find in this chapter that the evolution of life from nonliving chemicals couldn't "just happen"?
- 5 If teachers or friends do not believe it when you say life could not have just happened, ask them to read the book *Chemical Evolution*, by Dr. S. E. Aw (University Education Press, Singapore).

EIGHT

THE MYSTERY OF THE MOTHS



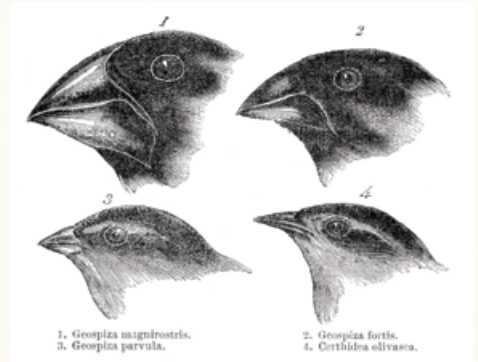
© iStockphoto LP / Henrik Larsson

In just fifty years the lighter peppered moths in England almost died out and were replaced by darker moths. Are changes like this evidence for the Theory of Evolution?



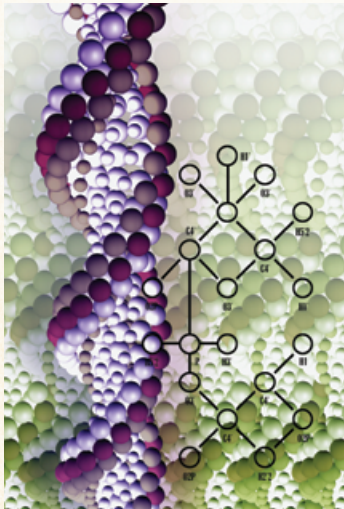
© iStockphoto LP / Jenny Leonard

Darwin learned that the tortoises that lived on various Galapagos Islands differed from each other. He thought this was evidence for his Theory of Evolution. But was it?



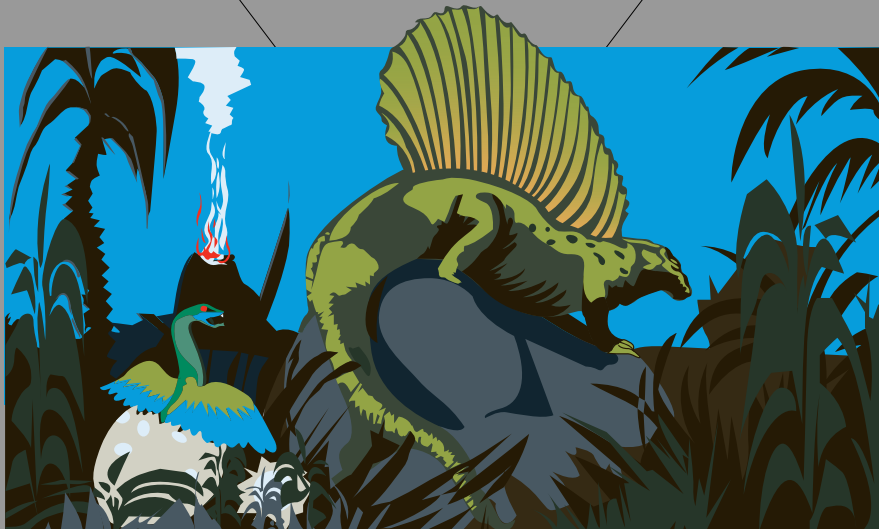
© Photos.com

The finches on the various Galapagos Islands had differently shaped beaks, each adapted to what the finches ate. Did these birds all descend from only one kind of original finch? Are the differences evidence for the Theory of Evolution?

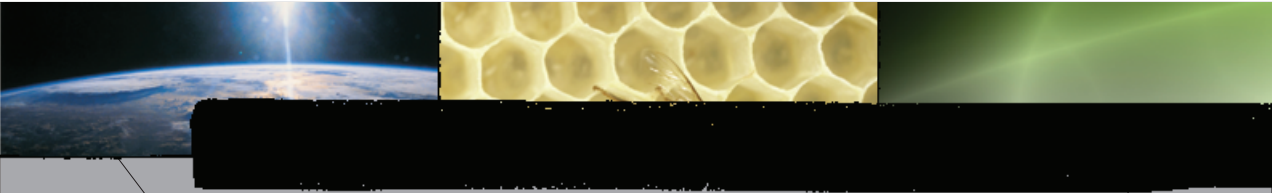


© Photos.com

This is a close up image of a DNA strand and molecular structure. The codes that determine the kind of plant or animal and its nature are all carried in genes that lie along chromosome strings.



This illustration of a bird hatching from a dinosaur "egg" is an example of a "hopeful monster." Evolutionists have suggested hopeful monsters to explain how Evolution between kinds of animals might have taken place.



JUST FOR FUN

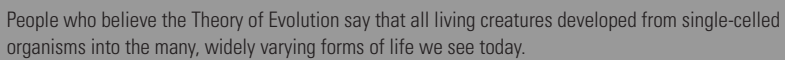
- 1 Make a list of ways that you are different from your parents. List also how you are similar to them. Do the differences show evolution (with a small "e") or Evolution (with a capital "E")?
- 2 How many different breeds of dogs can you identify? Do you suppose God created a single breed at first or several breeds?
- 3 Explain three ideas of how Evolution (with a capital "E") happened. What's wrong with each?
- 4 If you read in a high school biology book that the peppered moths of England "prove" the Theory of Evolution, what would you say?
- 5 If someone wants to know why you think Evolution cannot have happened in the plant or animal world, ask him to look up "limits to biological change" on the Internet.

NINE



© Photos.com

Imprints of plants or fish in rock are examples of fossils found in the rocks of Earth.



THE GEOLOGIC COLUMN

Epoch	Began (millions of years ago)	Assumed Sequence of Biological and Geological Events	Important Statements by Evolutionists
Holocene	0.01	Modern man, plants, animals, warm climates	"The more one studies paleontology, the more certain one becomes that evolution is based on faith alone . . ."
Pleistocene	2.6	Modern species: giant mammals and many plants become extinct; man continues to develop; continents in high relief; cold and mild climates	"As yet we have not been able to trace the phylogenetic history of a single group of modern plants from its beginning to the present."
PERIOD Quaternary	2.6		
Pliocene	5.3	Modern mammals: man emerges from ape-man; modern invertebrates; continents elevated; dry, cool climate	" . . . there is still no general agreement as to where true <i>Homo sapiens</i> , the men of our own species, developed."
Miocene	23	Development of grazing mammals; first ape-man; development of plains and grasslands; moderate climate	"One cannot assume that man is a made-over anthropoid ape of any sort, for much of the available evidence is strongly against that assumption."
Oligocene	33.9	Primitive apes; whales; development of modern mammals; temperate plants; mountain building; mild climate	
Eocene	56	First horses; placental mammals; subtropical forests; North America and Europe connected; mountain erosion; heavy rains	"The real origin of horses is unknown."
Paleocene	66	Modern birds; dinosaurs extinct; placental mammals; subtropical plants; mountain building; temperate and subtropical climates	
PERIOD Tertiary			
	66	Extinction of giant reptiles; rise of pouched and placental mammals; flowering plants; spreading inland seas and swamps; mountain building; mild to cool climates	" . . . but I still think that to the unprejudiced, the fossil record of plants is in favor of special creation."
PERIOD Cretaceous			
	145	Giant dinosaurs; first mammals; first toothed birds; shallow seas cover areas of continents; some mountain building	"Their (egg-laying mammals) geologic history is completely unknown."
PERIOD Jurassic			
	201	First dinosaurs; dominant plants; continents rise; many deserts	Small insectivore types whose relationship to these reptiles is not at all clear
PERIOD Triassic			
	252	Reptiles displace amphibians; extinction of many marine invertebrates; modern insects; evergreens arise; rise of continents; mountain building; some glaciation; cold climates	
PERIOD Permian			



Epoch	Began (millions of years ago)	Assumed Sequence of Biological and Geological Events	Important Statements by Evolutionists
PERIOD Pennsylvanian	299	First reptiles; giant insects; shallow inland seas; some glaciation; swamp-forests; warm, moist climate	"There is no direct proof from the fossil record, but we can readily hypothesize the conditions under which (the origin of reptiles) came about,"
PERIOD Mississippian	323	Amphibians spread; insects with wings; sharks and bony fish; inland seas; mountain building; hot swamplands; warm climates	
PERIOD Devonian	359	First amphibians; freshwater fish; lungfish and sharks; forests and land plants; wingless insects; small inland seas; mountain building; heavy rains	"Just how fins developed into limbs is still a mystery—but they did."
PERIOD Silurian	419	Land invaded by arthropods and plants; continental seas cover flat continents; land rising; some mountain building; mild climates	"There is . . . no fossil evidence bearing on the question of insect origin."
PERIOD Ordovician	444	Many fish appear; trilobites abundant; some land plants; lands submerge and oceans enlarge; warm, mild climates	"The best place to start the evolution of the vertebrates is in the imagination." "The geological record has so far provided no evidence as to the origin of the fishes . . ."
PERIOD Cambrian	485 540	Marine invertebrates and algae; many invertebrates; trilobites are dominant; lowlands; mild climates Marine trilobites and brachiopods	"The first and most important steps of animal evolution remain even more obscure than those of plant evolution." "Cambrian Explosion"
EON Proterozoic	2,500	Algae; sponges; marine worms; autotrophism established; volcanic activity; mountain building; glaciation; much erosion; warm climate	"We can . . . only speculate regarding their (the jellyfish) origin . . ." "Cambrian Explosion"
EON Archean	4,000	Life first arose; heterotrophism established; lava flows; much sedimentation and erosion	"We do not know how life began." "If there has been evolution of life, the absence of the requisite fossils in the rocks older than the Cambrian is puzzling."
EON Hadean	4,600	Few rocks on Earth exist from this Eon.	



© Smithsonian Institute, D.C.

The rocks near Agate Springs, Nebraska, contain bones of thousands of animals in pure limestone. They are jumbled together and could not have fallen into a sinkhole, as some evolutionists have claimed. Powerful, rushing water must have deposited them in this rock layer, which stretched for miles under the Nebraska prairie.



© Photos.com

The fossil of the Archaeopteryx shows a strange creature said to have the features of both a bird and reptile. It would look something like this image.



JUST FOR FUN

- 1 Use your imagination. Draw a fish. Then draw several pictures to show how that fish might turn into a bird or a horse. Do you think something like that could actually happen? Why, or why not?
- 2 Are there any hills in your area where you can see strata of sedimentary rocks? If there are, ask for permission from the owners to go on a fossil hunt! Take a small hammer and carefully chip away at the rock.
- 3 Explain to someone why the fossil record is evidence against the Theory of Evolution.
- 4 Look at the geologic column, and read the quotes from scientists who believe in Evolution but admit there are no transition forms. Why do you suppose they continue to hold the Theory of Evolution?
- 5 Some Christians think that God first created simple kinds of plants and animals and then waited millions of years to create other, more complicated kinds. What do you think about this idea?

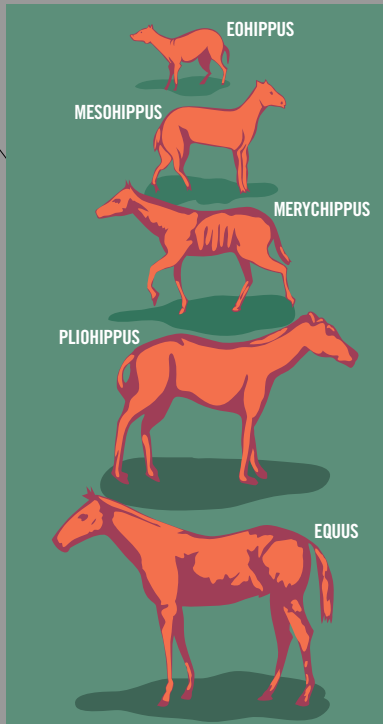
TEN

THE SAME, YET DIFFERENT

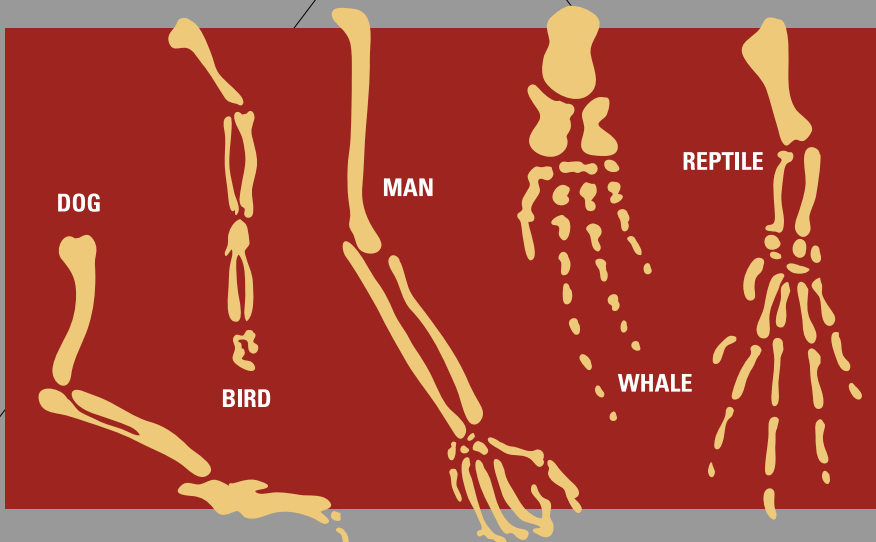


© Photos.com

Could a racehorse have evolved from a creature the size of a housecat? For decades evolutionists insisted yes. But no longer!



Textbooks and museums once showed pictures such as this one of “ancestors of the modern horse,” which they claimed proved the Theory of Evolution. Today no one believes that the horse developed this way.



The front limbs of these mammals are homologous (similar). Can you find similarities and differences? Some people claim that such similarities are evidence for the Theory of Evolution. But is this really a good argument?



© iStockphoto LP / Anthony Cake



© iStockphoto LP / Island Effects

The shapes of dolphins and fish are homologous. But evolutionists do not think they evolved from a common ancestor. So is similarity really evidence for the Theory of Evolution?



© Photos.com

The active chemical produced in the thyroid gland is exactly the same in a sheep and a human being. Are sheep the ancestors of humans?



JUST FOR FUN

- 1 In a college zoology course (zoology is the study of animals), these two test questions were on the final exam: "Did you believe in Evolution when you started this course?" and "Do you believe in Evolution now?" Why do you think these questions were on the test? How would you have answered the questions?
- 2 In some natural history museums you can still see a "picture of history" of the "evolution" of the horse, like the picture series earlier. Visit a museum and find displays that are supposed to prove the Theory of Evolution. Now that you have read this far, can you see what is wrong with that evidence?
- 3 Look at pictures of four different animals. List ways they are similar and ways they are different. How might an evolutionist explain the similarities? How could you explain them?
- 4 Evolutionists believe that human beings and apes are closely related. What do you think are the most important *differences* between apes and people? How do you think evolutionists might explain these differences?
- 5 While many things about animals are similar, there are also unique things that make different kinds of animals special. What is your favorite kind of animal? What makes that kind of animal special and different from others?

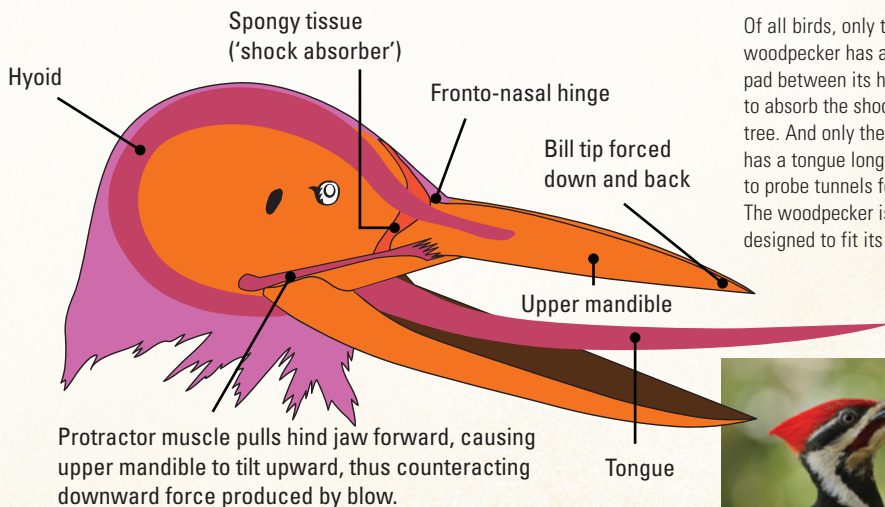
ELEVEN

THE WONDERS OF DESIGN



© iStockphoto LP / Ashok Rodrigues

Both the bears we watch and the cars we drive are wonders that demonstrate the principle of design.



Of all birds, only the woodpecker has a spongelike pad between its head and bill to absorb the shock of striking a tree. And only the woodpecker has a tongue long enough to probe tunnels for insects. The woodpecker is carefully designed to fit its way of life.



© iStockphoto LP / Bruce Smith



© iStockphoto LP / Keith Szafranski

Evolutionists do not explain the design of the penguin—or the amazing way the emperor penguins tend their chicks.



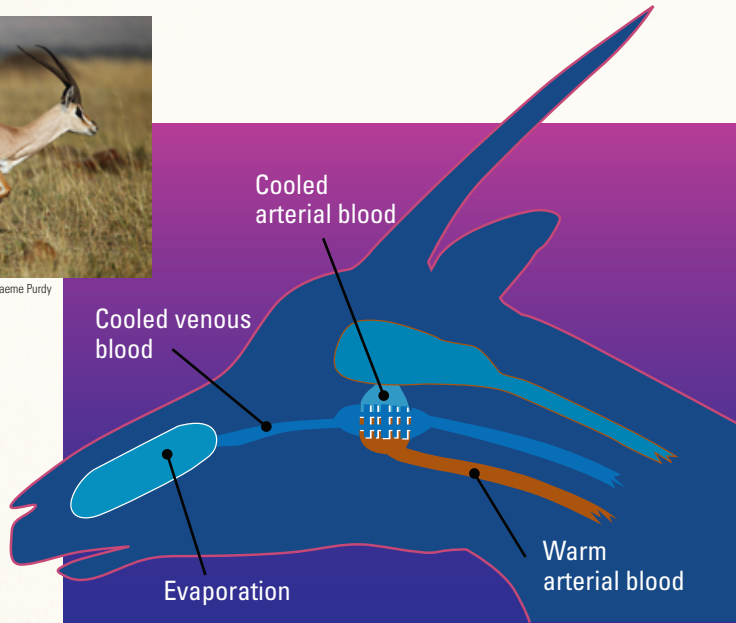
© iStockphoto LP / Sura Nualpradid

Millions of bats fly out of a cave. Their amazing sonar keeps them from colliding with each other and helps them track the tiniest insect in flight.



© iStockphoto LP / Graeme Purdy

The African gazelle's blood vessels divide and pass through a cooling pool before they go to the brain. Without this specially designed system, the brain of running gazelles would overheat, and they would die.





JUST FOR FUN

- 1 Look back over the animals and birds described in this chapter. Which seem to have built-in clocks? Maps?
- 2 Which animal's or bird's design seems most complicated? Why?
- 3 Which animal's or bird's behavior seems most difficult to explain by the Theory of Evolution? Why?
- 4 How many different modern inventions (like water cooling an engine) can you find already operating in the birds and animals described in this chapter?
- 5 What other wonder in the animal world suggests that there must be a Creator who designed it?

TWELVE

MORE WONDERS OF DESIGN



© Photos.com

The alligator snapper fishes in the same way we do—with a lure.



© iStockphoto LP / Terraxplorer

How do millions of tiny, blind insects build castle mounds that are wonders of design? Evolutionists do not explain the instincts that make such community projects possible.



© Photos.com

Bees communicate the location of flowers by dancing for other worker bees.



© Photos.com

Will insects like the feared army ants ever take over the world? No, because of a special feature of God's design found always—and only—in the insect world.



JUST FOR FUN

- 1 Evolutionists claim to believe that living things change into other forms that are new and different. If you were an evolutionist, would you worry that insects might develop lungs?
- 2 Which of the animal wonders in this chapter do you think is hardest for people who believe in the Theory of Evolution to explain?
- 3 Look up whales on the Internet. What else can you learn about them that might be called a "wonder"?
- 4 What can you find in the Bible about ants? Look up ants in a concordance, and then read about them.
- 5 Each of the animals and insects mentioned in this chapter seems special. What do you think makes human beings special? What makes us important to God?

THIRTEEN

WHEN IT TAKES TWO



© Photos.com



© Photos.com

What do polyps, the tiny animals that create coral reefs, have in common with soft, blind, land-dwelling termites? And how is that shared feature evidence of God?



Fish that live deep in the ocean carry light-giving bacteria in pouches under their skin. And they can turn these "lights" on and off at will, like this female anglerfish that can illuminate a portion of her dorsal spine to act as bait.

© National Geographic Society / Bruce Robison / Corbis



Orchids are more than beautiful flowers. Their survival depends on their ability to trick insects into helping them reproduce.

© iStockphoto LP / marc de fré



© iStockphoto LP / Brandon Laufenberg

© iStockphoto LP / David Phillips

The pattern on the wings of the viceroy butterfly mimics the pattern of the monarch butterfly. For the viceroy, the imitation is a matter of life or death.



JUST FOR FUN

- 1 Find a book on nature in your school or public library. Make a list of all the things you find that seem to call for intelligent design.
- 2 Look through the nature book again. Make another list of plants and/or animals that seem to need each other to live or reproduce.
- 3 Which of the things described in this chapter do you think is hardest for people who believe the Theory of Evolution to explain? Why?
- 4 Do some research on animal home-building. Look up one of these three: spiderwebs, beaver lodges, bird nests. What did you learn that might be evidence of God's hand in nature?
- 5 Read Psalm 104. How do you think we are to respond to the wonders that we find in the plants and animals that God has made?

FOURTEEN

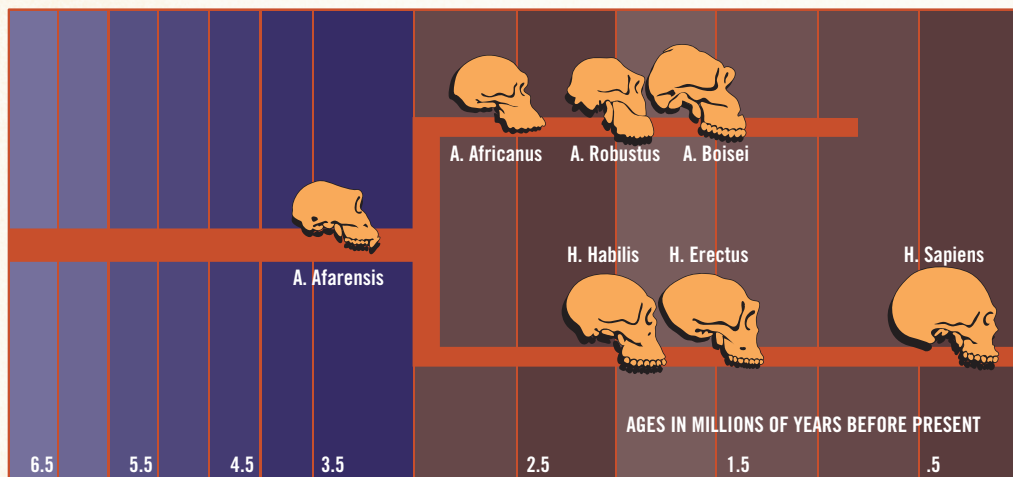
THE FAMILY TREE?



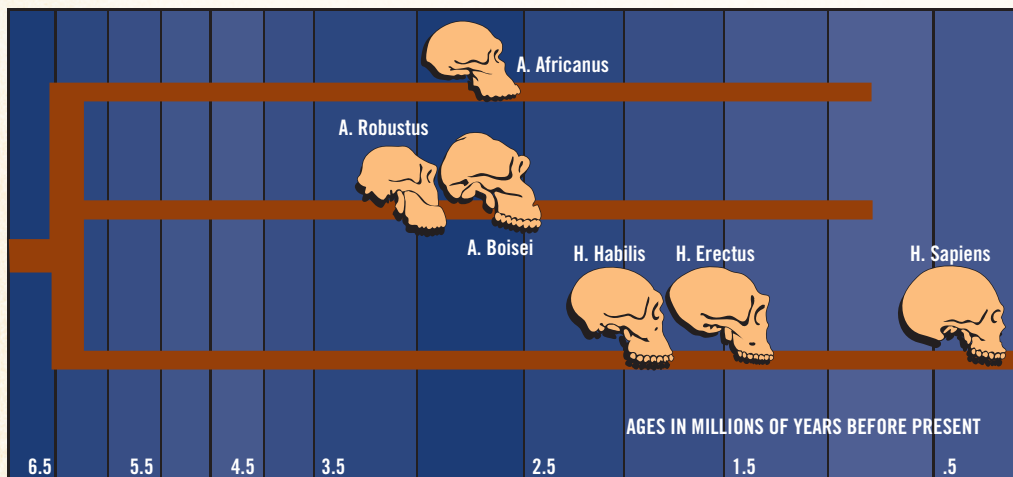
© iStockphoto LP / patrimonio designs limited

For many years cavemen were pictured as bent, ugly creatures with animal-like faces. But something has happened that changed the once-accepted idea of what Neanderthal men looked like!

HUMAN PREHISTORY ACCORDING TO JOHANSON



HUMAN PREHISTORY ACCORDING TO LEAKEY



Paleontologists have said that apelike skulls found in Africa provide evidence about human evolution. Two different theories had been presented—until the discovery of a new skull in 1985 showed both are probably wrong!

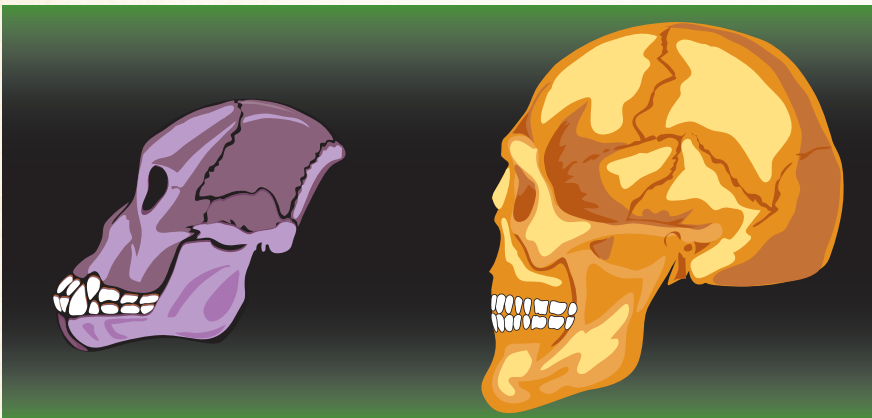


This drawing shows the key skull reconstruction of *afarensis*. But do the braincase and jaw really fit together this way or not?



Photo by Brett Eloff, courtesy Lee Berger and the University of the Witwatersrand

Australopithecus sediba is the latest entry in the contest to unearth fossils that “may have been” the ancestors of humans.



Is the real difference between the human and the ape found in the skeleton—or is the main difference not found in the physical nature at all?



JUST FOR FUN

- 1 Think about chapter 10 again. What are the reasons why similarity (homology) does not prove relationship?
- 2 Look up Neanderthal man and Australopithecus on the Internet. What do you learn that seems important? Why do you think people believed for so long that these remains “proved” the Theory of Evolution?
- 3 Look at the skull pictures in this chapter. Do any of them look human to you? How are they similar to human skulls? How are they different?
- 4 Make a list of ways that people are different from animals. Then check over your list. How many of these ways are physical (such as people have larger brains)? How many of these ways are “spiritual” (such as people can appreciate beauty)?
- 5 If someone told you that scientists have found human fossils that prove Evolution, what might you say to him or her? How would you argue that the facts better fit the Bible’s account of man’s special creation by God?

A close-up photograph of a woman and a young girl. The woman is on the left, looking towards the girl on the right. Both are smiling warmly. The background is a soft-focus floral pattern.

FIFTEEN

AMAZING AND WONDERFUL



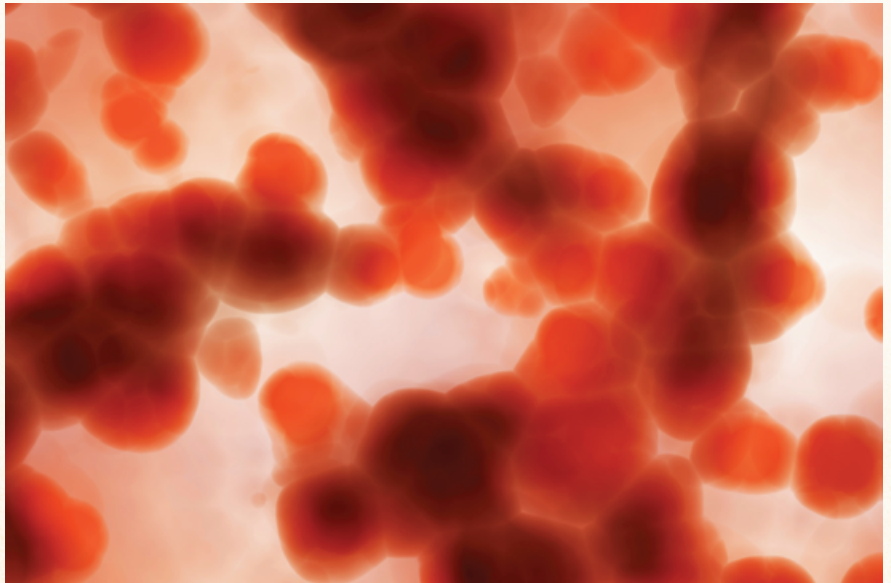
© iStockphoto LP / Jamey Ekins

Like each of us, this baby grew from a single cell and will grow up to have an amazing and wonderful body.



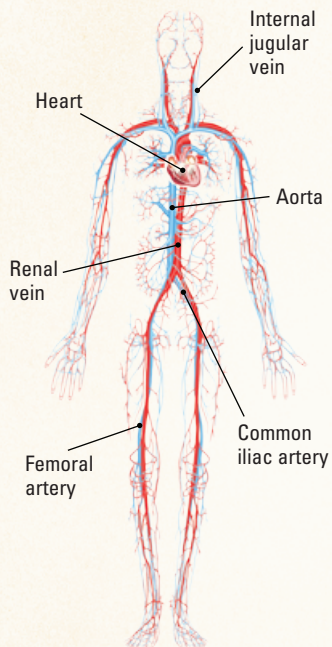
Your heart is the best, most trustworthy pump in the world. In just one year it pumps 40,000,000 times.

© iStockphoto LP / Alexander Den



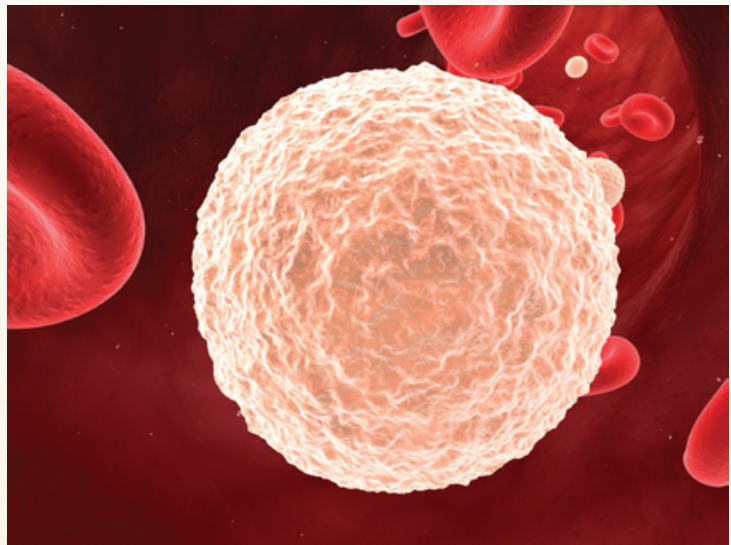
© iStockphoto LP / dem10

Red cells are carried in the blood throughout the body. They pick up oxygen in the lungs and carry it to every cell in the body.



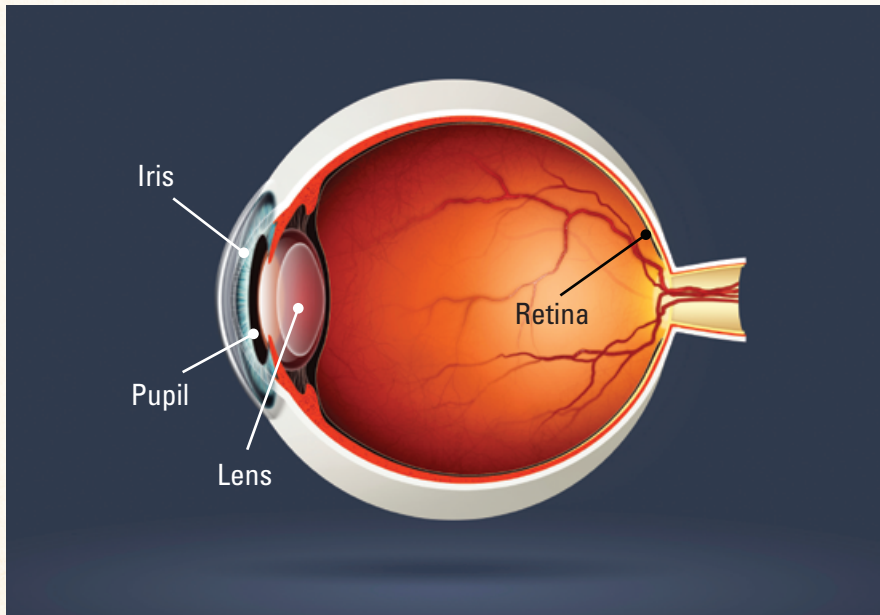
© iStockphoto LP / Dorling_Kindersley

There are 75,000 miles of blood vessels that carry blood to the 60 trillion cells of the adult body. Arteries carry blood from the heart. Veins carry blood to the heart.



© iStockphoto LP / Sebastian Kaulitzki

The blood also carries white cells, such as the one illustrated, that fight disease in your body. Your body may have a million kinds of white antibodies, each designed to fight just one kind of germ or virus.



© iStockphoto LP / Nurbek Sagynbaev

The eye has 137 million special cells that respond to light and send messages to the brain, which enables us to see.



JUST FOR FUN

- 1 Look up any two inner parts of your body on the Internet. What did you learn about them that seems amazing and wonderful?
- 2 Why do you suppose God gave us senses to make us aware of the things outside our bodies, but not of what happens within?
- 3 Read Psalm 94:9. What do the senses God gave us tell us about him?
- 4 Each pound of fat a person carries in his body adds about 200 *miles* of blood vessels to the blood system and makes the heart work that much harder. Keeping our weight under control is one way we can help the automatic systems of the body work as God intended. What other things can we do?
- 5 If you were to write a praise psalm to God for your body, as David did, what would you write? What things in this chapter seem most wonderful and amazing to you and help you realize that you were created by God?

SIXTEEN

IN GOD'S IMAGE

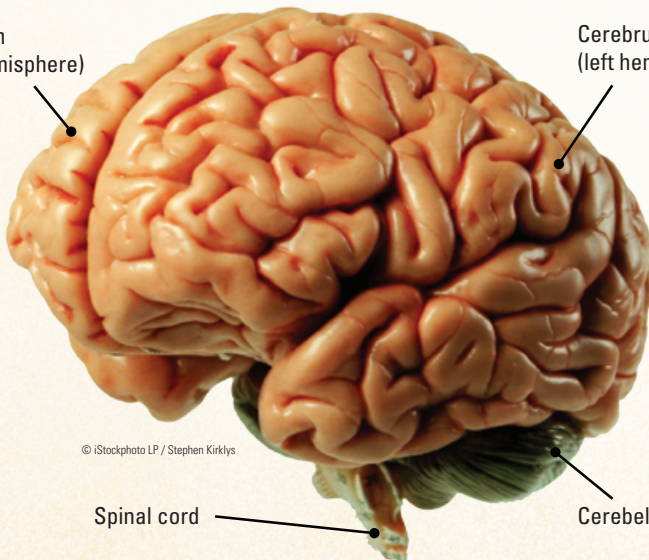


© Photos.com

Your ability to decide not to taste forbidden cookies helps prove that human beings are more complex than just our bodies and physical desires.

Cerebrum
(right hemisphere)

Cerebrum
(left hemisphere)

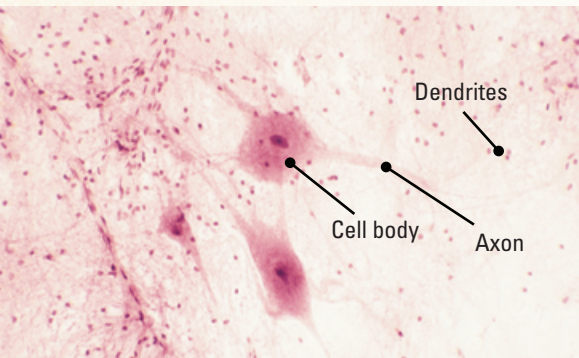


© iStockphoto LP / Stephen Kirklys

Spinal cord

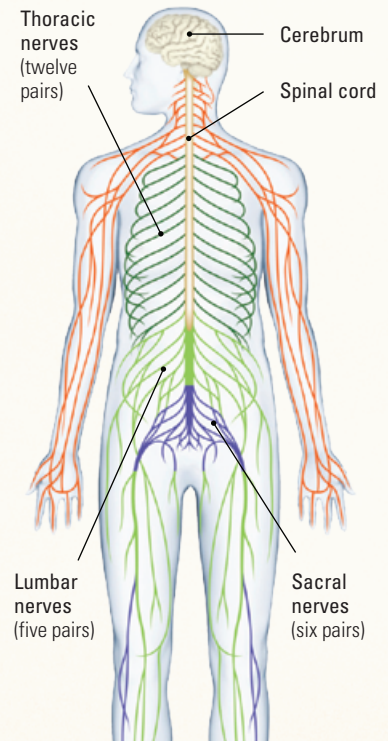
Cerebellum

The brain is the most complex of our organs. Its three message centers control our bodies' systems, our voluntary actions, and our ability to remember, think, and choose. But as a person created by God you are more than your brain.



© Photos.com

Neurons in the brain have many tiny threads that lie near others. Yet neurons never touch each other! Their chemical/electrical signals jump like sparks across the gap between them.



© The Agency Collection / Dorling Kindersley

The complex nervous system and other parts of our amazing human body explain how we can live in this world. But even the wonderful, physical systems God gave us can't explain how each individual is a person, with special abilities that are like God's.



© Photos.com

Because God made human beings like himself, we can appreciate beauty and do many other wonderful things. But perhaps most important, we can make moral choices between what is right and wrong.



© Photos.com

While human beings share similarities, each person's thoughts, beliefs, memories, friendships, choices, and character make him or her unique.



JUST FOR FUN

- 1 Do people just stop existing after their bodies die? What does the story told about a rich man and a beggar suggest in Luke 16:19–31?
- 2 Find several pictures of your parents taken when they were your age. In what ways are you like them? In what ways are you different? In what ways, besides looks, are you like your parents?
- 3 What are you like? What are some of the ways you are different from other people you know?
- 4 What are some of the good choices you have made recently? What are some bad choices? How do you feel when you make a bad choice? A good one?
- 5 What important reasons can you find in this chapter to trust Jesus as your Savior and obey him?

SEVENTEEN

A SURE WORD



© Photos.com

Weaver birds tie complicated knots as they form their nests. Such complex patterns in nature are evidence of a Creator. But we need the Bible, a special revelation, to learn what the Creator is like.



© iStockphoto LP / Gregor Buir

For thousands of years Bible books were carefully copied by hand and preserved because people believed they were the Word of God.



© iStockphoto LP / pidjoe

Archaeologists study remains of past civilizations. The findings of archaeologists show that the Bible is historically accurate.



© BibleWalks.com

Many prophecies in the Bible give details about how ancient cities like Nineveh were later destroyed. The cities that were not rebuilt were eventually covered with dirt to form city-mounds called “tells” like the one shown above. The even slopes and flat summits make unexcavated tells different from natural hills.



JUST FOR FUN

- 1 What is one important thing that sets God apart? Read about it in these Bible passages: Isaiah 41:21–24; 45:20–21; 46:8–11; 48:5–7.
- 2 See if your church library has a book on Bible archaeology. If it does, look up what it says about the book of Daniel.
- 3 Find out how an archaeologist works. What would be most interesting about being an archaeologist in Bible lands? What would be hardest?
- 4 Historical accuracy and fulfilled prophecy are both evidence that the Bible didn't just happen. Which do you think is the stronger evidence?
- 5 Explain to someone how Bible prophecy helps us be sure that what the Bible says about creation is true.

EIGHTEEN

HOW WE KNOW WE CAN TRUST WHAT JESUS SAID



© Photos.com

In Bible times, how could people know who was a true prophet?
One important test was that a true prophet could accurately tell
the future.



Prophecies About Jesus That Have Come True

The Old Testament Prophecy

The New Testament Fulfillment

JESUS TO BE BORN OF A VIRGIN

The Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (Note: This name means “God [is] with us.”) (Isaiah 7:14)

Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. . . . All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet. (Matthew 1:18, 22)

JESUS TO BE FROM DAVID’S ROYAL FAMILY

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.” (Jeremiah 23:5)

Jesus . . . the son of David (Matthew 1:1; Mark 10:47–48; Luke 3:31; Luke 18:38–39; Acts 13:22–23; Revelation 22:16)

JESUS TO BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. (Micah 5:2)

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea. (Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:4–7; John 7:42)

JESUS TO PERFORM MIRACLES

Your God will come . . .

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. (Isaiah 35:4–6)

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. (Matthew 9:35)

JESUS TO BE CRUCIFIED LIKE A CRIMINAL

Because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. (Isaiah 53:12)

They crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left. (Matthew 27:38; Mark 15:27)

JESUS’ SIDE TO BE STABBED

They will look on me, the one they have pierced. (Zechariah 12:10)

One of the soldiers pierced Jesus’ side with a spear. (John 19:34)



© iStockphoto LP / Tim Kimberley

Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would live in Galilee (9:1–2), which he did. Jesus performed several miracles on the Sea of Galilee, including calming the sea and walking on water.



There are many illnesses modern medicine cannot cure. But when Jesus was on Earth, he made the blind see and even raised people from the dead.

© iStockphoto LP / LajosRepasi



Read About Jesus' Miracles

Some Miracles of Healing

Of a soldier's servant	Matt. 8:5–13
Of two blind men	Matt. 9:27–31
Of a daughter	Matt. 15:28
Of a leper	Mark 1:40–42
Of a bleeding woman	Mark 5:25–34
Of a deaf and dumb man	Mark 7:31–37
Of a blind man	Mark 8:22–26
Of Peter's mother-in-law	Luke 4:38–39
Of a withered hand	Luke 6:6–10
Of a crippled woman	Luke 13:11–17
Of ten lepers	Luke 17:11–19
Of a nobleman's son	John 4:46–54
Of a paralyzed man	John 5:1–11
Of a man born blind	John 9:1–7

Some Miracles Showing Power over Nature

Over storms	Matt. 8:23–26
Over fish in the sea	Luke 5:1–11
Over bread	John 6:1–14
Over water	John 6:19

Some Miracles Showing Power over Satan

Over an evil spirit	Matt. 9:32–33
Over a demon-caused illness	Mark 1:23–26
Over a demon harming a boy	Luke 9:37–43

Some Miracles Showing Power over Death

Raising Jairus' daughter	Matt. 9:18–26
Raising a widow's son	Luke 7:11–15
Raising Lazarus in Bethany	John 11:1–44



Jesus healing villagers.

© Photos.com



Today's juries hear witnesses and decide court cases. Thousands of people saw Jesus perform miracles, and even Jesus' enemies decided the miracles were real.

© Photos.com



JUST FOR FUN

- 1 Do you think a person could ever find a marked silver dollar in a pile of silver dollars spread two feet thick across Texas? How much chance do you think there is of all the prophecies about Jesus just happening to be fulfilled?
- 2 Read Isaiah 53. How many different prophecies about Jesus can you find there that you know were fulfilled? Hint: read about the crucifixion in Matthew 26–28.
- 3 Read in the Bible about five of Jesus' miracles. How many people saw them take place? How did these people react? What chance do you think there is that Jesus fooled people about his miracles?
- 4 How many reasons can you think of why it is safer to believe the Bible about creation instead of accepting what even the best scientists think?
- 5 Here are some New Testament passages about creation: John 1:1–10; Romans 1:18–20; Colossians 1:15–18; Hebrews 1:1–3. What does each tell you?

NINETEEN

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT CREATION



© Photos.com

Everything we see in nature either developed by chance or came from the hand of the Creator.



The Theory of Evolution vs. Genesis		
ORIGIN	EVOLUTION	GENESIS
The Universe	It began in a "Big Bang" billions of years ago.	God spoke, and the heavens were created.
The Earth	It began as a red-hot ball that cooled and by chance developed the conditions needed for life.	God created Earth and carefully shaped it as a home for living creatures.
Plant and animal life	Chemicals just happened to combine to make life.	God spoke, and life was created.
Different kinds of fish, birds, animals, and plants	Tiny living cells somehow multiplied and changed to make varieties of creatures.	God created the basic kinds of plants and animals, which were able to reproduce the same kinds.
Human beings	People are complex animals who happened to evolve somehow from a different kind of animal millions of years ago.	God created the first man and woman in his image. Humans are different from the animals and are special to God.



© Photos.com

Three mountains have a role in the dispute between people who believe in creation and evolutionists. Mount Sinai, shown here towering over the plain below, is where God revealed the creation account to Moses.



© Photos.com

Mount Everest, the tallest mountain in the world, has rock strata at the top that were deposited by water. This mountain reminds us that our world has not always been as it is now.



JUST FOR FUN

- 1 Read the creation account in Genesis 1. Write in the margin of your Bible the important things Genesis 1 teaches.
- 2 Do you think the days in Genesis 1 are seven 24-hour days? Why or why not?
- 3 Read the account of the Flood in Genesis 6–8. Do you think it was a worldwide flood or just a local flood? Why? Also, read 2 Peter 3:3–7. Did this Bible writer seem to think the Flood was local or worldwide?
- 4 Who do you know whose faith would be strengthened or whose questions would be answered by reading this book? Why not loan your copy to him or her, or purchase another copy to give as a gift?
- 5 Explain in your own words why we should not be concerned about questions we cannot know the answers to.

TWENTY

ALIVE NOW AND FOREVERMORE



© Photos.com

Evolutionists often dream of an exciting future exploring the stars. But what would the future really hold if the Theory of Evolution were true?



© iStockphotos LP / Tim Kimberley

Jesus was buried in a tomb similar to this one in Jerusalem. But Jesus was raised from the dead, just as those who follow him as the Savior will be.

People Who Saw Jesus After His Resurrection

Mary Magdalene	John 20:14
Two Marys	Matthew 28:1f
Simon Peter	Luke 24:34
Two unnamed disciples	Luke 24:13f
Ten apostles, without Thomas	John 20:19f
Ten apostles, with Thomas	John 20:26f
Seven by a lake	John 21:1f
Over 500 at one time	1 Corinthians 15:6
Many at the ascension	Acts 1:9–10



© iStockphoto LP / amit erez

Jesus returned to heaven from the top of this mountain, watched by his apostles. Millions of people have believed in Jesus during the last 2,000 years. We never need to be ashamed that we believe in a God who is both Creator and Savior.



JUST FOR FUN

- 1 Either God created the universe and life or everything happened by chance. How would you explain to someone why there are only these two possible explanations of how everything began?
- 2 Explain how an evolutionist's view of the past is related to his view of the future. How is a creationist's view of the past related to his view of the future?
- 3 What did you know about the Bible's teaching on the future before you read this chapter? What is new to you?
- 4 Think back to chapters 18 and 19, and list five kinds of evidence that prove what the Bible teaches is true.
- 5 What do you think is the best reason of all for you to be a Christian and to choose to follow Jesus?