

The Yucca Plant and Yucca Moth

YUCCA plants grow wild in Central America, although they are grown as garden plants elsewhere. They have long, spear-like leaves, with flowers growing on a stalk in the centre. Like all flowering plants, yuccas have to be pollinated, but they rely on only one kind of moth to do this. This is the Pronuba Moth — often called the Yucca Moth. In fact, both the plant and the moth depend on each other to survive.

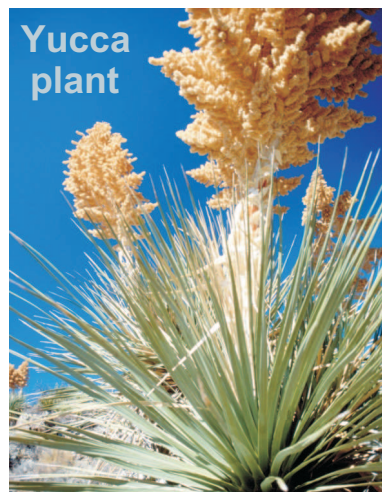
The Yucca plant flowers once a year in spring, and at exactly the same time the moths break out of cocoons in the soil and crawl out of the ground. The female moths fly to a Yucca plant and gather a large ball of pollen three times as big as their heads. Their mouths are specially designed to hold this. Each moth then flies to another Yucca plant where it pushes itself backwards deep into the flower and lays its eggs in the plant's seed pod (ovary). The moth then climbs out and stuffs the ball of pollen into the ovary, pollinating the plant.

Gradually, the seeds grow and ripen, and the moth's eggs hatch. The caterpillars find lots of delicious food all around them — the Yucca seeds, which they eat as they grow. But they never eat all the seeds, otherwise there would be no more Yucca plants. About two months after they hatch, each caterpillar cuts a hole through the pod, and drops down to the ground on a silk thread. They then

burrow into the ground, spin a cocoon around themselves, and wait until the Yucca plant flowers again, as much as a year later. The whole process then starts again.



The Yucca Moth



Yucca plant

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Evolutionists say the Yucca Plant and Yucca Moth evolved together by chance. This seems impossible to believe. The moths have to know exactly when the plants begin to flower, otherwise they would have no food and the plants would have no seeds. The moths had to have the special mouth parts to carry the pollen, and the caterpillars had to be able to break out of the pods and drop to the ground. When Yucca plants are grown in countries where there are no moths, they have to be pollinated by hand. Naturally, neither the plants nor the moths could exist without the other. It is much easier to believe that God created both the plant and the moth to work together in this amazing way.

DINOSAURS AND CREATION

"Did God create the dinosaurs? And how do they fit into the Bible?" These are questions people often ask. We know that dinosaurs existed because lots of their fossils have been found. But there is no proof that they all died out long before humans lived on earth, as most people believe. In this paper we have looked at evidence suggesting that people have met dinosaur-like creatures in the past.



In the Bible we are told that on the sixth day of creation 'God said, "Let the earth be filled with animals. And let each produce more of its own kind. Let there be tame animals, small crawling animals and wild animals. And let each produce more of its kind." And it happened.' (Genesis 1: 24). That must have included the dinosaurs, and God created Adam and Eve, the first people, that same day. God said that both people and animals were to eat only plants and seeds, so the sharp teeth of dinosaurs and other animals were not used to kill other animals. It was only after Adam and Eve disobeyed God that creation was spoiled, and animals began to kill.

We now live in this spoiled world with its pain and suffering. But God has promised that one day there will be a new creation. "Everything God made [will] be set free from ruin." (Romans 8: 21). God wants us all to share in that new creation, free from all pain and sadness, and we will, if we put our faith in Jesus, His Son. He came to earth to die on the Cross, then rose again from the dead, so that we could be forgiven and live with Him for ever. Is Jesus **your** Saviour and Friend?



Before sin spoilt God's world dinosaurs used their teeth only for eating plants.

PUZZLE CORNER ANSWERS

1. Seal — not a fish.
2. Tortoise — not a mammal.
3. Ostrich — can't fly.
4. Crocodile — not an amphibian.
5. Antelope — not a farm animal.
6. Raccoon — not an ape.

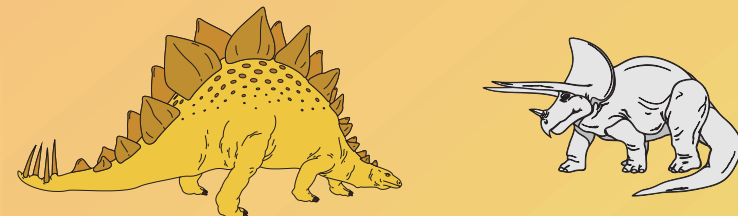
Spot the intruder:
"Remember your Creator while you are young." (Ecclesiastes 12: 1)
Bible verse:
Roses: top one is artificial

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DINOSAURS REDISCOVERED!

DID PEOPLE MEET DINOSAURS LONG BEFORE THEIR FOSSILS WERE DISCOVERED IN THE 19TH CENTURY?

Dragon stories



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In many different countries of the world there are stories of people meeting "dragons". In China, especially, pictures and carvings of dragons are popular (see pictures on left). Legend says that, long ago, Chinese emperors used dragons to pull their chariots. Today, many Chinese people celebrate the new year by wearing dragon costumes. Are these pictures and customs based on memories of a time when people really did meet dragon-like creatures? Were the "dragons" really dinosaurs? It is an interesting fact that lots of dinosaur fossils have been found in China, where they are often called "dragon bones".



Head of T-Rex

Photo: Paul Abramson

Did Dragons Exist?

Many people have heard the story of St George and the Dragon (right), but did humans really meet such creatures? In the British Isles alone there are hundreds of dragon stories. One, from Bures in Suffolk, dated 1405, tells of "a dragon, vast in body, with a crested head, teeth like a saw, and a tail extending to an enormous length", which killed a shepherd and "devoured many sheep." In Canterbury Cathedral library is the record of a fight between two giant reptiles on 26th September 1449 near the village of Little Cornard. There are also lots of pictures and carvings, such as the



16th-century one (left) on a pew-end at North Cadbury church in Somerset, which shows two dragons hatching from eggs. But surely the dinosaurs died out long before humans lived on earth? There is no proof of this, and dinosaur fossils don't come with dates stamped on them! In 1961 a geologist discovered a large graveyard of dinosaur bones in Alaska that had not even had time to fossilise. And we can't ignore all those stories of people who actually met dinosaur-like creatures. **Recommended books:** *The Great Dinosaur Mystery Solved* by Ken Ham, and *Dinosaurs Unleashed!* by Kyle Butt & Eric Lyons. (Order from address on back page).

Indians' dinosaur carvings

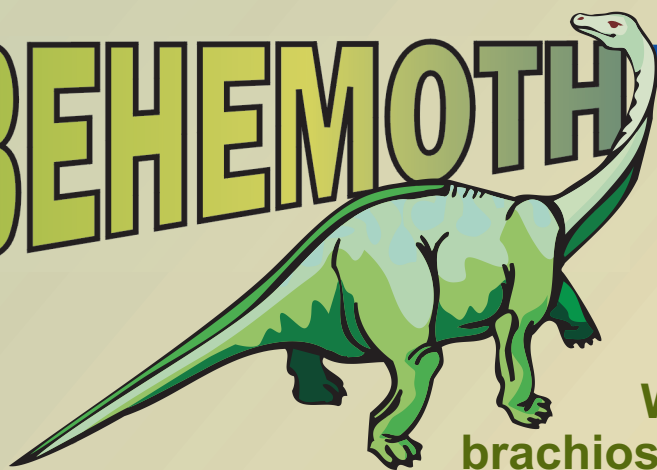
In 1924, two American explorers visited the Havai Supai Canyon, near the Grand Canyon. On the canyon wall they found Indian carvings of wild goats, an elephant and — a dinosaur. One of the explorers, Samuel Hubbard, said, "The prehistoric artist must have seen it alive." There were also dinosaur footprints nearby. Why would the Indians draw a dinosaur if they had never seen one?



Photograph of the carving in Havai Supai Canyon

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
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NATURE NOTES: FLOWERS
DINOSAURS WERE GOD'S DESIGN!
PUZZLE CORNER.
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DINOSAURS AND CREATION

BEHEMOTH WAS NO ELEPHANT! (nor a hippo)



Was it a
brachiosaurus?

People often ask, "Why aren't dinosaurs mentioned in the Bible?" The reason why we don't find the word *dinosaur* is because the name wasn't invented until 1841 — long after the first English Bibles were printed. However, the Bible does mention a creature which sounds like some kind of dinosaur. In the book of Job (which is probably the Bible's oldest book) we read about a creature called *Behemoth*. This is how God described it to Job: "Look at the strength he has in his body. The muscles of his stomach are powerful! His tail extends like a cedar tree. The muscles of his thighs are woven together. His bones are like tubes of bronze metal. His legs are like bars of iron. He is one of the first of God's works." Many modern Bibles have a note saying this animal may have been an elephant or a hippopotamus. But neither of these animals has a tail like a cedar tree! It seems more likely that some kind of dinosaur was living when Job was alive, maybe something like the brachiosaurus, which was 16 meters (50 feet) long, weighed 80 tonnes and had a huge, heavy tail.

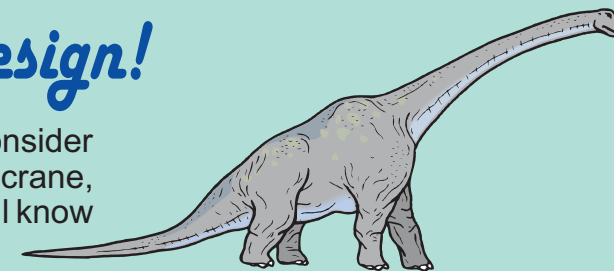


Elephants and hippos
have very small tails

Photos: © clipart.com

Dinosaurs were God's design!

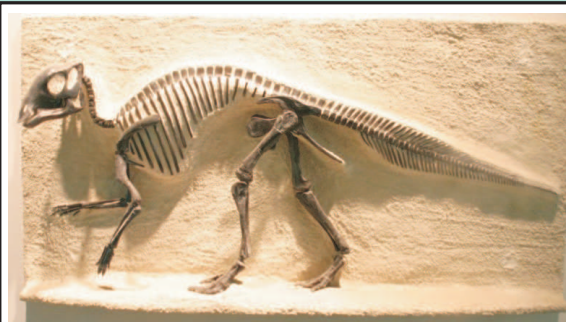
All the dinosaurs were wonderfully designed. Consider the brachiosaurus (right). Its neck was built like a crane, with specially designed bones and muscles. We all know that cranes have designers. Why not the brachiosaurus? Evolution just can't explain how these amazing creatures came to be, because, although thousands of dinosaur fossils have been discovered around the world — sometimes in huge *graveyards* — there are no fossils showing that dinosaurs evolved from something else. Also, the different kinds of dinosaurs appear separately in the fossil record, which fits what the Bible says about God creating separate "kinds" in the beginning. Those fossil graveyards, where thousands of dinosaurs are buried in rock layers, show they must have been killed very suddenly by some kind of catastrophe. This could be the great flood of Noah's time.



This crane needed a designer.
So did the dinosaurs!

Could dinosaurs still be living?

On December 30th 1999 a newspaper in Papua New Guinea reported two sightings of a 'dinosaur-like reptile' in the Lake Murray area. Villagers travelling in a canoe saw a huge creature with a long neck, long slender tail, and legs 'as thick as coconut palm tree trunks'. And in the Congo jungle in Africa local people claim to have seen a dinosaur-like animal they call *Mokele-Mbembe*. Scientists quite often discover living animals that they believed had died out long ago. Maybe, one day, we shall discover that dinosaurs are still with us, and the theory that they died out 65 million years ago will have to be scrapped.



Thousands of dinosaur fossils lie buried in rock layers all around the world. These fossils don't support that idea that dinosaurs came by evolution. Many of these dinosaurs are so well preserved, that they must have been killed and buried quickly in a big flood.

Photo: Paul Abramson

Nature Notes by the Editor



A cactus flower

Although it's still winter as I write these notes, there are signs of spring in the garden. Crocuses and irises are in flower, and daffodils in bud. Soon there will be a wonderful display of flowers. You may know the song that begins "Think of a world without any flowers." We can't imagine such a world, can we? There are thousands and thousands of different flowers which help to make our world beautiful.

Where did flowers come from? Some people believe they came by accident, and they just happen to look beautiful. They say they evolved from plants that didn't have flowers, but there is no evidence for this.

Look at the two roses on the right. One is real, the other artificial. Do you know which is which? (answer on back page). The artificial one is not alive, but so well designed that it looks real.

Of course, no-one would believe that the artificial rose was made by accident — it's obvious that someone made it. So isn't it strange that so many people believe that real flowers — which are alive and growing — didn't need a Creator? Don't believe this lie! God made flowers for us to enjoy. Let's thank Him for creating such beauty! — Geoff Chapman



A display of spring flowers



Which rose is artificial?
Answer on back page

PUZZLE CORNER

The Bible verse below gives good advice,
but the words are backwards and mixed up

YOUNG ARE CREATOR YOU
YOUR WHILE REMEMBER
REMEMBER EJIHW RUOY

Spot the intruder

Which animal in each list is the odd one out?

1. Tuna, sardine, seal, swordfish, salmon.
2. Giraffe, antelope, gorilla, tortoise, tiger.
3. Crow, swallow, albatross, seagull, ostrich.
4. Newt, frog, toad, crocodile, salamander.
5. Sheep, antelope, pig, cow, goat.
6. Raccoon, gorilla, chimpanzee, orang-utan, gibbon.

(ANSWERS ON NEXT PAGE)

Help the dinosaur find her nest

