

WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

The Tailorbird

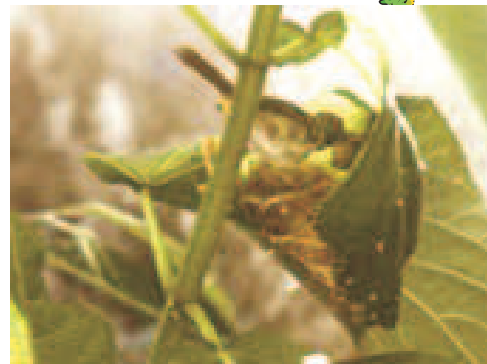
The future of all birds depends on their eggs hatching safely. Most birds lay their eggs in a nest, where they are kept warm until they hatch. One of the cleverest nest-builders is the **Tailorbird**. These songbirds are 10–14 cm (about 5 inches) long, and live in the tropical areas of China, Malaysia, India and the Philippines.

Tailorbirds make their nest by sewing leaves together! They take a large leaf, fold it together, and punch holes in the edge with their beaks. Then they sew it together using strips of vegetable fibre, wool or spiders' silk, making the leaf into a cup shape. They can even join lengths of thread together and tie knots!



This stamp from Laos shows a tailorbird with its nest

When they have finished sewing, the birds build a nest of grass, down and fine hair inside the leaf and lay their eggs in it. There they are kept safe until the baby birds hatch. The parents then feed them until they are able to fly and look after themselves.



Picture from <http://journeytoforever.org>
Courtesy Keith Addison

How did tailorbirds learn to sew the leaves together by punching holes, and tying knots in thread? Could they have slowly evolved their method of nest-building? If they didn't get it right the first time, their nest would have collapsed and the eggs been smashed. Most birds don't go to all this trouble, so why do tailorbirds? We believe God created them to build their wonderful nests so that we could marvel at His design.

Creation doesn't take time!

People who believe in evolution say lots of time was needed for this to happen. But if God created everything, time wasn't necessary. He is so powerful that He only needed to speak! "God said, 'Let the earth be filled with animals. And let each produce more of its own kind.' And it happened." (*Genesis 1: 24*). It was not at all difficult for God to create the world and universe in six days. God didn't need to rest, but His six days of creation followed by a day of rest were a pattern for our lives, and gave us our seven-day week.



Jesus feeds 5,000

He only had to speak!

When Jesus came to earth, He showed us how God works by performing miracles. He raised a dead man named Lazarus back to life, stopped a terrible storm on a lake, and created enough food to feed over 5,000 people from five small loaves and two fish — and He only had to speak. Jesus could do this because He was the Creator. "Through His power all things were made." (*Colossians 1: 16*). But Jesus didn't come to earth just to show us God's power, but to show us His love. Since Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the beginning and brought death, pain and suffering into God's world, people have been breaking God's laws. We all need His forgiveness and pardon. By dying on the Cross, Jesus took the punishment for our sins, and by coming back to life made it possible for us to live with Him in heaven. When we believe in Jesus, and ask God to accept us, He gives us a brand new life — and it only takes a moment.

PUZZLE CORNER ANSWERS

Bible verse: "He spoke and it happened. He commanded and to appeared." (*Psalms 33 9*)

Jumbled words: Guide: "This dinosaur fossil is think it was buried in the flood!"

Bible references from the International Children's Bible, New Century Version (Anglicised Edition). © copyright 1991 by Word (UK) Ltd. Milton Keynes, England. Used by permission.

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Tyrannosaurus rex fossil

AREN'T FOSSILS MILLIONS OF YEARS OLD?

If you visit a fossil museum, you usually see date labels on the fossils. A dinosaur fossil would have an age of 65 million years or more. But how does anyone know how old fossils really are? They don't have date labels on them when they are dug up! And the people who label them weren't there when they were buried in the rock layers. So how do they know? They don't — there is no scientific method for dating these fossils. The people who date them believe that all life on earth came by evolution, and that millions of years were needed for one kind to change into another, so they have to believe the earth is very old. But there is lots of evidence that our world is only thousands of years old, and that dinosaurs and humans lived together in the past (see *Our World 77*).

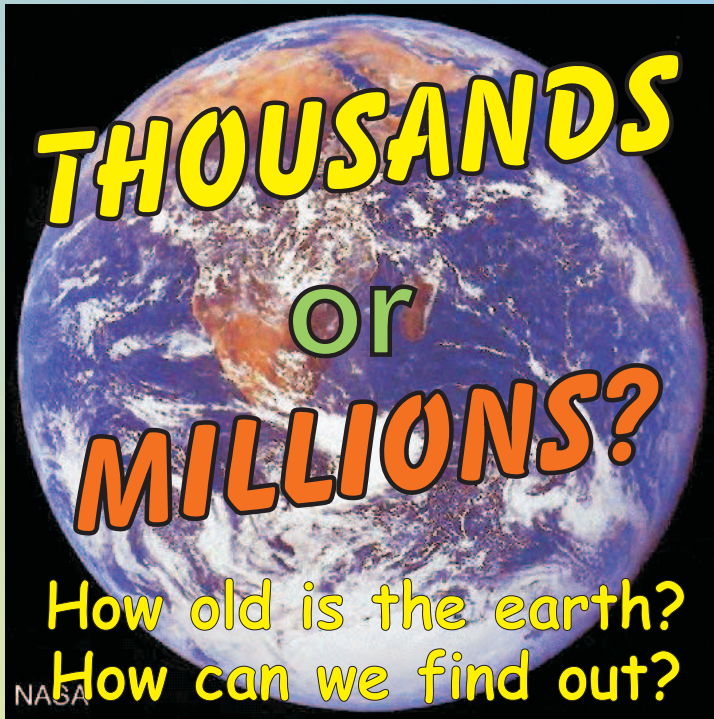
How long did it take?

We know that the earth is very hot on the inside. Many people believe it was once hot on the outside too, and that it has taken millions of years to become cool enough for us to live on. Is this true? How can we know? Imagine arriving home from an after-school activity one evening, and finding your Mum has a hot bath all ready for you, with the water at just the right temperature. How long has the water been in the bath? There are several possible answers:



1. The water was very hot when it came from the tap, and has been cooling for a long time.
2. The water was a little too hot when the bath was run, but has been cooling for a while.
3. The bath has only just been filled, because your Mum knew what time you would get home, and had it all ready for you to jump in.

How could you discover the right answer? Ask your Mum — she filled the bath! Has earth been slowly cooling for millions of years, or was it created just right for us? There is only one way to find out the truth: ask God, because He made it. How can we do this? By reading the Bible. See inside to find out what the Bible tells us about the age of the earth.



FAST FOSSILS



These fish must have been buried very fast, before they could rot or be eaten. If the mud had slowly covered them they would never have become fossils.

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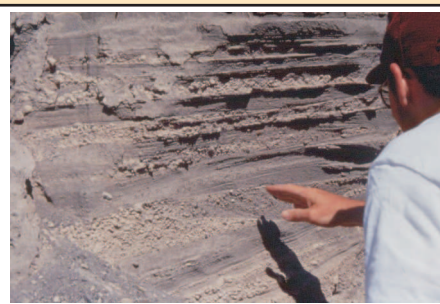
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ROCKS CAN FORM FAST!

Until about 200 years ago, most geologists (people who study rocks) believed that most of the earth's rocks were formed during the great flood of Noah's time and that the earth was quite young. Then some of them began to suggest that rocks took long ages to form as trickles of mud slowly built up and became hard. After a time most people accepted this idea, but the facts that persuaded the earlier geologists to believe in a young earth haven't changed. There is lots of evidence to show they were right, and more and more modern geologists now agree that rocks can form quickly.

After the Mount St Helens volcano in Washington State, USA, erupted in 1980 many meters of rock were formed by mud-flows in just a few days. These mud-flows even carved out canyons in a few hours. This proves that rocks don't need millions of years to form, but can form very fast when conditions are right.

In many parts of the world fossil tree-trunks as long as 15 meters (45 feet) are found standing upright. These had to be buried quickly before they could rot away. Three-quarters of the earth is covered with sedimentary rocks (rocks formed underwater). These could all have been formed during the world-wide flood catastrophe of Noah's time, and smaller catastrophes that followed it.



This rock, with its thin layers, is near the Mount St Helens volcano in America. It didn't take thousands of years to form as mud slowly trickled down and settled. It all happened in **one day** in one fast mud-flow! (see photo below left)

Photo by R Fleschman



This 185 meter (600 ft)-high cliff at Mount St Helens, didn't take millions of years to form. Mud-slides did it in three days! (dates shown)



Fossil tree



No one saw these rocks at Lulworth Cove, England form, but they must have become twisted while they were still soft. So the whole layer must have formed very fast, and couldn't have taken thousands of years.

Photo © ICR by Dr. Steve Austin

19th March 1982
12th June 1980
18th May 1980

Nature Notes by the Editor



Swallows

It is a beautiful sunny summer afternoon, with hardly a cloud in the sky. High above the fields I see swallows swooping and diving as they chase insects. I marvel at their clever aerobatics, and remind myself that in a few weeks these tiny birds will fly thousands of miles to South Africa, where they will spend the winter. Then I spot a larger bird — a buzzard —

high in the sky. Like a glider it rides on the thermals (rising air currents), just flapping its wings now and again. Buzzards can spot an animal such as a mouse from a great height and drop from the sky as silent as a stone to take it for food.

As I watch these two different kinds of birds, I can't help being amazed and rather amused that evolutionists tell us birds evolved from dinosaurs. I picture a dinosaur in my mind, and compare it with the swallows swooping in the sky. It just doesn't make sense! How did the front limbs of dinosaurs turn into wings? How did their scales turn into feathers? How did they learn to soar into the sky? The evolutionists can't tell us. The Bible tells us that "God also made every bird that flies." (Genesis 1: 21). I think it's much easier to believe that than the evolutionists' story, don't you?

—Geoff Chapman



A buzzard

THE BIBLE HAS THE ANSWER!

There were no people around when the world began. But God was there; He not only created everything, but He gave us a record in the Bible. Ancient people made carefully written family records, which they passed on to their children. In the book of Genesis in the Bible there are two lists of people's names, recording how old each person was when



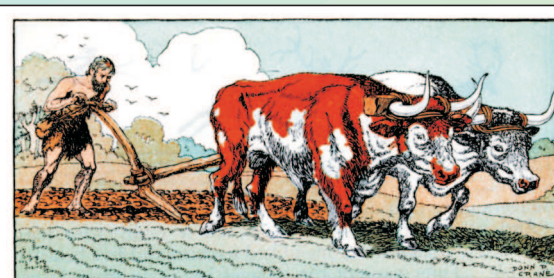
James Ussher

their first son was born. Beginning with Adam, who was created when the world was only six days old, it leads right up to Abraham, who lived about 4,000 years ago. Since God inspired the people who wrote these records, we can be quite sure that they are accurate. In 1650, Irish Archbishop James Ussher carefully worked through these records, and calculated that God had created the world in 4004 BC. This makes the earth just over 6,000 years old.

Many people have poked fun at Ussher's date, but he was a very clever man. No one has ever proved him wrong and, today, many creation scientists believe his date of creation was fairly accurate. There is lots of evidence to support it, too. Archaeologists have discovered that humans first began to write, build cities, make musical instruments, tame animals, grow crops and use ploughs to turn over the soil

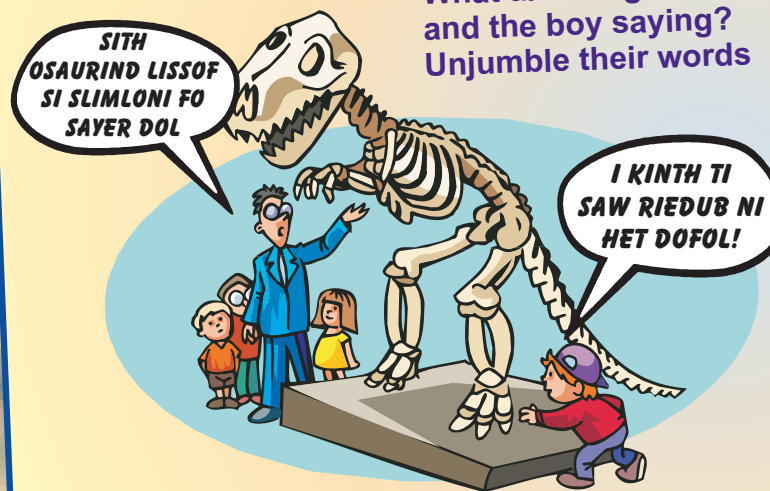
within the last 6,000–7,000 years (the Bible mentions some of these in Genesis chapter four). Evolutionists claim that modern-type people appeared on earth at least 200,000 years ago, but it seems impossible that humans could have taken 194,000 years to discover all these things! Also, if people had really been around that long, we would expect to find millions of skeletons of people buried all over the earth. But we don't.

This evidence suggests that our world is only a few thousand years old, just as the Bible teaches. God made the world just right for us; He didn't need millions of years to prepare it.



Archaeologists tell us that humans first began to tame animals, plough the land and grow crops within the last 6,000–7,000 years

PUZZLE CORNER



What are the guide and the boy saying? Unjumble their words

(ANSWERS ON NEXT PAGE)

Find the Bible verse

W	U	D	E	R	A	E	P	P	A	T
G	S	A	N	E	D	R	C	E	S	I
E	D	Q	U	I	Z	S	O	N	R	D
B	E	N	D	O	T	Y	S	L	A	N
E	C	O	M	M	A	N	D	E	D	A
H	O	S	G	A	F	W	O	N	E	B
D	E	N	E	P	P	A	H	T	I	D
A	Q	Y	R	J	E	B	A	R	F	N
N	C	E	S	H	O	D	F	A	N	A
K	E	Z	A	G	E	S	P	O	K	E
R	L	I	D	E	H	O	U	R	V	M

Starting with the red letter move through the grid, up, down, right or left, to spell a Bible verse