

The Beaver

THE Beaver, a mammal which lives in North America, Europe and parts of Asia, is a remarkable engineer and builder. Beavers live in family groups near streams and rivers, where they build a den known as a *lodge*. First, they build a dam by pushing sticks into the stream bed, then filling the spaces with branches, and placing logs and heavy stones on top. The dam makes the water level rise, forming a pond. The beavers then build their lodge of sticks, stones and mud in the centre of the pond. There is a 'chimney' for ventilation, but the only way in is through an underwater tunnel. Inside the lodge it remains very warm and this is where their young are born.



Photos © clipart.com

Left: a beavers' lodge in the middle of a stream



A beaver carrying a branch to its dam

Beavers are very well equipped for the lives they lead. They have very sharp teeth with which they can fell quite large trees and drag them to the site of their dam. The teeth keep growing as they are worn down. Beavers also have webbed feet, a rudder-like tail, and water-proofing oil in their fur. They can remain below the water for 15 minutes, and have special valves to close their ears and nostrils. They also have furry flaps *inside* their mouths to prevent their teeth and gums from freezing in the icy water!

The fossil record reveals that beavers have always been beavers, although there were once giant species up to 2.3 metres (7½ feet) long. Scientists tell us that beavers don't have particularly large brains, so they must build their dams and lodges by instinct. Beavers born in a zoo are able to build dams and lodges, even though they have never seen other beavers do it, so they couldn't have evolved this skill gradually. The beaver looks as though it has been well designed and equipped by God the Creator, and is not an accident of evolution.

TAKE TIME TO THINK!

We believe there is a lot of evidence that the earth is only a few thousand years old. But however old the earth happens to be, our lives are very short. When we are young, it feels like we have plenty of time, but as we grow older time seems to fly. We live in a world of time, and our lives are controlled by time. We have watches, calendars and diaries.



OUTSIDE OF TIME

We record time by the rotation and orbit of the earth, and it's impossible to imagine a situation where there is no time. But the Bible tells us that God is outside of time, that He has always existed, and that time began when He created the earth. Time was created for our benefit! The Bible also tells us that we have a spirit which lives on after our physical life ends. Humanists may deny this, but human beings have always had a belief in life after death. This is no accident. The Bible tells us that God has "set eternity in the hearts

of men." (*Ecclesiastes 3: 11*). We were designed to live for ever with God! Physical death came because people rebelled against God, their Creator. But Jesus Christ, God's Son, who has lived for ever with God, came to earth so that we could be forgiven and share eternity with Him. "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (*The Bible, John 3: 16*). However young you are, life is short, and time is running out. Some day you must meet God. Please do take time to think about this!



Time is running out!

SMILE

What would you get if you crossed an elephant with a kangaroo?
Holes all over Australia.
What's worse than finding a caterpillar in your salad?
Finding half a caterpillar.
What lies shaking at the bottom of the sea?
A nervous wreck.

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ORIGINAL VIEW

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The ALTERNATIVE teen's paper!

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MEASURING EARTH-TIME

Everyone 'knows' the earth is about 4.6 billion years old, that rocks take millions of years to form, that the fossils 'prove' that dinosaurs lived millions of years before humans appeared, and so on. After all, that's what they tell us on T.V. and in science classes. But — hold on a moment — how can anyone 'know' when they weren't there? And how do they measure these long periods of time? Doesn't it make sense to ask some serious questions before we accept these claims?



Photo by Paul Abramson

Everyone 'knows' fossils are millions of years old, don't they?



Haven't geologists proved that the Grand Canyon took millions of years to form?



Photo by R. Flesherman

Surely these rock layers took ages to form?

See inside pages—the answers may surprise you!

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Lots of information, and useful links to help you get informed!

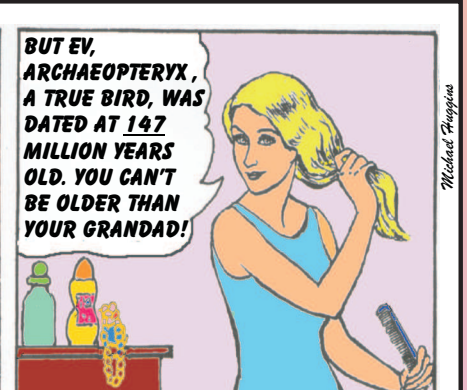
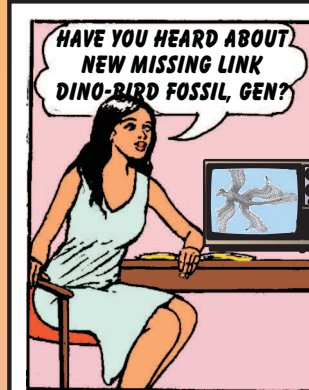
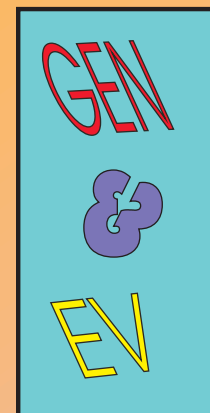
If at first you don't succeed....

When fossils are dated, evolutionists only accept the date if it fits their theory. For example, when a modern-type human skull (known as '1470') was discovered in Africa about 30 years ago, scientists tried to date it by taking samples of nearby volcanic material. Their first result was 212–230 million years. They wouldn't accept this, because "humans weren't around that long ago". So they had another go, and this time the result was 2.9 million years. Better, but still a bit too old to fit the evolution theory, so they did it again, and this time it came out at 1.9 million years.¹ This was accepted, because it could be made to fit their time-scale.



Skull 1470

¹ Dr. Marvin Lubenow, *Bones of Contention*, (1993) pp. 247–266

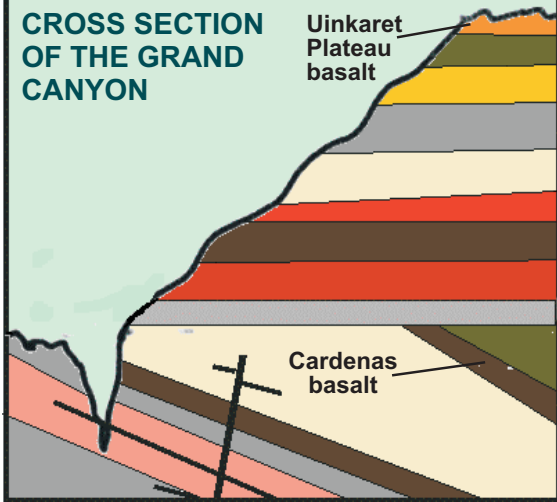


Michael Phipps

UNBENDING TIME IN THE GRAND CANYON

The Grand Canyon, a huge mile-deep gash in the earth's surface, is one of the world's natural wonders. It is widely believed that the layers of rock exposed in the Canyon were formed gradually over millions of years as the Colorado River cut its way through the solid rock. But Red Indian legends tell of a great flood which once swept through the area, forming the Canyon rapidly, and many geologists now believe that this legend is much nearer the truth than the millions-of-years theory.

In addition to this, when modern dating methods were applied to rocks from the Canyon, some of the rocks at the top turned out to be much "older" than those at the bottom (see below). Geologist Dr John Morris gives the details in his comprehensive book *The Young Earth* (available from us at £9.50 + £1.40 P & P)



Most of the Grand Canyon is made of sedimentary (water-laid) rocks, which can't be dated by radio-active methods (see opposite page), but dating volcanic rocks at the top and bottom of the Canyon has produced some very strange results. Thirteen samples from the Uinkaret Plateau basalt at the rim of the Canyon produced dates ranging from 10,000 years to 2.6 billion years, and another 13 taken from the Cardenas Basalt near the base of the Canyon produced dates ranging from 791 million to 1070 million years!* Quite apart from this confusing range of dates, the oldest figure was for the rocks at the top of the Canyon, which, logically, must be the youngest rocks. Something is very wrong here! (**The Young Earth* pp. 57-59)



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The Colorado River runs along the bottom of the Grand Canyon. Was the Canyon formed by a small amount of water over millions of years, as the river slowly carved its way through solid rock? Or was it formed quickly by lots of water flowing in flood conditions? Many geologists now believe the second explanation fits the facts best.

COULD SOLID ROCK BEND WITHOUT BREAKING?

In many parts of the world, thick layers of sedimentary (water-laid) rocks are twisted and bent. If these layers had been formed slowly over thousands or millions of years, as evolutionary geologists claim, the rocks would have been shattered by the pressure. But if the rocks were formed quickly, and bent while the sediment was still soft, the layers would be preserved as we find them.



Twisted rock strata at Lulworth, Dorset. (photo by the editor)



Fossil fish at the Smithsonian Museum

Photo by Paul Abramson

FAST FOSSIL FISH

When fish die, they usually float to the surface, where they quickly rot or get eaten by scavengers. Only a great catastrophe, such as a massive flood, could have suddenly killed and buried the millions of fish which are fossilised in rocks around the world. Other fossil graveyards tell a similar tale of rapid, not gradual burial.

FAST ROCKS AT MOUNT ST HELENS

Picture three on our front page shows some rocks near the Mount St Helens volcano, Washington State, USA. In 1980 there was a massive explosion when the mountain 'blew its top'. In the days and weeks following, the rapid geologic activity amazed geologists. The rocks in the photograph were all formed within a few years of the eruption by gigantic mudslides. In fact, 7 1/2 meters (25 feet) of sediments were deposited in a few hours on May 18th 1980! This sediment settled into very fine layers and quickly hardened.

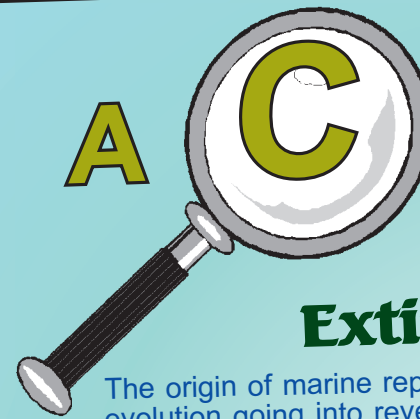


Fine laminations at Mount St Helens

Photo by R. Flesman

Most geologists had believed that this kind of fine layering only happened when sediments formed slowly over thousands of years. But Mount St Helens proved that this can happen very quickly when conditions are right, which raises big questions about age estimates for similar rocks around the world. Geologist Dr Steve Austin says that the Mount St Helens sediments look very similar to those in the Grand Canyon.

A CLOSER LOOK



at Evolution

Extinct Marine Reptiles

The origin of marine reptiles is a problem for evolutionists, because it would have meant evolution going into reverse. They say that reptiles evolved from amphibians, which had evolved from fish. So evolution is supposed to have been from the water to the land, then—in the case of marine reptiles—back to the water. Living marine reptiles include turtles and crocodiles, but there were also extinct "sea monsters", like mosasaurs, ichthyosaurs and plesiosaurs.

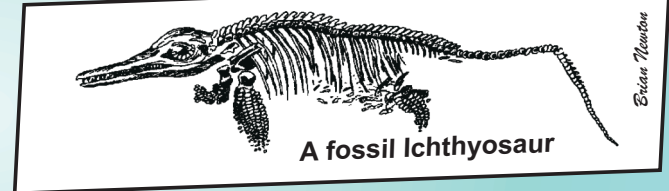
ALREADY SPECIALISED

These creatures were so well adapted to their marine existence that we have to ask what evidence there is to support the evolutionists' claim. One of the most famous experts in fossils, Professor Alfred Romer, admitted that there was none. Concerning the ichthyosaurs ('fish lizards') he wrote: 'These creatures were extreme in their marine adaptations and their limbs were obviously unfitted for use on land.' Professor Romer admitted that they had no evolutionary ancestors, and that the oldest fossils were 'already specialised marine types.'¹ Hundreds of ichthyosaur fossils have been found beautifully preserved in the rocks, some with skin imprints. One was even fossilised giving birth to a baby, proving that they did not lay eggs.



An ichthyosaur

Ichthyosaurs were shaped just like fish, even having a fish-like tail and dorsal fin on their back. The late Professor Stephen J Gould had to



A fossil Ichthyosaur

Evans Newbore

admit that their tail and dorsal fin appeared to have 'evolved from nothing', since the land reptile they are supposed to have evolved from 'had no hump on its back or blade on its tail to act as a precursor.'² There is a total lack of fossil evidence for the evolution of other marine reptiles such as plesiosaurs. In each case, they were perfectly designed for their marine existence. The facts support the Biblical view that 'God created the great creatures of the sea.' (Genesis 1: 21).



A plesiosaur

References:
1. *Vertebrate Palaeontology* 1966, p. 119.
2. 'A Darwinian Paradox', *Natural History*, Jan. 1979, p. 40

When was the candle lit?



The only way to be sure is to ask the person who lit it!

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GUESS-TIMATING EARTH'S AGE

Using radio-active dating on rocks is rather like trying to decide how long a candle has been burning. You need to know three things: (1) the length of the candle when it was lit, (2) whether it has always burned at the same rate, and (3) whether it has been blown out and re-lit. You could try guessing, of course, but the only way to be sure would be to ask the person who lit the candle.

Radio-active dating (which is only used on volcanic rocks) involves measuring the decay of radio-active isotopes (the 'parent') into a non-radio-active ('daughter') element. But for this method to work, you would need to know (1) the condition of the rock in the beginning, (2) whether the decay rate has stayed the same, and (3) that none of the parent or daughter elements have been added to or lost from the rock.

No human observers were there when the earth began, or to check decay rates since then, so dates obtained by these methods are really only guesses. However, the Bible, whose writers were inspired by God who was there, gives us clues that suggest the earth is thousands rather than millions of years old.

Another reason for rejecting radio-active dating is that when it is applied to rocks of a known age, the result is always wrong. Dr Andrew Snelling reported that rocks from the lava dome of Mount St Helens were dated at 0.35 million years old, even though they were formed less than 25 years ago! And lavas from a New Zealand volcano which erupted in 1954 were dated at between 0.8 and 3.5 million years old! Dr William S Stansfield of California Polytechnic State University wrote: 'There is no absolutely reliable long-term radiological 'clock.'² So when you hear people saying that fossils and rocks are "x" millions of years old, just remember they have no proof whatever.

1. 'Radioactive Dating Failure', *Creation* 22, (2000) p. 20.
2. *Science of Evolution*, pp. 80-84.