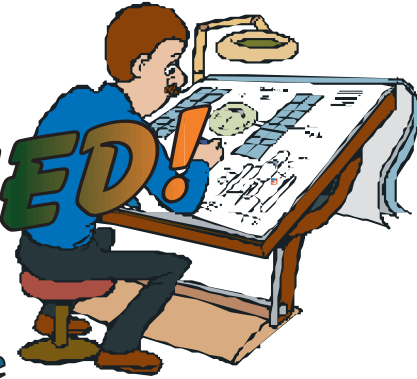


WELL DESIGNED!



The Namib Desert Beetle

CREATURES that live in deserts have a tough time surviving, because food or water are usually very scarce. So it is somewhat surprising to discover that many animals and insects do live in deserts. However, in each case they are specially designed to do so.



The Namibia Desert

One interesting example is the Namib Desert Beetle, which lives in the desert in Namibia, southern Africa.

This is one of the driest places on earth with only around 40mm (1 ½ inches) of rain each year. So how does this beetle drink? It collects water from the morning fog that drifts in over the desert from the Atlantic Ocean. How does it do this? The beetle's body and wings are hard and



Namib Desert Beetle

covered with tiny bumps. It spread its wings, stands facing the breeze and collects drops of water from the fog, which trickle down its wings, across its back, and down channels which lead to its mouth! Scientists have copied the beetle's design to make equipment to capture water in deserts, and also to design mirrors and windows that don't mist up.

Could the Namib Beetle have evolved this wonderful system gradually? Surely it would either have died out, or moved to a place where there was more water, long before it could develop this clever system by trial and error. Scientists who copy this design are using their intelligence, to mimic what God, the Master Designer has already done!

FOLLOW THE EVIDENCE!

If you were walking along a beach, and came across the amazing sand sculpture on the right, you would immediately recognise that it was the result of intelligent design — even if you didn't actually see the person who did it. Now, suppose someone came along and said, "I don't see any sign of a sculptor. I think the wind and waves did it. And anyway, if there is a sculptor, I want to know where *he* came from." Ridiculous? Well, that's exactly how many atheists react when confronted with evidence of design in nature. "If God did it, then who made God?" they retort.



Science is all about evidence, and following the evidence, wherever it leads, not ruling out a conclusion in advance because of bias. The late Dr Francis Crick wrote, "Biologists must constantly keep in mind that what they see was not designed but rather evolved." Why? Because he was an atheist, so he ruled out what was really obvious: design points to a Designer! There is overwhelming evidence of intelligent design in the natural world, but we can reject it by allowing our bias and preconceived ideas to blind us. "Men cannot say they do not know about God. From the beginning of the world, men could see what God is like through the things He has made. This shows His power that lasts forever. It shows that He is God." (*The Bible, Romans 1: 20, New Life Version*).

We believe that God the Creator has given us additional evidence in the Bible. Beginning with the record of creation, it relates how God's good creation was spoiled by human rebellion, leaving scars that are still visible. It also tells us that God loves us, and has revealed Himself in the Person of Jesus Christ, who is "The image of the invisible God." (*Colossians 1: 15*). Because of Jesus's death and resurrection, forgiveness and eternal life are offered to all who believe. So why would you prefer to believe in chance and meaninglessness, rather than loving purpose?



(see www.thechristiananswer.org)

Some "schoolboy howlers"

The Pyramids are a range of mountains between France and Spain.

A consonant is a large piece of land surrounded by water.

Marsupials are poached animals.

Crabs and creatures like them all belong to a family of crushed asians.

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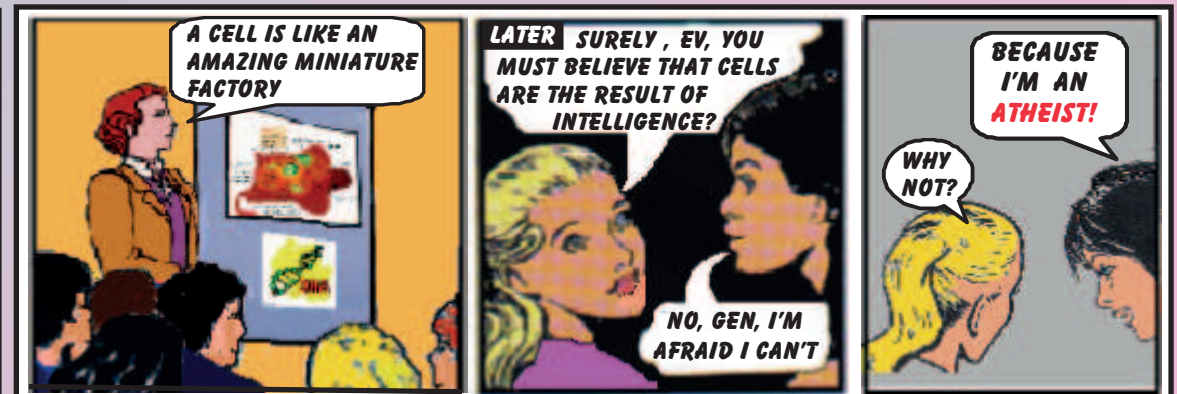
DOES DESIGN = A DESIGNER?

A fierce debate is raging between evolutionary scientists and scientists who believe in intelligent design (I.D.). The evolutionists argue that as we make more scientific discoveries, the need to believe in a Designer is becoming unnecessary. But I.D. scientists say that new discoveries, especially in the microscopic world, make the case for a Designer more compelling than ever, and that evolutionary processes simply cannot account for what we find in the natural world. We invite you to consider the facts for yourself.

Look at the eight pictures below. Which of them show evidence of purposeful design? Ask yourself the reasons for your answer, then go to page two.



GEN
&
EV



Drawn by Michael Huggins

From page one:

The photos on page one included four natural objects and four man-made objects (did you spot that picture no. 2 was a vase of paper flowers?) Opponents of intelligent design claim that, although the hummingbird, woodpecker, whale and orchid look as though they were designed, they are actually the product of millions of years of evolution. They would never argue that the man-made objects were produced by chance, random processes. Yet the pick-axe in picture no. 8 only has two parts, compared with the amazing complexity of the woodpecker, which can hammer into tree-trunks at 8-10 times a second for up to 6 hours at a time without brain damage. If you decided that the natural objects were not designed, ask yourself if that was a rational decision, or whether bias crept in. Do you reject the idea of intelligent design in nature because you prefer not to believe in a Creator? If so, then you are allowing philosophy, not science, to influence you. Think about it!



DESIGN vs. EVOLUTION CASE STUDIES (1) The Mantis Shrimp

These marine crustaceans are not really shrimps. Scientists say they have the most incredible eyes in the whole animal Kingdom. Their eyes are mounted on stalks, which can be moved independently. Each eye contains 10,000 clusters of photo-receptor cells, and can see in 12 colours, unlike humans, who only see in 3 colours. Their light-sensitive cells work in a similar way to CD and DVD players, only much better. Dr Nicholas Roberts said, "It really is exceptional — out-performing anything we humans have so far been able to create."¹ He believes that by mimicking the eyes of these creatures human engineers will be able to create improved optical devices such as CD and DVD players (which did not come into existence without intelligence). So how could a system which "out-performs anything humans have so far been able to create" do so? 1. *Nature Photonics* Vol. 3, November 2009



The optical lens of a CD drive
 Ioan Sameli: Wikipedia



(2) The Pitcher Plant

There are number of carnivorous plants, including around 130 species of Pitcher Plants. The one pictured (right) consists of a tube formed from a rolled up leaf, which acts as an insect trap. Insects are lured into the tube by nectar on the 'lid', and when they land on the edge, they tend to slip inside. The inside of the tube has little hairs pointing towards the bottom of the tube, which prevent insects from escaping. At the bottom of the tube there is a liquid that digests the insects.



Alastair Robinson: Wikipedia



The container on the left is designed to trap wasps. There is an entrance at the bottom, and water mixed with jam or sugar attracts the insects, which, once inside, can't escape. This is much simpler than pitcher plants, so why would anyone want to argue that they are not also designed for a purpose?

(3) The Dragonfly

Dragonflies are amazing insects with two pairs of wings. They can fly forwards, backwards and sideways and reach speeds of 25 mph. The world's leading helicopter manufacturers, Sikorsky, used the dragonfly as a model for one of their helicopters. IBM assisted Sikorsky by putting a model of a dragonfly into a computer (IBM 3081), and studying how they fly and perform sudden manoeuvres at high speed.



Dragonflies begin their life as ugly nymphs (right) at the bottom of a pond. They later metamorphose into a beautiful, four-winged flier. The genetic information to create it is all coded in the DNA of a dragonfly's tiny egg.

The design and construction of a helicopter involves lots of intelligent input. Is it logical to claim that dragonflies — which are much more efficient — are the product of a mindless evolutionary process? Incidentally, the oldest fossil dragonflies are 100% dragonfly!



The Westland 'Dragonfly'
 By Milborne One: Wikipedia

IN THE NEWS

Learning from woodpeckers



Wikipedia photo by Andrei Stroe

BY studying the anatomy and behaviour of woodpeckers, scientists hope to be able to design better crash helmets which will prevent serious head injuries. Woodpeckers can hammer away at trees for up to 6 hours at 8-10 times a second without suffering brain damage. They have a special mechanism that actually pulls their braincase away from their beak each time they hit the tree, and shock-absorbing tissue between their beak and skull.

The *Daily Telegraph* (27th October 2011) reported that a team of researchers, led by Yubo Fan of Beihang University in Beijing and Ming Zhang of Hong Kong Polytechnic University, used high-speed video cameras to film woodpeckers in action. They also took scans of the birds' heads to reveal details about their structure, including bone volume, thickness and density. They then created 3D models to allow them to make further measurements and tests. "The researchers conclude that the shock absorption system is not based on a single factor, but is a result of the combined effect of a number of different morphological features. Dr Fan said: 'This combination may be useful in guiding design for new protective gear.'"

This is another case where humans have studied nature's designs, found them superior, and plan to copy them to improve human life. We certainly hope that, as a result of this study, serious injuries will be minimized and lives saved. No doubt these improved helmets will be patented, and credit given to those who designed them. Will credit also be given to the Designer of the woodpeckers' protective mechanism? Surely this couldn't have evolved gradually, otherwise woodpeckers would have beaten their brains out long before it was perfected!



THE AMAZING ATP MOTOR

Imagine an electric motor so tiny that 200,000 could sit on a pinhead. It exists — its called *ATP Synthase*. Discovered in 1994 by Drs Paul Boyer and John Walker — who were awarded the Nobel Prize — ATP is a generator embedded in the mitochondria of the cell, rotating at 100 revs/second. There are hundreds in each of the millions of cells in your body! They capture chemical energy and transfer it to reactions which require energy. A central spindle, turning inside bulbs at the top, squeezes them, so that adenosine diphosphate (ADP) and phosphoric acid enter on one side, and adenosine triphosphate (ATP) emerges at the other. Is it logical to believe that this amazing complexity in miniature was assembled by gradual evolutionary steps?

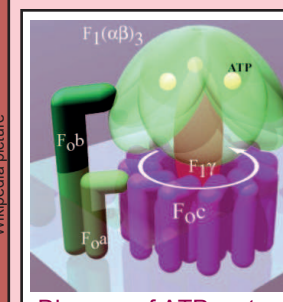


Diagram of ATP motor

Wikipedia picture

No one has been able to explain how, yet no life could exist without it! This clearly points to intelligent design.

For more information about ATP synthase, and to see an animated model, go to www.creation.com/atp-synthase

Convinced by the Evidence!



The late Professor Antony Flew (left) was one of the English-speaking world's most prominent atheists, becoming an atheist at the age of 15. He argued that one should assume atheism until evidence for a God was discovered. However, at the age of 80 he changed his mind. What convinced him? The "unbelievable complexity" of the DNA code! In the book *There is a God* (2007), Professor Flew explained that he reached this conclusion from the scientific evidence alone: "In short, my discovery of the Divine has been a pilgrimage of reason and not of faith... I have followed the argument where it has led me. And it has led me to accept the existence of a self-existent, immutable, immaterial, omnipotent, and omniscient Being."

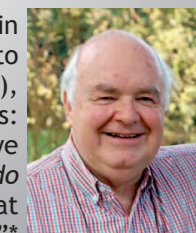


DNA

© Dreamstime

"Science points me towards God"

Many evolutionists argue that advances in scientific knowledge have removed the need to believe in a Creator. John Lennox (right), Professor of Mathematics at Oxford, disagrees: "The major evidence for God is not in what we don't understand, but in what we do understand... It's the science I do understand that points me towards God, not the science I don't."**



**http://johnlennox.org/index.php/en/resource/god_of_the_gaps



Wikipedia photo by Jenny

D. Gordon E. Robertson: Wikipedia

James K. Lindsey: Wikipedia

