

WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

The Toucan

The Toucan is a very unusual bird which lives in the tropical rainforests of South America. There are a number of different species, ranging in size from the Aracar Toucanet at around 36 cm. (14 ins.) long, to the Toco Toucan which is 63cm. (25 ins.) long. The largest toucans live in the lower rainforests. The most noticeable thing about them is their large, brightly-coloured beak, which is sometimes as long as their body and four times as large as their heads.



Evolutionists can't explain why toucans have such a large beak, and there is no evidence that toucans evolved from ancestors with smaller beaks. If the honeycomb pattern had changed gradually from a solid beak, then the birds would have found it difficult to fly because their beaks would have been too heavy. We believe God created toucans with their special, colourful beaks.

Although the toucan's beak may look large and clumsy, it is not at all heavy, but wonderfully designed for lightness and strength. Inside the outer shell the beak is like a honey-comb, with lots of air spaces. There are saw-like teeth along the edge to help the toucan tear fruit from trees. When they sleep they turn their head around, rest their beak along their back, then fold their tail over it!

YOU ARE NOT AN APE!



Although many people believe that we evolved from ape-like ancestors, there are no fossils of "ape-men" or anything between apes and humans. We may be like apes in some ways. After all we live on the same planet. But there are lots and lots of differences that can't be seen in fossils. Humans are very creative; they write books and compose music. Apes are very clever, but they can't speak, read or write.

Humans have designed machines and computers, and even travelled into space. But although some apes use tools, such as sticks and stones, they have never designed anything — not even a wheel. Humans appreciate beauty, but no one has ever seen an ape admire a sunset or a pretty flower. Humans think about the world and how it came to be, but apes don't wonder about such things. All groups of people in the world have a religion of some kind, but apes never pray or worship God. These differences are there because God created humans alone to be His special friends.



The Bible tells us that God created the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, who were the ancestors of all the people who have ever lived. In the beginning, they were close to God, but when they disobeyed Him that friendship was broken. We have all disobeyed God in lots of ways, but "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. God gave his Son so that anyone who believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life." (John 3: 16). You are not an ape, neither did you descend from an ape. God created you to be His friend, and through faith in Jesus you can be!

PUZZLE CORNER ANSWERS

QUICK QUIZ:
1. Neanderthal Man, 2. Zinjanthropus, 3. Four.

HIDDEN ANIMALS:
1. Lion, 2. Seal, 3. Panther, 4. Panda, 5. Beaver, 6. Bear, 7. Otter, 8. Camel, 9. Zebra, 10. Horse.

CRACK THE CODE:
"So God created human beings in his image, in the image of God He created them. He created them male and female." (Genesis 1: 27)

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The Story of YOU!

Many people like trying to trace their family history, but what about the history of us all? Where did humans come from?

Are apes and monkeys our cousins?

WE are often told in magazines and TV programmes that apes and monkeys are our close relatives — they are often called our "cousins." This is because many people believe in evolution — the idea that all living things, including ourselves, have evolved from "simpler" ancestors. Life is supposed to have started in the sea, but over millions of years fish grew legs and became amphibians, amphibians became reptiles, and reptiles evolved into birds and mammals. Eventually an ape-like creature appeared which was the ancestor of apes, monkeys and humans. This creature is sometimes called "the missing link" because no fossils have ever been found to prove it existed! We are similar to apes and monkeys in some ways, because we're created to live in the same world, but there is no real evidence that we are related to them.



Cute — but no relation to us!

How the brute became human

150 years ago a skeleton was found in a cave in Germany. It looked quite human-like, but the skeleton seemed rather bent, so scientists said it was not fully human. They named it *Neanderthal Man* after the Neander Valley where it was found. However, we now know that this skeleton had been deformed by disease. Other skeletons of Neanderthals have shown that they were just as human as us, and part of the human family. They could speak, make tools, play music, and even had larger brains than modern humans. Artists used to draw the Neanderthals as hairy, brutish "ape-men", but now we know that these pictures were completely wrong.



Neanderthal skull



1909



1965



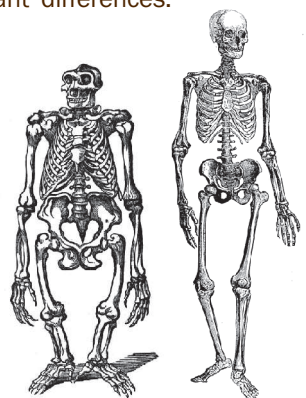
Today

Neanderthal Man's changing image

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE!

In some ways humans and apes are similar, But there are some important differences.

Apes are designed to walk on all fours, with long arms that hang below their knees. We are designed to walk upright so have shorter arms, a unique knee joint to help us stay upright, and feet with a special arch to help us balance. Our brains are also much larger.



GORILLA

HUMAN

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