

# WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

## The Moloch ('Thorny Devil')

LOOKING rather like a walking cactus, the moloch is a lizard which lives in the deserts of Australia. It is also known as the thorny devil, which is not surprising, since its body is covered with sharp, horn-like spikes. Although it is only 16cm. (6 inches) long, its spikes make it look quite scary, and most other animals leave it well alone. Yet the moloch is quite harmless, and hides its head between its front legs when it is frightened.



© Think All Publishing.

The moloch's main food is ants, which it eats with a sticky tongue, and will sometimes swallow thousands of ants in a single meal. In mid-summer, the female moloch digs a tunnel in which she lays about 8 eggs. The baby molochs are quite large when they hatch - about 6cm. long.

The spikes on the moloch's body, which make it look so ugly, are designed for a purpose. In the desert, where it lives, there is very little water, but during the cool nights there is dew, which collects on the lizard's skin.

The moloch's body is covered with tiny channels or grooves, which lead to its lips. This means that it is able to drink the dew which is collected on its spiky body!

**It seems impossible that the moloch could have got its spiky coat, and system of grooves, through gradual evolution. How could it have managed to survive in the desert unless this was all complete from the start? This strange, prickly lizard is perfectly designed for living in the desert - another of God's weird and wonderful creatures!**

## GOD ALWAYS KEEPS HIS PROMISES!

When the great flood ended, and Noah, his family, and the animals came out of the ark into a new world, God promised, "Flood waters will never again destroy all life on earth," (Genesis 9: 15), and a rainbow appeared in the sky as a sign. Whenever we see a rainbow it is a reminder that God will keep that promise. In fact, God always keeps His promises — and there are lots of them in the Bible.



The great flood of Noah's time was God's judgment against people's sin and disobedience, but He provided the ark as a place of safety for those who loved Him. God has also provided a way for us to be saved from the judgment we all deserve because we have done wrong things. Jesus, God's Son, came to die for us, so that "whoever believes in him may not be lost but have eternal life." (John 3: 16). That is a promise of God. Jesus is our "Ark of safety."

Jesus will return some day to judge the world, and reign as the King of kings. God has promised to create "a new heaven and earth where goodness lives." (1 Peter 3: 13). With all the bad things that happen in this world, we may wonder why God does not hurry up and make the new world. The Bible explains the reason: "The Lord is not slow in doing what he promised... But God is patient with you. He does not want anyone to be lost. He wants everyone to change his heart and life." (1 Peter 3: 9).

**If your faith is in Jesus, you are safe and secure for ever!**

## PUZZLE CORNER ANSWERS

1. Forty days. 2. Three. 3. Eight.
4. Just over a year. 5. 6.9 metres (22 feet).

**QUICK ARK QUIZ:**  
 lobster,  
 turtle, whale, octopus, shellfish,  
 Plesiosaur, fish, starfish, sea  
**go on to the Ark:**  
**NOAH'S PASSENGERS**  
 These animals did not need to

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

Includes graphics from Clipart.com and Planet-Medien AG

Our World is published quarterly by the Creation Resources Trust (Reg. Charity No.1016666). Editing, design and layout by Geoff Chapman. Unless otherwise stated, articles are written by the editor. There is no subscription charge, but donations towards costs are invited. For more information about this, and other resources, please contact CRT at P O Box 3237, Yeovil, BA22 7WD, UK. Phone/fax: 01935 850569. E-mail: info@crt.org.uk Web site: www.crt.org.uk © 2006 CRT

Printed by CPO Design & Print, Worthing



# ROOM on the ARK?

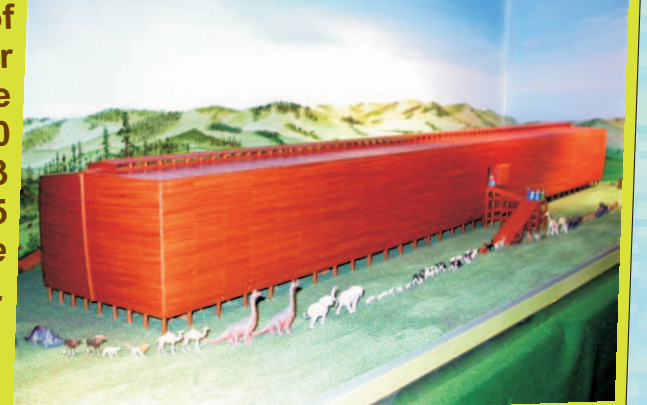
Most people don't believe that there really was a Noah's Ark and a Flood. Why? Because they don't read what the Bible actually says!



NOAH'S ARK WAS NOT LIKE THIS!

If people checked out what the Bible says about the size of Noah's Ark they would never draw silly pictures like the one on the left. The ark was 140 metres (450 feet) long, 23 metres (75 feet) wide, and 13.5 metres (45 feet) high (more about the size of the Ark inside).

Ark scale model by Rod Walsh from www.worldwideflood.com



IT WAS LIKE THIS! →

## YES, THERE WAS ROOM FOR ALL THE ANIMALS!

People sometimes ask, "How could Noah have found room for all those millions of animals?" But he didn't have to take millions! God told him to take on board "two of every kind of bird, animal and crawling thing." (Genesis 6: 20). These



"kinds", or families, were the same as those God created in the beginning. For example, Noah only needed to take two of the dog kind — maybe something like a wolf. After the flood they would be the ancestors of all the different members of the dog family, including coyotes, wolves and foxes.

Scientist Dr John Woodmorappe has done a detailed study of the size of the ark and calculated that Noah would only have needed to take about 8000 different kinds. So, with male and female, this would mean 16,000 individual animals. We need to

remember that only a few animals are very large, and that thousands of kinds did not even need to go on board, including fish, sea mammals, some amphibians and reptiles and lots of insects and other creatures that live in the water. There was enough room on the Ark for all the animals that needed to go, their food, and Noah and his family!



## Why take birds?



Some people say that the flood only covered a small area, not the whole world. But God told Noah to take birds on board the Ark. We know that birds often fly hundreds or thousands of miles when they migrate. So if the flood had been local they could easily have flown to a safe place. Noah took birds because the flood really was worldwide!

## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Noah's Ark was gigantic!  
 Nature Notes: Swans  
 Where did the water come from?  
 Puzzle Corner  
 Weird and Wonderful: The Moloch  
 God always keeps His promises!

Visit our website: [www.crt.org](http://www.crt.org)

# Noah's Ark was GIGANTIC!

Noah's Ark was really gigantic. It was longer than a football pitch, and large enough to hold 432 double-decker buses! We must remember that the Ark's designer was not Noah, but God. He gave Noah the exact measurements and "Noah did everything that God commanded him." (Genesis 6: 22). The ark's length was six times its width. Ship-building experts have said that this design would have enabled it to ride out the severest storm.

People sometimes ask how Noah managed to collect all the animals, but he didn't have to – the Bible tells us that they came to him. The Ark had three decks, and there were "rooms" or pens for the animals. There were only eight humans on board – Noah and his wife, and their three sons, Ham, Shem and Japheth and their wives. All the other people on earth were wicked, and although Noah tried to persuade them to change their ways and turn to God, they refused. So they drowned in the flood which covered the earth for a whole year. But Noah, his family, and the animals were all safe on the Ark.



x 432

## Why not make a scale model of the Ark?



This cut-away model on a table, with animals to the same scale, gives an idea of the size. Note the ramp with animals walking up.

One way to understand the true size and shape of Noah's Ark is to make a scale model. For a simple model, using cardboard and glue, you can download a pattern from: [www.thearkbuilders.com/miniarks/superminiarks.pdf](http://www.thearkbuilders.com/miniarks/superminiarks.pdf) For a wooden model kit, see the box on the right.

For lots of facts and information about Noah's Ark and the flood, visit the following websites:

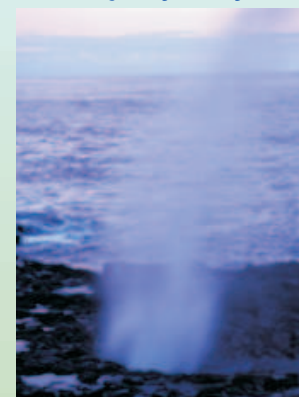
[www.nwcreation.net/noahsarklinks.html](http://www.nwcreation.net/noahsarklinks.html)  
[www.worldwideflood.com](http://www.worldwideflood.com)



An inside view of the scale model, showing the animal pens.

The Ark model shown here was made and photographed by Mr. Brian Grantham-Hill. For information about Ark model kits, please contact him at TCCT, Lower Park, 9 Courtland Road, Torquay, TQ2 6JU. Tel. 01803 614339

# Where did all the water come from?



**M**ANY people ask where all the water came from to make a flood deep enough to cover the earth. Surely there could never be enough rain to do that? The Bible tells us that the water came from two sources: "The underground springs split open. And the clouds in the sky poured out rain. The rain fell on the earth for 40 days and 40 nights." (Genesis 7: 11–12). The underground springs were like the geysers that are found in some parts of the world today (left). Water from deep inside the earth is forced out by the pressure under the earth's crust. Usually this water is quite hot. When the great flood began, thousands of these geysers burst out all over the earth. At the same time, there was continuous rain, heavier than anything we have ever seen, which didn't stop for nearly six weeks. What a storm it must have been! Soon, flood water became very deep, eventually covering the whole world, even the mountain-tops. Even though the mountains before the flood were much lower than they are now, "the water continued to rise until it was more than 6.9 metres (22 feet) above the mountains." (Genesis 7: 20).



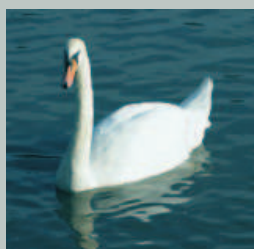
## ..and where did it all go?



The Bible tells us that at the end of the flood God made a strong drying wind blow across the earth (Genesis 8: 1). Also, the mountains were pushed up, and other parts of the land sank to make the deep ocean basins. "The water was above the mountains. But at your command, the water rushed away. When you gave your orders like thunder, it hurried away. The mountains rose. The valleys sank. The water went to the places you made for it. You set borders for the seas that they cannot cross. The water will never cover the earth again." (Psalm 104: 6–9).

www.crt.org.uk

# Nature Notes by the Editor



The other day I was watching some mute swans swimming in a river. How beautiful and graceful they looked! They glided through the water with hardly a sound, pushing themselves forward with slow movements of their well-designed webbed feet. Swans are very large birds, weighing as much as 12 kg. (27 lb), and when they walk on land can be 1.2 metres (4 feet tall).

Not only are swans good swimmers; they are also strong fliers. In fact, they are some of the heaviest flying birds.

It is fascinating to watch swans take off and land on water (right), flapping their huge wings as they do so. They fly with their long neck straight in front of them to make themselves streamlined. Groups of swans fly in a "v" formation.



Photo from Wikipedia.com by Ben W Bell.  
 © 2000, 2001, 2002 Free Software Foundation, Inc.



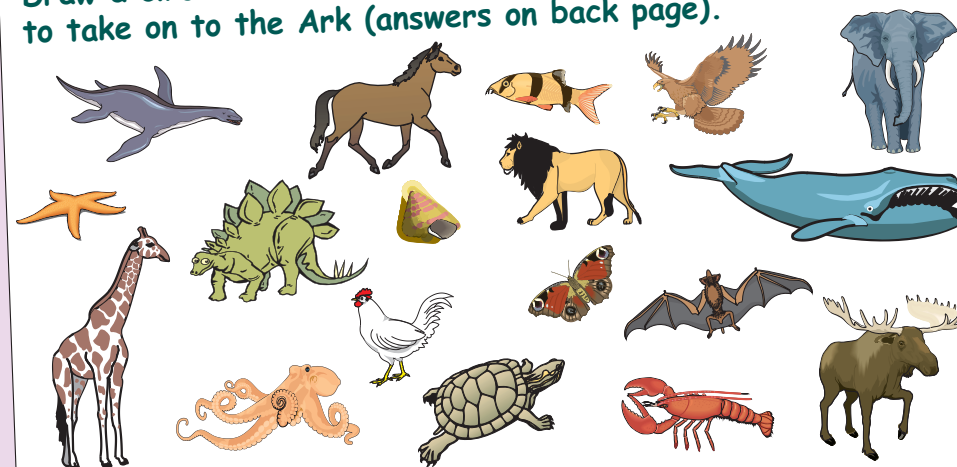
Swans are rather like seaplanes (left), designed to take off and land on water. They are most useful in places where no runway can be built, using the sea or some other stretch of water instead. Of course, these planes have to be specially designed for this, with special floats instead of wheels. The swans are also designed to be able to swim, fly and take off and land on water. God created these beautiful birds which are such a pleasure to watch.

—Geoff Chapman

## PUZZLE CORNER

### NOAH'S PASSENGERS

Draw a circle around the animals which Noah did NOT need to take on to the Ark (answers on back page).



### QUICK ARK QUIZ

1. How long did it rain after the flood began?
2. How many decks did the ark have?
3. How many people were on the ark?
4. How long did the flood last?
5. How high did the flood rise above the mountains?

(Answers on back page)