

WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

The Pouched Frog

FROGS come in many different varieties, and some are quite strange. One example is the Pouched Frog which lives in the rain-forests of south-western Australia.

The strange thing about this frog is the way it breeds. During spring and summer the mother lays her eggs in a lump of jelly under rotting logs, rocks or dead leaves. She can lay as many as 50 eggs in a year.

Both the mother and father frogs guard the eggs until they hatch. When they do, the father frog climbs into the jelly, and the tiny tadpoles wriggle their way on to his back and into special pouches on his hips! They stay there for about two months until they grow legs and turn into tiny froglets. Then they come out of their father's pouch and start a life of their own.



An Australian Pouched Frog

How did the pouched frogs' strange behaviour begin? How did the males learn that they had to look after the tadpoles? Gradual evolution isn't the answer, because if the special pouches on his hips slowly evolved they wouldn't be any use until they were complete, otherwise the tadpoles would fall out and die! Also, how do the tadpoles know they have to wriggle on to his back? Again, they couldn't learn this gradually, so they must be 'programmed' to do it by instinct. These frogs must have been created by God to live as they do.

BELIEVING IS SEEING!

Those of us who can see should be really thankful for eyes to view the wonders of God's world. With powerful microscopes it is possible to see inside tiny things like living cells, and the world is proving to be even more wonderful than anyone ever thought. People who say that everything evolved are really refusing to believe what they see with their eyes. Why would they do this? Maybe it's because they don't want to believe in God. There were people like that when Jesus, God's Son, was on earth. He said, "These people have become stubborn. They do not hear with their ears. And they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might really understand what they see with their eyes and hear with their ears. They might really understand in their minds. If they did this, they would come back to me and be forgiven." (Matthew 13: 15).



The Bible says, "Ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God." (Romans 1: 20 New Living Translation). To refuse to believe in a Creator is like covering our eyes. God has shown Himself in an even more wonderful way through Jesus, who said, "He who has seen me has seen the Father." (John 14: 9). Jesus died on the cross to show us how much God loves us, and rose from the dead so that those who believe in Him can live with Him forever. When we accept Him as our Lord and Saviour, then we find that believing is seeing. How sad it would be to miss God's love and forgiveness by refusing to see the evidence He has shown us!

PUZZLE CORNER ANSWERS

1. Both are the same size.
2. The lines are parallel.
3. Could be either — take your pick!
4. Could be either.
5. They are both equal. 6. No — this is an "impossible object."

PUZZLE PICTURES:

1. Cat. 2. Fish. 3. Fly. 4. Frog.
5. Owl. 6. Snake. 7. Lion.
8. Human. 9. Elephant.

ALL EYES:

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Our eyes are wonderful organs which could never have evolved by accident

How do your eyes see?

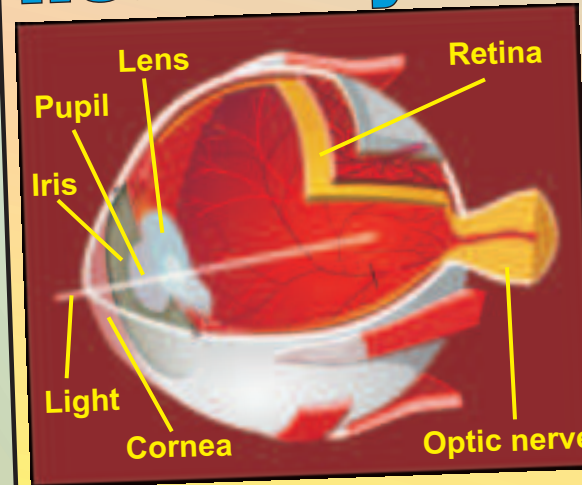


DIAGRAM OF A HUMAN EYE

Your eyes can't see by themselves — they need your brain. Light enters your eyes through the *lens* and falls on special cells called *rods* and *cones* in the *retina* — there are about 137 million of these cells! The light is then changed into electrical signals, and carried along the *optic nerve* to your brain at 300 miles an hour! They go to part of your brain called the *visual cortex* where there are more than 4 billion *neurons* (nerve cells)! The visual cortex turns the signals into the images that we see! Without this, and the optic nerve, our eyes would be useless. Learn more about your eyes at www.uniteforsight.org/kids



Your eyes would be useless without the visual cortex of your brain (coloured orange, above)

Our eyes are better than any camera!



When cameras were first invented they were very large (above), but modern digital cameras (left) are small enough to hold in your hand.

The invention of cameras really changed the world. Until then, the only way to picture anything was by a painting or drawing. The first photographs were taken in about 1826. Until quite recently, most cameras used film that had to be developed, but most modern cameras are **digital cameras**. Instead of a film, these cameras have a tiny computer that converts images into electrical signals and can store hundreds of images on a special card. These can be printed, saved, and even sent by e-mail.

Cameras that could take moving pictures first appeared in 1895, but were very different from modern **camcorders**, which work like digital cameras. A camcorder works rather like our eyes. The light rays enter the camera through the lens, then fall on a special chip and are changed into electrical signals to be stored on a tape. When the recording is played back, the signals are converted into images.

No one believes that digital cameras and camcorders were made by chance, so why do some people believe that our eyes, which are even more wonderful, just evolved by chance?



A camcorder

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- Did "blind chance" make seeing eyes?
- Nature Notes: Hibernation
- Darwin's "eye problem"
- Puzzle Corner
- Weird and Wonderful: The Pouched Frog
- Believing is seeing!

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Did blind chance make seeing eyes?

It seems difficult to believe that eyes could evolve even once, yet some scientists actually believe eyes evolved separately at least 40 times! There are lots of different eyes in the living world (see the puzzle corner on the next page). All eyes are very well designed, so were they really created by "blind chance"?

Have you ever had your eyes tested? If so, it would have been done by an optician — someone who understands how eyes work. If the optician spotted any problems with your eyes or your sight, he or she may have glasses specially designed for you. You would certainly not expect someone who was blind to be able to do this.

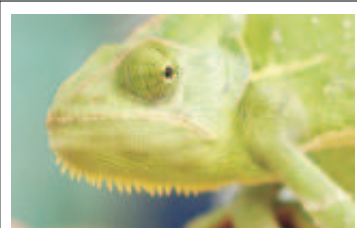
Our eyes must have been created by Someone who is able to see! In the Bible, we read, "The Lord has made both these things: ears that can hear and eyes that can see." (Proverbs 20: 12). And the Psalmist asked, "Can't the maker of eyes see?" (Psalm 94: 9). The answer is, yes, of course He can! God gave every living thing the eyes they needed!



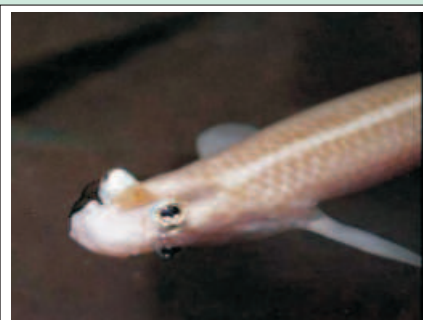
If you had your eyes tested, you would expect the optician to understand how eyes work, and be able to spot any problems. A blind optician wouldn't be able to do this.



Giant squids have the largest eyes of all: as much as 27 cm (11 ins) across! Their eyes are similar to ours, but because they don't believe squids are closely related to us, evolutionists say these evolved separately.



Chameleons can move both their eyes separately, using special muscles. Surely this suggests special design?



The Anableps fish has bi-focal eyes, designed for seeing above and below the water at the same time! These eyes must have been created.

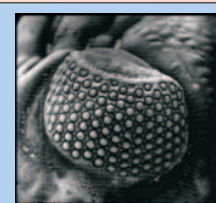
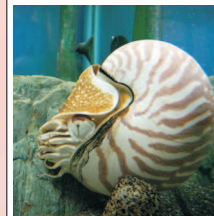
Photos from wikipedia.com

Charles Darwin's "eye problem"

Charles Darwin (who was born 200 years ago) persuaded a lot of people that everything on earth came through evolution. But he had to admit there was a problem explaining how eyes could have evolved. He thought the idea was "absurd", yet still believed that, somehow, it must have happened. Modern evolutionists tell us that eyes began with tiny spots which could tell the difference between darkness and light, although they can't explain where those spots came from. Then they believe that these changed into "pin-hole" eyes, and eventually, over millions of years, into eyes like ours. One problem with this idea, is that "primitive" creatures called trilobites (below, left) had very complicated eyes with hundreds of lenses, just like the eyes of living insects. Another amazing thing is that the trilobites' eyes were specially designed for seeing under water. These eyes are preserved as fossils, but there is no evidence they evolved from anything — they just appear fully formed!



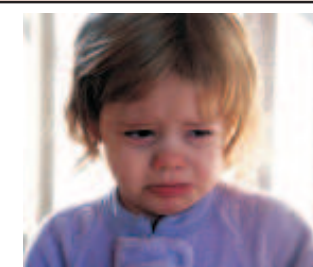
Flatworms have tiny spots which can detect light (arrowed). Evolutionists believe that, long ago, spots like this evolved into "pinhole" eyes like those of the living nautilus (left), and eventually into eyes like ours.



Fossil trilobite (left) and eye (above)

Trilobites lived at the bottom of the sea, and their fossils are found in what evolutionists believe are some of earth's oldest rocks. So they were amazed to discover that some trilobites had eyes with hundreds of lenses, and that they were specially designed for seeing under water! There is no evidence that trilobites evolved from ancestors with "simpler" eyes.

Why fish don't cry



Next time you cry or feel your eyes running, be thankful that you have tears. Without them your eyes would dry out, and you would soon become blind. Tears are produced by special glands and reach our eyes through tubes called *tear ducts*. Evolutionists say that we evolved from fish, but they can't explain how we got our tears. Fish don't have tear glands — they don't need them, since they live in the water. However, if fish came out of the water they would become blind very quickly.

Nature Notes by the Editor

IF you live in a country where the winter is cold you need to keep warm and get enough food. Some animals, though, have a better solution: they sleep through the winter! We call it **hibernation**. Animals that hibernate include hedgehogs, dormice (left) and bats (below, right). Many insects hibernate, too. Hibernation is not like ordinary sleep, but a special, deep sleep, in which the animals' breathing and heartbeat slow down and their body temperature drops. They usually prepare themselves by eating extra food so that their body has a large store of fat. Some animals, such as squirrels, store nuts to eat later in the winter.

Black bears (below) of North America sleep for as much as 100 days during winter. Although some scientists say this is not true hibernation, just a very deep sleep, it is very similar. During this time the bears don't eat or drink, and their cubs are born in their den in late winter. Although she hasn't eaten for so long, the mother is still able to provide milk for the cubs.

Scientists still don't fully understand hibernation, and how animals can lose so much weight and even muscle tissue, and then rebuild it in the spring. We believe God equipped some of His creatures with this ability, and that this is one of the ways He shows His care for His creation. —Geoff Chapman



Hibernating bats



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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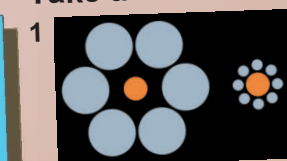
PUZZLE CORNER

Whose eyes are these?

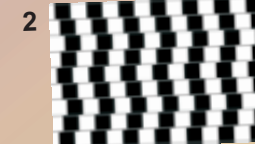


(answers on next page)

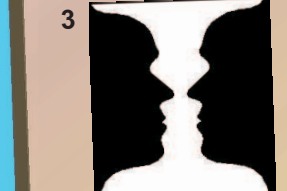
Sometimes our eyes play tricks on us. Take a look at these pictures:



Which orange circle is larger?



Are the horizontal lines parallel?



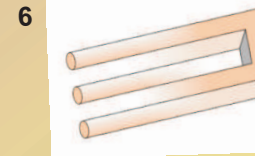
A vase, or two faces?



A duck or a rabbit?



Which yellow line is longer?



Could you make one of these?