

WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

Sea slugs

Sea slugs live in the oceans all around the world. Unlike the slugs which eat the plants in our gardens, many sea slugs are very colourful. There are some sea slugs called *nudibranches* (right), which have a very strange diet — they eat sea anemones, including their poisonous stingers, which normally burst and kill anything which attacks them. Although scientists don't know how, these sea slugs swallow the sea anemones' stingers without bursting them.



This is quite amazing, but even more amazing is what happens to the stingers when they reach the sea slug's stomach. There are tiny tubes, lined with moving hairs, leading from its stomach to the tips of those waving spurs on its back. The stolen stingers move through those tubes to the spurs, where they are stored to be used as a defence against its own enemies. If a fish should come along and attack the sea slug, it will fire one of those stolen stingers at it!



Photo: Mila Zinkova

A nudibranch sea slug eating a sea anemone

Evolution simply can't explain how the sea slug is able to do this, because it couldn't have happened gradually. If, at some time in the past, a sea slug happened to attack a sea anemone, and swallow its stingers without bursting them, they would have exploded inside it! It needed to have

those special tubes leading from its stomach the very *first time* it swallowed the stingers. It also had to be able to shoot them out when it needed to. So all this clever equipment must have been there right from the beginning.

Charles Darwin believed that all life on earth evolved gradually, and said that if any complex organ existed which could not have evolved by small, gradual steps his theory would be destroyed. The sea slug is surely an excellent example of this. Only creation by God can explain how it came to be!

EVOLUTION WAS NOT GOD'S WAY!

Charles Darwin was right to say that living things had not stayed exactly the same since they were created. However, he was wrong to claim that one kind could change into another, and that all life on earth evolved from the same "simple" beginning, with fish evolving legs and walking on the land, reptiles evolving into birds and mammals, and ape-like creatures into people. The evidence we have shows that the different kinds have been separate since they first appeared.



Animals would not attack and kill one another in a "very good" world

Darwin's theory is not only unscientific; it does not agree with what God has told us in the Bible. We read that God created different kinds of animals, and that when He had finished, "God looked at everything he had made, and it was very good." (*Genesis 1: 31*). If evolution were true it would mean that animals had been attacking and killing each other for millions of years before God created people. A world like that could never be called "very good", so we can be sure there was no killing, no disease and no pain. The Bible tells us that these things only began to happen after Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and sin entered the world, spoiling everything.

God loves us too much to leave us to our fate, and He sent Jesus, His Son to bring us back to Himself. By dying on the cross Jesus made a way for our sins to be forgiven, and by rising from the dead He made it possible for us to live with God for ever. "The payment for sin is death. But God gives us the free gift of life forever in Christ Jesus our Lord." (*Romans 6: 23*). Have you accepted that free gift from God?

ANSWERS TO "CREATED KINDS" QUIZ

- The dog kind: 7 & 9
- The deer kind: 3 & 11
- The duck kind: 2 & 15
- The bear kind: 4, 6 & 14
- The camel kind: 5 & 13
- The big cat kind: 8 & 16
- The horse kind: 1, 10 & 12

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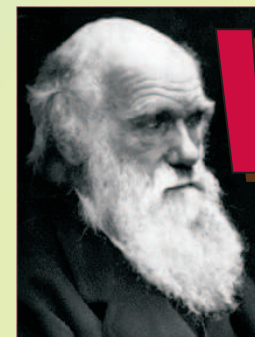
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CHARLES DARWIN'S



WRONG IDEA!

Did Charles Darwin (above) really prove that the Bible story of creation is untrue?

Darwin said that all living things change over time, and would eventually evolve into something quite different. He believed that all life on earth, including us, had descended from the same simple beginning. Are we really related to fish, birds and apes, or did God create all the different kinds?

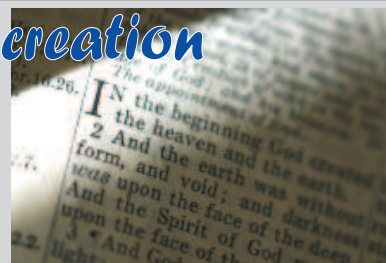
Charles Darwin was born on 12th February 1809. When he was young, he believed that God was the Creator, and began training to be a clergyman. Then he was invited to be the naturalist on the ship HMS Beagle. He carefully noted what he saw, and many years later wrote his famous book 'The Origin of Species' in which he explained why he believed that all life came through evolution. He no longer believed the Bible. What did Darwin see on his voyage that changed his mind? Was it really evidence for evolution — or did he get it all wrong?



HMS Beagle

What the Bible says about creation

In Darwin's time, most people believed that nothing had changed since creation, but Darwin saw lots of evidence for change, so he believed the Bible was wrong. However Darwin (and most people) misunderstood the creation story. The Bible says that God created different *kinds* or families (see box, far right), but made them so that there could be lots of variation within each kind. So in the dog family we now have over 300 different dogs,



plus wolves, foxes and jackals — all from the "dog kind" created by God in the beginning.

In the "rabbit kind" there are many different varieties of rabbits and hares. Some, which live in the arctic, have developed white coats as camouflage (below), but they still belong to the same kind.

Darwin wrongly believed that

these small changes meant that, over thousands or millions of years, one kind could evolve into another. However, he never found any evidence for this, and no one has ever seen that kind of change. We can still believe what God has told us in the Bible!

Members of the dog kind



Terrier Wolf Jackal



Rabbit Arctic Hare

"Then God said:

'Let the earth be filled with animals, each producing more of its own kind. Let there be tame animals and small crawling animals and wild animals, and let each produce more of its kind.' And it happened.'" (*Genesis 1: 24*)

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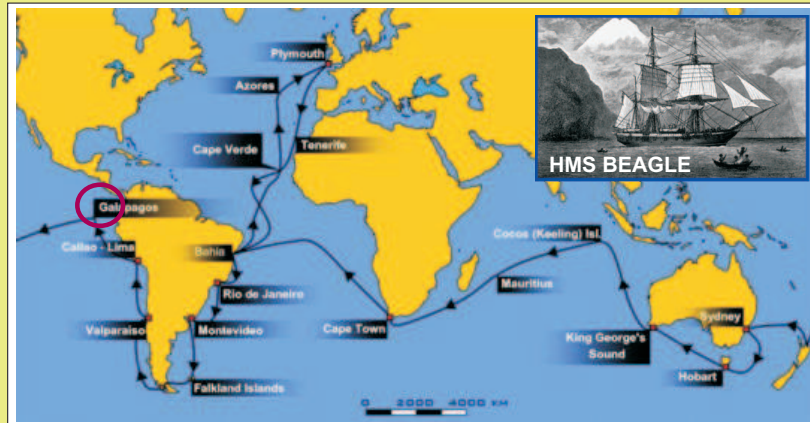
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- Nature Notes: Daisies
- Evolution and variation
- Puzzle Corner
- Weird and Wonderful: Sea slugs
- Evolution was *not* God's way!

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EVOLUTION? Darwin didn't see it on the Galapagos!

Charles Darwin took careful notes of everything he saw during his 5 years as naturalist on HMS Beagle. He was especially fascinated by the wildlife of the Galapagos Islands (circled on map). He found that tortoises varied slightly from one island to the next. He could not believe that God had created them separately, so he thought they were all related, and had descended from the same ancestor. He saw the same differences in the plants and birds on the islands.

When he returned from his trip, Darwin began to compare all his notes, and decided that the idea that nothing had changed since creation was wrong. He suggested that if small changes can happen in a short time then, over thousands or millions of years, one kind of animal could evolve into something quite different. This is where Darwin made his big mistake — the Galapagos tortoises were still tortoises, and they always will be. When God created the different kinds of animals and plants, He made it possible for them to change in small ways that would help them to survive (we call this *natural selection*), but this is not evolution. So Darwin did not see evidence for evolution on the Galapagos Islands!



Above: the route taken by Darwin. He called this trip "the most important event in my life." Although he discovered that plants and animals could change, his idea that all life evolved from the same beginning was completely wrong.



GALAPAGOS TORTOISES: On the Galapagos Islands local people could tell which island a tortoise came from just by looking at it. This made Darwin realise that all tortoises must be related. However, this does not mean that tortoises have evolved from some other kind of animal, or that they will ever be anything other than tortoises!

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Nature Notes by the Editor



Field daisies

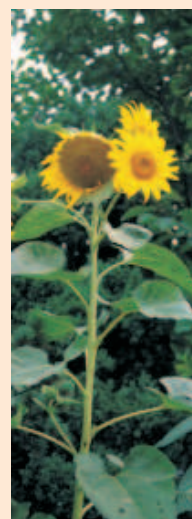
Most people think of daisies as small flowers, but daisies come in lots of different sizes and colours (right). Sunflowers belong to the daisy 'kind' or family, as well as the tiny daisies and dandelions that grow in gardens and fields. Plant breeders have produced many beautiful varieties of daisies, including asters and dahlias.



Some "Daisy trees" (Scalesia) on the Galapagos Islands, which can grow up to 10 metres (32 ft.) tall.

On the Galapagos Islands Charles Darwin saw members of the daisy family called *Scalesia*, which were like trees. He suggested that all members of the daisy family must be related to each another, and had the same ancestor — and he was probably quite right. However, he was wrong to say that all the different kinds of plants had evolved from the same beginning. Although there is a lot of variety within each kind of plant, they can never change into a different kind. Daisies — large or small — will always be daisies!

— Geoff Chapman



Sunflowers

Evolution and variation are not the same

For centuries farmers and animal breeders have produced new varieties that are useful to them, or which they find attractive. We call it *artificial selection*. One example is the cattle kind. Some have been bred to produce lots of milk, others to produce beef, and some, like water buffalo, to pull ploughs. Darwin thought that if humans could make such small changes in a short time, then nature could make big changes over a long period of time. But there is a difference between people choosing which animals to breed for their own benefit, and the way nature selects those which are better able to survive. It is also important to remember that, in all these changes, nothing will ever change into a different kind. So Darwin was mistaken.



Darwin's home, Down House in Kent, where he wrote his famous book

MISSING LINKS

Charles Darwin had a problem with fossils. He realised that if all living things evolved from the same beginning there should be fossils of 'links' between different kinds. So he was very excited when the fossil of a creature called *archaeopteryx* (below) was discovered in Germany in 1861. It had feathers, but also teeth and wing claws, like reptiles, so he thought it was the "missing link" between reptiles and birds. However, we now know that *archaeopteryx* was not half reptile-half bird, but a true bird, and not even the oldest bird. We also know that some ancient birds had teeth and some reptiles didn't. Some modern birds, such as ostriches, have claws on their wings, too, so *archaeopteryx* was just a bird with teeth and wing claws. The "missing links" are still a problem for people who believe in evolution.



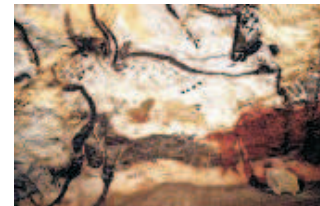
The cattle kind includes dairy cows (above), water buffalo, bison, and himalayan yaks. They probably all descended from wild cattle, which may have looked like the ones in the ancient cave painting (below)



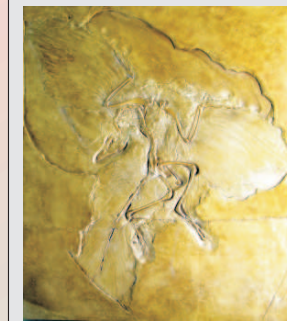
Water buffalo



Bison



Yak



PUZZLE CORNER



CREATED "KINDS" QUIZ

Match the animals on the left to the right "kind" or family below.

- The horse kind
- The big cat kind
- The camel kind
- The bear kind
- The duck kind
- The deer kind
- The dog kind

(answers on next page)