

# WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

## The Bowerbird

**M**ANY birds go to a lot of trouble to attract a mate, but few can match the efforts of the male Bowerbird. He will sometimes spend weeks collecting thousands of twigs and sticks to build a “bower” to impress the female bowerbird. The bower may be 1–1.2 metres (3–4 feet) tall. It is made from thin sticks which are usually arranged in the shape of a dish. Some species even build a roof over the top.

The male bowerbird decorates his bower with leaves, flowers, berries, feathers, coloured stones, snail shells, and even things stolen from humans, such as car keys. They also seem to have a special liking for blue objects, such as



The Satin Bowerbird

Wikipedia photo by Brett Donald



Bower built by a Satin Bowerbird

Wikipedia photo by Gaz

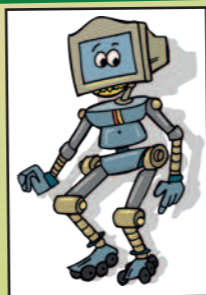
bits of plastic, glass bottle caps and drinking straws! They often arrange stones and shells to make an “avenue” leading to the entrance. Eventually a female bowerbird, suitably impressed, will enter the bower,

and he will have found a mate. The bower isn't a nest, and the female later flies off to build her nest in a nearby tree, where she lays her eggs and hatches the young.

**Did bowerbirds gradually evolve the skill to build their amazing bowers? This seems unlikely, and they never have the chance to learn by watching others do it. It's not even necessary for their survival, since most birds manage quite well without going to such trouble. It seems more likely that God created them to do it, so that we could admire another of His created wonders!**

## YOU ARE NOT A ROBOT!

WE should be thankful that God has given us a book that tells us the true history of the world. It explains that life began when God spoke, and that He created everything, including human beings. The Bible teaches us that we have descended from Adam and Eve, not ape-like ancestors. When God created human beings in the beginning He gave them a precious gift: freewill. He could have created us as robots, programmed to live the way He wanted. But then we would never be able to choose to obey and love Him. The Bible also explains how the world was spoiled when humans misused that gift, and chose to break God's laws.



God's rules are like warning signs. When we break them we harm ourselves

God gave us rules because He made us, loves us, and knows what is best for us. When we sin against God we harm ourselves and others. Sin broke the friendship between humans and God, and resulted in all the pain and suffering we see in the world today. God's “very good” creation was spoiled. So we can't blame God for the troubled state of the world. However, even when the first people sinned, God promised that He would defeat evil so that people could be His friends again. That promise came true when God's Son, Jesus, came to earth 2,000 years ago. He lived a perfect life, and taught us to love everyone, including our enemies. People killed Him by nailing Him to a cross, but God raised Him from the dead. By dying, Jesus conquered sin, and by rising again He conquered death. If we accept what Jesus did for us, we can have a new beginning, free from the power of sin and death, and live with Him forever — which is what God intended in the beginning. Remember, you are not a robot. God really loves you, but you have to choose to love Him in return. What is **your** choice?

Includes graphics from Clipart.com, Wikipedia.com Scriptures quoted from The Holy Bible, New Century Version®. Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

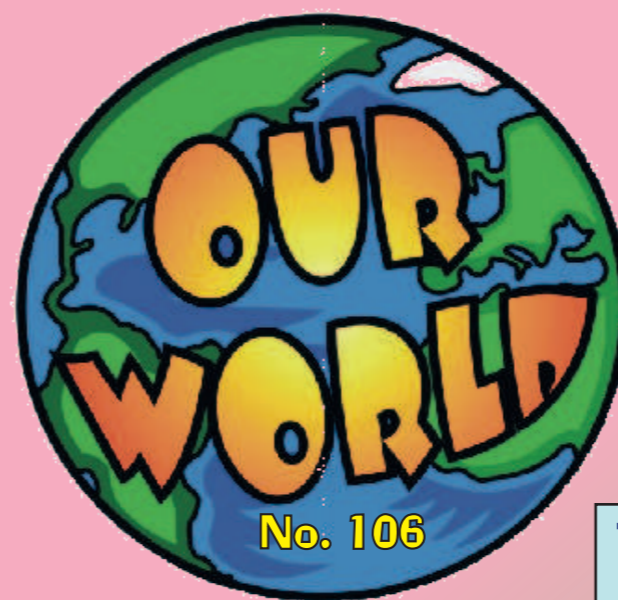
Our World is published three times a year by the Creation Resources Trust (Reg. Charity No.1016666). Editing, design and layout by Geoff Chapman. Unless otherwise stated, articles are written by the editor. There is no subscription charge, but donations towards costs are invited. For more information about this, and other resources, please contact CRT at P O Box 3237, Yeovil, BA22 7WD, UK. Phone: 01935 850569. Email: info@crt.org.uk Web site: www.crt.org.uk © 2012 CRT

Printed by CPO Worthing

## PUZZLE ANSWERS

**CODED TEXT:** God said, Let the earth be filled with animals. And let each kind produce more of its own kind. (Genesis 1: 24)

**WISE OWLS:** Nos. 1 and 4 are the



## GOD'S HISTORY BOOK

God was there when it all happened, so we can trust what the Bible tells us about the history of the world!

## The TRUE history of the world



How do we know what happened in the past? The best way is to find out what people saw who were there at the time. That's how all history is recorded. But how can we find out what happened in the beginning when no people were around? There are a number of theories about how the universe began and how the world and living things came to be. Some people believe there was a “big bang” explosion billions of years ago, and that life on earth came slowly through millions of years of evolution. There's no proof that this is true, because no humans were there in the beginning. However, God was there, and He has given us His own history book — the Bible, which He inspired people to write, so that we could know the true history of the world, and this tells us a very different story.

## Why do “bad” things happen?

People have been asking this question for thousands of years. In a world where there is sickness and pain, suffering and disaster, this is no surprise. But has the world always been like this? If so, if there is a God, how can He be good? There is an answer! See the next page



## Mystery solved!

One of the greatest mysteries to people who don't believe in creation is the beginning of life. True science, based on experiments, proves that life cannot come from something that is not alive. To deny that God created life means believing the impossible! The Bible tells us that life came from God — who has always been alive. In the beginning God's Spirit was moving (*Genesis 1: 2*). The Hebrew word for “Spirit” also means “wind” or “breath”. This means that God breathed life into the world in the beginning, and when He created the first man, “The Lord breathed the breath of life” into him.” (*Genesis 3: 7*).



Famous French scientist Louis Pasteur (above) believed in creation. He did experiments which prove that life only comes from existing life.




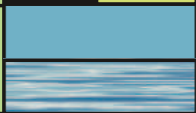




There are millions of fossils around the world — the remains of plants and animals that once lived. They must have been buried quickly, before they could be eaten or rot away. The Bible records a worldwide flood (*Genesis 6-8*) which would have provided the perfect conditions for this.

## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- Two Different Stories
- Nature Notes: Eggs
- What went Wrong?
- Puzzle Corner.
- Weird and Wonderful: The Bowerbird
- You are not a robot!

## HOW DID IT ALL BEGIN?

## Two different stories

FIRST DAY	
SECOND DAY	
THIRD DAY	
FOURTH DAY	
FIFTH DAY	
SIXTH DAY	
SEVENTH DAY	Creation finished God rested

Life's story from the Bible, inspired by God, who was there

How do we know what happened in the beginning? Did all life on earth begin with a single cell like a bacteria, then evolve over millions of years until human beings arrived? That's the story according to people who believe in evolution. The problem is: they were not there when it all began! Several thousand years ago God asked a man named Job, "Where were you when I made the earth's foundation?" (*Job 38: 4*). That's a very good question to ask those who say they know that life came through evolution.

The Bible tells us that "the world was made by God's command." (*Hebrews 11: 3*). The very first page of the Bible, Genesis chapter one, tells us how. How do we know which story of true? Well, God knows how He did it, but if we can't simply believe His word in the Bible, there are clues to help us. We don't see things evolving from one kind to another on earth today, and fossils don't show that they did in the past. The creation story fits the facts best!

Life's story according to evolutionists — who were not there in the beginning



## WHAT WENT WRONG?

WE live in an amazing and wonderful world, but there are some things that are neither nice nor beautiful — like suffering and pain, hunger, disease and death. There are sometimes earthquakes, floods, and other natural disasters. People often ask questions like, "If God is good, why are there so many bad things in His world? Has it always been this way, or did something go wrong?" God's history book, the Bible, gives us some answers to these questions.

In the beginning, when God finished creating everything, "God looked at everything he had made, and it was very good." (*Genesis 1: 31*). We can be sure that if God says something is "very good", then it really is very good, so there couldn't have been any bad things in the beginning.

The Bible tells us that things began to go wrong when the first people, Adam and Eve, disobeyed God, and they became separated from Him. The whole of creation was affected by their disobedience, and ever since then people have continued to disobey God — so the world is still messed up. We can choose either to make things worse by going our own way, or turning back to God and doing all we can to make the world better.

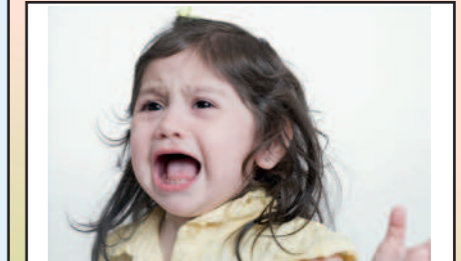
Many Christian charities, like Tearfund, Samaritan's Purse and Christian Aid, are sharing God's love by helping people who are suffering. We can play our part in making the world a better place by giving money to help their work.



Photo by J. Bavler: Dreamstime

## In the beginning.... A DIFFERENT WORLD!

People who believe in evolution tell us that suffering, pain and death have been going on for millions of years. The Bible tells a very different story. In the beginning there was no sadness, suffering or pain.



No tears or pain

There was also no death, since God intended people to live for ever in friendship with Himself. These bad things entered the world because of sin. God has promised to make a new creation where all these bad things will have vanished.



No death in the beginning

## NATURE NOTES by the editor



Did you have an egg for breakfast today? The eggs we eat are not usually fertile, but a fertilized egg is an amazing thing. Inside is a tiny speck, and if the egg is kept warm — either in an incubator or by the chicken that laid it — that speck will start to grow. Within two days the heart will start to beat, on the third day the wings begin to form, and by the eighth day the feathers will start growing. During this time, the chick (above) will feed on the yolk. By day 20 the chick needs more air, so it breaks into a tiny air sac at the end of the egg. Then, on the 21st day — no later or it would die — the chick breaks out to begin life in the outside world. (right).



People sometimes ask "Which came first — the chicken or the egg?" Surely there had to be a chicken to lay the egg, but then, where did the chicken come from? We believe God must have created the first chickens. Although they were not like the chickens we have today, they must have been able to lay eggs from the start. Egg laying could not have gradually evolved, otherwise there would be no more chickens!



All birds lay eggs, and many build nests, some of which are very beautiful. But nest-building, like egg-laying, couldn't have evolved gradually — it had to be right the first time! One final thing: never take eggs from a birds' nest — it could endanger the birds' future, and it's also against the law! — Geoff Chapman

## PUZZLE CORNER

Use the code  $b = a, c = b, \text{ etc.}$ , to read the Bible verse below, which tells us something important about God's creation

HPE TBJE MFU UIF FBSUI CF  
 GJMMFE XJUI BOJNBMT  
 BOE MFU FBDI QSPEVDF  
 NPSF PG JUT PXO LJOE

(Answers on the next page)

Only TWO of these owls are exactly alike. Which are they?

