

WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

The Queen Parrotfish

THE Queen Parrotfish (right) gets its name from its mouth, which is shaped like a beak, and is used to chew pieces of coral to eat the algae inside. Its jaws are specially designed, with teeth that are replaced as they are worn down. These fish actually help to save coral reefs, by eating the algae which can kill the coral. Parrotfish live in the Caribbean and grow to a length of 15 –25 cm (6 –10 ins). Strangely, they can change their sex from female to male!

One of the strangest things about Queen Parrotfish is the fact that they make their own “sleeping-bag” to protect them at night! Using special glands by their gills they produce a jelly-like mucus which they spin into a cocoon that covers them completely. This hides their scent and protects them from predators such as eels and sharks which might eat them. In the morning this cocoon is discarded, and a new one is made the next night.



Laszlo Ilyes: Wikipedia



A coral reef

Did Parrotfish discover how to spin their “sleeping-bag” by accident? And did they gradually evolve those special glands that produce the mucus? Surely this equipment had to exist and work properly before it could be used. And if the fish could exist without it, why would it have evolved? We believe that Parrotfish were designed and created by God. Do you agree?

GETTING THE MESSAGE

Have you ever had fun writing something in code? First you have to decide on the code, then write your message. If you then sent it to someone else, they would need to know the key before they could de-code your message and read it. Codes are like languages – you have to understand them before you can read them. Before paper was invented, people often wrote on clay tablets. Often it has taken years for modern scientists to decipher the information. Today, there are many ways to store or pass on information, but however it is done it always comes from an intelligent mind.



This 4,500 year-old clay tablet from Syria contains information in two languages

The universe is sending us information too. “The heavens tell the glory of God. And the skies announce what His hands have made.... They have no speech or words. They don’t make any sound to be heard. But their message goes everywhere on earth.” (*The Bible, Psalm 19: 1-4*). The heavens above us and the world around us, with all its wonders, are sending a clear message that there is a Creator God. God has also given us the Bible. It tells us how He made the world, how humans spoiled it, and how His Son, Jesus, came to earth to die on the Cross to pay for our sins.



The Gutenberg Bible from around 1450 — the world’s first printed Bible. The Bible is God’s special message to us.

The Bible says: “God has spoken to us through his Son.” (*Hebrews 1: 2*). This was God’s clearest message, saying “I love you!” If we put our faith in Jesus we receive God’s forgiveness, and we will live with Him forever because He rose again from the dead.

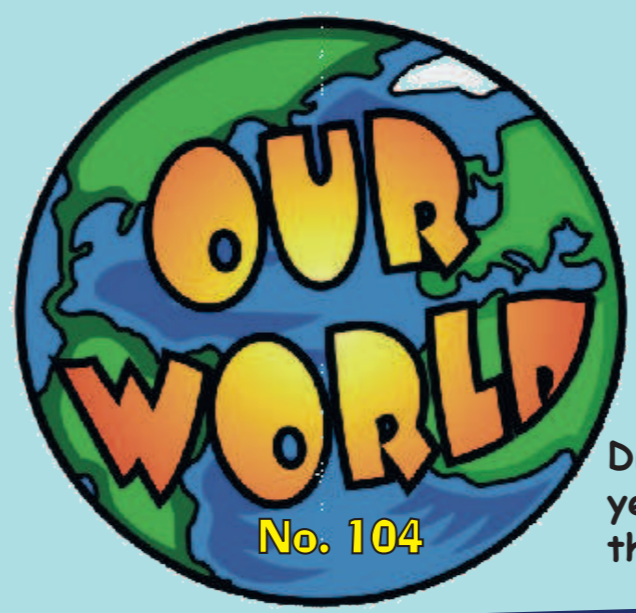
PUZZLE ANSWERS

CODED VERSES:
It is by faith we understand that the whole world was made by God’s command. (*Hebrews 11: 3*)
Lord you have made so many things. With your wisdom you made them all. (*Psalms 104: 24*)
ODD ONE OUT:
1. Squirrel - climbs trees. 2. Tiger - not one of the “dog kind” 3. Bat - not a bird. 4. Dolphin - not a fish. 5. Beaver - not a reptile.

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How we know CREATION is really TRUE!

Did all life on earth come through millions of years of gradual evolution? The facts tell us that creation is the best explanation!

Following the instructions

ALL living things are made up of cells, which are like tiny factories. In the centre of each cell — which can’t be seen without a microscope — is a “library” containing information in a code called DNA. Each kind of living thing has its own code, like a set of instructions, written in chemical “letters.” The DNA in each of the millions of cells in your body contains instructions to make another copy of you, as well as to keep you alive.

Sometimes spelling mistakes (mutations) in the DNA allow small changes, but they never add new information. The Bible tells us that when God created life, He said, “Let each produce more of its kind.” (*Genesis 1: 24*). So there could be no evolution from one kind to another. A reptile couldn’t become a bird, since it wouldn’t have the instructions to make feathers and wings. We never see new kinds of life appearing on earth.



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Above: a cell. Right: a section of DNA.



Computers don’t create their own information!

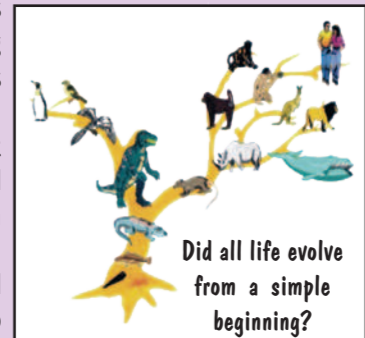
INFORMATION = INTELLIGENCE!

Information comes to us in many different ways: books and letters, CDs and DVDs, through radio and TV, and over the internet. But none of this information came by chance. If you have a computer printer, it will only print what someone first put into the computer. Computers don’t create information! Information only ever comes from an intelligent mind. So the amazing amount of information found in the cells of every living thing on earth must have come from a Mastermind!



CAN TINY CHANGES ADD UP TO BIG CHANGES?

People who believe in evolution say that living things change very slowly, but that tiny changes add up to big changes over millions of years. So “simple” life-forms eventually evolved into fish, dinosaurs, birds, whales, elephants and humans. There are two ways that we can test this idea. First of all, do we see these changes in the world today? Secondly, do the fossils show that they happened in the past? Actually, no-one has ever seen evolution happening — only changes within one of the “kinds” that God created. The fossils tell the same story: there have been no changes from one kind to another.



Did all life evolve from a simple beginning?

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

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The truth about myths

People have always wanted to know how the world began, and some very strange creation myths have sprung up. In an Egyptian creation myth, the sun-god Ra created the air-god Shu, and his wife Tefnut, the goddess of moisture. She gave birth to the earth-god Geb and the sky-goddess Nut, whose body formed the sky. Another god, Khnum, created animals and people on a potter's wheel.

In a Chinese creation myth, a character called Pan Gu slept inside an egg for 18,000 years. He then awoke, and chopped his way out with an axe, which he used to separate the heavens from the earth.

These stories sound silly. There is no evidence to support them and no scientists believe them. But the Bible story of creation in Genesis is quite different. Not only do the facts support it, but thousands of scientists really believe it tells the truth about how the world began. Many of them also believe that the evolution theory is a modern myth.



Egyptian creation myth



Chinese myth of Pan Gu

Dogs will always be dogs



Dogs come in many shapes and sizes – there are more than 300 different breeds of domestic dogs. Dogs are also related to foxes, hyenas, jackals and wolves. All the members of the “dog kind” have descended from wolf-like ancestors.

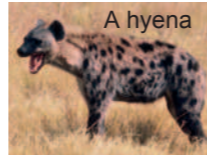
The wild members of the dog kind have changed through *natural selection*, which helps them to survive better when things like the climate changes. One example is the arctic fox which grows a white coat in winter to protect it from its enemies.

Domestic dogs have been bred by humans, and although many of them are attractive, they would never have been produced naturally. In fact, many of them would never be able to survive in the wild.

One thing is certain: although members of the dog kind come in many varieties, they will always be dogs!



Wolf



A hyena



Arctic fox

WHY PIGS WON'T FLY

When God created the various kinds of animals He made it possible to have a lot of variety in each kind. But there are limits. Consider the pig family: There are wild pigs – including the weird-looking warthog and bearded pig – and lots of domestic pigs which humans breeders have bred. They vary in colour, shape and size, but in many ways they are very similar. And all of them have descended from the original wild pig, which was created by God.

However, we can be sure that no one will ever be able to breed a flying pig. Why? Because pigs don't have the information in their DNA code to turn their front legs into wings. So you will never see a flying pig – unless it's a passenger in a plane!



© Allen Lewis | Dreamstime.com



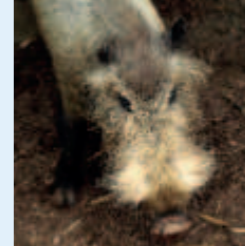
Wild pig



Wart-hog



Domestic pig



Bearded pig



Vietnamese Pot-bellied pig

Joshua Lutz: Wikipedia

No simple beginning!

The discovery of fossils of very complex creatures in what are said to be some of the oldest rock layers has disproved the idea that life began with 'simple' creatures. These fossils include *Opabinia* (top right) — a weird animal with five eyes and a long proboscis — and *trilobites* with amazing eyes that had hundreds of lenses (lower right). There is no evidence these creatures evolved from anything simpler — they just appear. If they didn't evolve from anything, then the best explanation is that they were created.



Opabinia by Nobu Tomura



Moussa Direct Ltd. image archive

DID BATS EVOLVE FROM SHREWS?

The evolution theory says that bats – the only mammals that can fly – evolved from something like a tree shrew (below left). However, there are no fossils showing this change. The oldest fossil bats have complete wings, just like bats today. If a tree shrew started to evolve wings it wouldn't be able to walk or fly properly, so would not have survived.



Photo by Stavenn: Wikipedia



Modern bat

USGS

NATURE NOTES by the editor



Wikipedia photo by Rick's

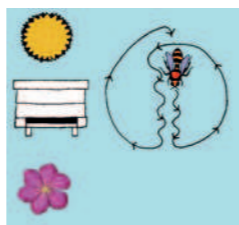
We all know that bees make honey from nectar that they collect from flowers (left). They also collect pollen from which they make "bee-bread" to feed young bees. Before they can gather the nectar and pollen, bees have to know where to find it. They do this by sending out "scouts", which have a tiny magnet in their bodies to help them navigate. When they find the food they go back to the hive to "tell" the other bees where it is. But how do they do this? They do it by dancing! (see diagram on the right).

If the scout bee dances *down* the side of the honeycomb it tells the other bees that they have to fly *away* from the sun to find the flowers. If the scout flies *up* the honeycomb, then the other bees know they have to fly *towards* the sun. The speed of the dance tells the bees how far away the flowers are, and if the scout dances at an angle, they know they have to fly to the left or to the right. Also, by wagging its tail the scout tells the other bees how much food they will find there. If there is only a little, then only a few bees will go. So the scouts' dancing gives information to the other bees.

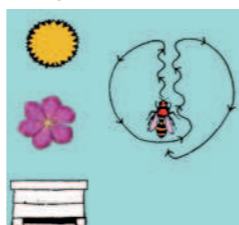
It seems impossible that all this could have happened by gradual evolution. God must have created honeybees to do this from the beginning. —*Geoff Chapman*



BEE DANCE



"The food source is away from the sun"



"The food source is towards the sun"

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PUZZLE CORNER

CRACK THE CODE: Use the code key below to read these two Bible verses.

JU JT CZ GBJUI XF VOEFSTUBOE UIBU UIF
XIPMF XPSME XBT NBEF CZ HPE'T DPNNBOE

MPSE ZPV IBWF NBEF TP NBOZ UIJOHT XJUI
ZPVS XJTEPN ZPV NBEF UIFN BMM

Code key:

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTUVWXYZ
BCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTUVWXYZA

ODD ONE OUT:

Which of the animals in these lists doesn't belong?

1. Squirrel, zebra, giraffe, hedgehog, mole.
2. Wolf, fox, hyena, tiger, coyote.
3. Hummingbird, bat, swallow, raven, puffin.
4. Swordfish, trout, dolphin, shark, salmon.
5. Turtle, crocodile, beaver, tortoise, chameleon.

(Answers on the next page)