

# WELL DESIGNED!

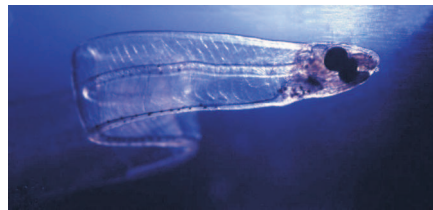


## EELS

MANY creatures on earth migrate regularly, but one of the most amazing migrations is that of the **European Eel**. For most of human history the eels' life cycle was a mystery, because fishermen never caught anything that looked like a baby eel.

The Greek philosopher Aristotle believed that eels, which live in freshwater lakes and rivers, were born from earth worms which came out of the soil without fertilisation. Until about 120 years ago no-one could prove that Aristotle was wrong. People had seen eel larvae, which are transparent leaf-shaped creatures, but never realised they had anything to do with eels. Gradually, the facts about the eels' life cycle emerged. After living for 10-14 years in rivers and lakes,

these fish suddenly have a strange urge to head for the ocean. They will even leave the water and slither across the ground to find their way into rivers that lead to the sea. Once in the



Eel larvae. Photo by Uwe Kils, from Wikipedia free online encyclopedia



A European Eel

From Wikipedia free online encyclopedia

ocean, their colour changes to silver, making them almost invisible. The eels swim for 6,000 km (4,000 miles) to the "Sargasso Sea" near Bermuda, where they spawn. The tiny larvae hatch, and begin to swim with the Gulf Stream to Europe, taking three years to complete the journey. When they reach Europe, they make their way up rivers and streams, often travelling overland to reach lakes and ponds. There they grow into adult eels, which will eventually head back to their spawning ground to complete the life cycle.

Despite the discovery of the eels' life cycle, some mysteries remain. Scientists still don't know how the eel larvae find their way back to European coasts. Unlike salmon, which return to the place they came from, the eel larvae travel to somewhere they have never been, thousands of miles from their nursery! It seems impossible that this wonderful ability could have evolved. Eels must be pre-programmed with specific genetic information to enable them to navigate this impressive journey. This points to the work of an intelligent Creator, not random chance processes.

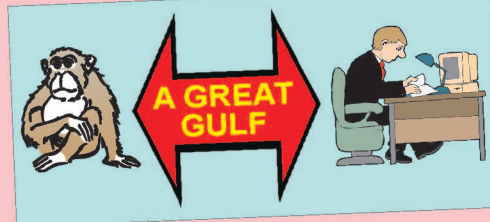
## A Great Gulf!

The fossil evidence reveals the same gap between apes and humans that we see in the living world. But surely apes look so much like us that there must be some connection? There are some similarities, of course, but the differences are much greater. In fact, the main differences between apes and ourselves are not seen in the fossils. Apes have no sense of right and wrong, they don't ponder the purpose of life, or fret over world problems. They don't compose music, admire sunsets, or gaze in wonder at the stars.

Apes can be taught a simple sign language, but they can't speak, and there is no evidence that human language evolved from animal noises. Apes aren't religious; they don't pray, worship, or bury their dead. Yet every human tribe so far discovered has some kind of religious belief. This shows that humans, unlike animals, have a *spiritual* dimension, and were created to have a relationship with God. There is a **great gulf** between apes and ourselves!

We believe the evidence supports the Biblical view that 'God created man in his own image.' (Genesis 1: 27), unique and separate from the animal creation. The Bible not only tells us who we are, but what we can become when we turn to God in simple faith. We are all aware that we do wrong things, and the Bible calls this sin. This would cut us off from God for ever, but 'God so loved the world that he gave his One and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' (John 3: 16).

Evolution has no factual basis, and is a hopeless creed, offering no purpose in this life or hope beyond death. But through faith in Jesus Christ we find forgiveness, purpose in living, and hope in dying. God loves you, and longs for you to know Him. Want to know more? We'll be pleased to help!



Only humans pray

### Have a smile

How do you identify a bald eagle?  
All his feathers are combed over to one side.

What was the wordiest dinosaur that ever existed?  
A Thesaurus.

How do you stop a charging elephant?  
Take away its credit cards.

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# ORIGINAL VIEW

No. 50

## WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Evolutionists tell us that we have all descended from ape-like ancestors. What are their claims based on? The facts may surprise you!

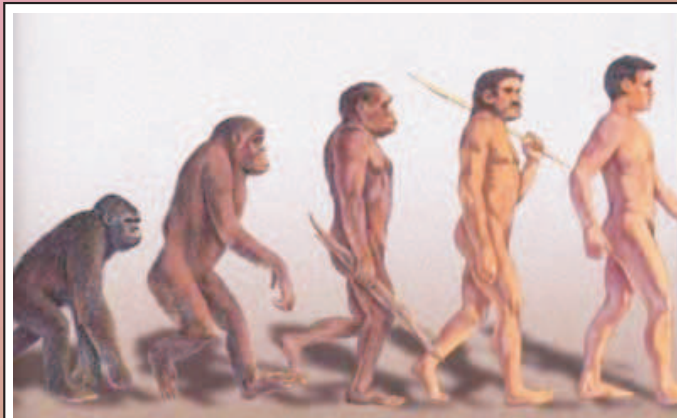


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'Lucy': a male ape?  
Ducking the truth  
What about cave-people?  
Amazing Eels  
A great gulf



## Not "ape-men" after all!

When the first fossils of Neanderthals were found in 1856 reconstructions depicted them as brutish "ape-men" (right). Now, everyone accepts that they were fully human. The same goes for *Homo erectus*, that was also once said to be a pre-human ancestor.



Pictures like this, showing a progression from apes to humans, look plausible. However, the evidence of the fossils shows there have been apes and humans — but nothing that was partly ape and partly human.



Homo erectus

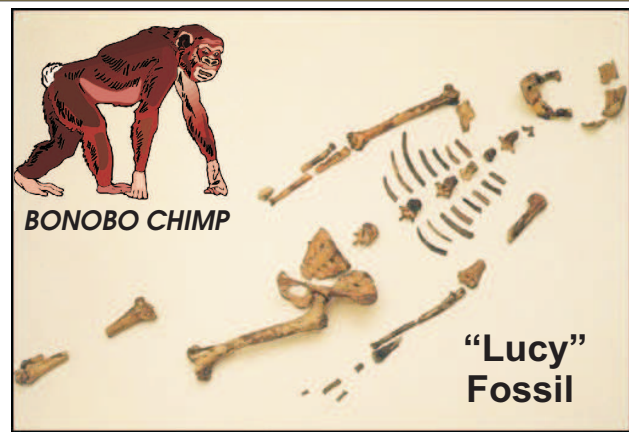


Neanderthal



Michael Puggins 2005

## 'Lucy': a male ape?



The skeleton of "Lucy" closely resembled that of modern pygmy chimps (bonobos), — long arms and short legs, designed for knuckle-walking.

When Dr Donald Johanson discovered the fossil of an ape-like creature in Africa in 1974 he declared that it had walked upright, and belonged to one of our ape-like ancestors. It appeared to be a female, and it was nick-named "Lucy" after the Beetle's song "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds", which was popular at the time. Lucy was said to be "3.2 million years old" and on the line leading to us. Then, in 2001, anthropologists discovered skeletal remains in Kenya, which were said to be "more human-like" than Lucy, yet were dated at "6 million years old." Dubbed "Millennium Man", this actually consisted of only 13 pieces of bone, including a piece of jaw with some teeth, a fingertip, an arm, and a leg bone. But this messed up the neat evolutionary family tree, and left Lucy out in the cold.

### A 'PYGMY CHIMP'

In fact, the evidence strongly suggests that Lucy was probably a pygmy chimp, like the bonobo chimps alive today, which walk bi-pedally about 10% of the time, yet are basically knuckle-walkers, with long arms and short legs. The Lucy fossil was of a similar build. Lucy was classed with a group of fossils called *australopithecines* ("southern apes"). CAT scans of australopithecine inner ear canals by Fred Spoor and his colleagues at University College, London, showed that they could not have habitually walked upright.

In spite of this evidence, museum displays continue to depict Lucy as a "missing link". A model of Lucy at the St Louis Zoo, USA., (right), shows a creature with an ape-like face and human feet and hands — even though no foot or hand bones were found! This is very unscientific, and a clear distortion of the evidence. A final twist in the Lucy story is that some experts who have examined the fossil are now saying that the fossil was of a male! So far from being one of our ancestors, Lucy, it seems, was just a male ape!

BBC News 22nd. March 2000 reported a study by Brian Richmond and David Strait of George Washington University that concluded that Lucy, like modern chimps, was a knuckle-walker.



## A LOT OF JAW

When some jaws and teeth were found in India in 1932, experts said they were mid-way between an ape and human jaw pattern. They claimed it was one of our ancestors, and named it *Ramapithecus* (Rama's Ape"). Despite this meagre evidence, reconstructions were drawn showing a stooping "ape-man". *Ramapithecus* remained in our family tree until some more complete skeletons were discovered, which revealed it was nothing more than a type of orang-utan.



Ramapithecus

Reconstruction of *Ramapithecus* (left), based on jaws and teeth (right). Below: An orang-utan.



## Give an evolutionist a bone...

In 1997, a new supposed "ape-man" was discovered in Ethiopia: *Australopithecus kadabba*. Actually it was just a collection of bones (right), gathered over 5 years from 5 different locations — including a toe bone which was found 10 miles from the rest! That didn't prevent *Time* magazine (below) from printing its full-colour portrait on the front cover, with the words, "How Apes became Human." The toe bone that was found 10 miles away was used as evidence that the creature "almost certainly" walked upright! But how scientific is it to put together such a widely-scattered collection of bones — which did not include a skull — and then claim they represent one species?



In the past there have been some famous mistakes and hoaxes. "Nebraska Man" was based on a single tooth — later found to have belonged to a wild pig! And some cleverly planted ape and human bones ("Piltdown Man") fooled the experts for over 40 years.

# IN THE NEWS

## Ducking the truth

The "official" story of the origin of birds is that millions of years ago some small dinosaurs evolved feathers in place of scales, developed wings instead of fore-legs, and took to the air. According to Professor Mike Archer, Director of the Australian Museum, "The birds we see flying around our backyards are actually living dinosaurs, descendants of prehistoric beasts we all once presumed became extinct 65 million years ago," (*News in Science*, 30/09/02).

However, a recent fossil discovery in China has blown this theory to pieces. These fossils are of a bird called *Gansus*, which scientists say "would have looked very much like a grebe or a diver, or certain kinds of ducks. It had webbed feet and it had fairly powerful legs.... it was a very well-adapted diving or swimming-type bird."

According to the evolutionists' dating, these birds lived "110 million years ago" when dinosaurs roamed the earth. They claim they are a "missing link" in the story of bird evolution, even though the fossils show that these birds were similar to living ducks. It is suggested that the ancestors of modern birds left the

land and became adapted to life in the water and then later came back onto the land and evolved into the flying birds we see in our woods and gardens today.

This is another example of evolutionists "ducking" the issue, and trying to fit every fossil they find into their evolutionary story. Far from being a "missing link" this latest find is actually very strong evidence against bird evolution. The fact is that birds very similar to modern ducks were alive at the same time as the dinosaurs — knocking the dino-to-bird theory firmly on the head — and that during a supposed period of 110 million years they have not changed, suggesting that ducks have always been ducks!



Ducks lived alongside dinosaurs



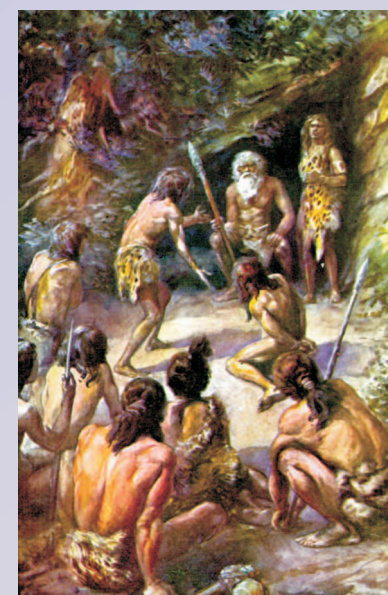
A Modern grebe

## what about cave-people?

HAVE you ever heard of "cave-people"? Most likely. The popular image of these people is that they were "primitive" and brute-like, and that living in caves was a stage in our evolution from ape-like ancestors. This theory is totally mistaken. For one thing, there are still people living in caves in several areas of the world, including, China, Pakistan and Spain. Spanish cave homes are even being advertised for sale on the internet!

We know that some people lived in caves during the Ice Age, which made a lot of sense, as the temperature in caves remains quite constant. But these cave-people were fully human. Exploration of the caves they inhabited reveal that they created wonderful cave paintings, and had their own language and religion. Most scientists no longer believe that the cave-people were sub-human, though many still insist that the human race passed through a "cave-people" stage.

The truth is that living in caves is a matter of convenience, and has nothing to do with our supposed evolution from more "primitive" ancestors. Cave-people are simply people who live in caves!



A typical picture of cave-people



This cave house in Spain has four bedrooms, mains electricity and water.

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Photo courtesy www.spanish-inland-properties.com