

The REAL SCIENCE paper!

ORIGINAL VIEW OBSCURANT

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HISTORY IN STONE!

MILLIONS OF FOSSILS HAVE BEEN UNEARTHED ALL AROUND THE WORLD. WHAT DO THEY TELL US ABOUT LIFE ON EARTH?

A STORY OF LIFE — OR DEATH?

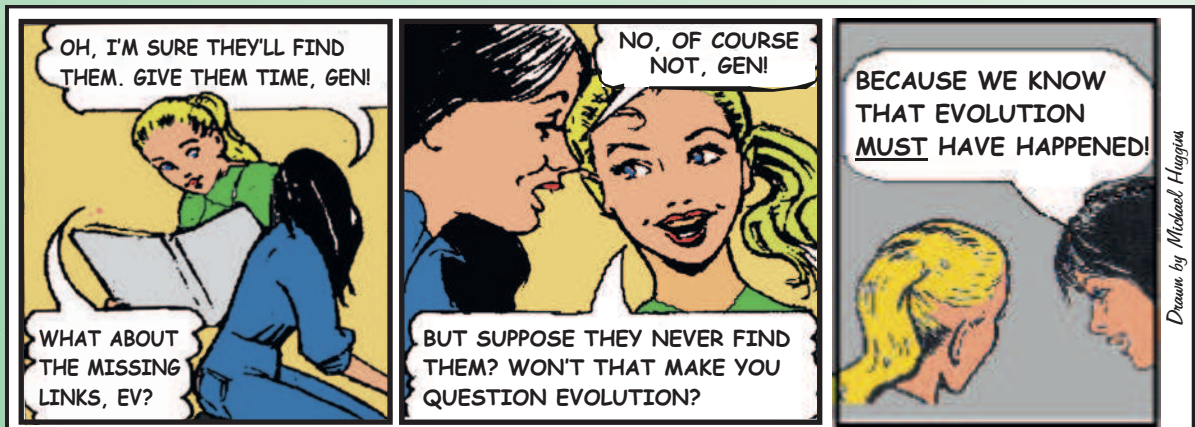
Many people believe that the earth's fossil record is a story of life, and how it evolved over long periods of time. It's also generally believed that fossils show us where animals or plants lived. But

when we consider how fossils have been preserved, it is more logical and accurate to say that the fossils show us where these organisms were buried when they **died**, and that many of them met a sudden end!



Photos courtesy of Paul Abramson: www.creationism.org

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BURIED ALIVE!

Millions of fossilised fish have been discovered around the world. Sometimes hundreds are packed into slabs of rock. How did this happen? In the Edinburgh Museum in Scotland a display gives a typical explanation: Millions of years ago, as the climate was becoming drier, fish in a small lake became stranded in small pools. As the water disappeared the fish died. Later, the climate became wet again, and rain washed in sediment. The dead fish were buried and became fossilised as the sediment became hard.

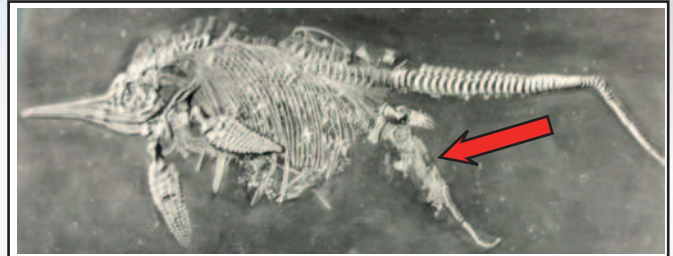
Does that explanation make sense? The fact is that the dead fish would either have rotted or been eaten by other animals long before the climate changed and sediment covered them!

These fish had to be buried very fast in deep sediment to be preserved as fossils (see box, left). The many fossil fish “graveyards” around the world point to a massive, watery catastrophe which overwhelmed and buried millions of fish while they were actually swimming!

Many other fossils, like the brachiopods (top right) and the ichthyosaur (lower right) also show evidence of being suddenly overwhelmed and buried alive. It doesn't take millions of years to become a fossil!

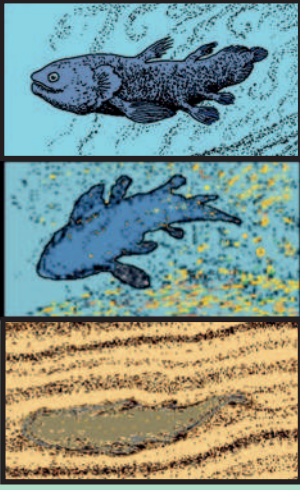


When brachiopods die naturally, their muscles relax, allowing their shells to open. These fossil brachiopods, like thousands of others, are preserved with tightly-closed shells, which means they were buried alive.



This ichthyosaur — a marine reptile — from the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, USA, was fossilised while it was giving birth! The baby ichthyosaur is arrowed. (Photo by Paul Abramson: www.creationism.org)

How a fish becomes a fossil



Top: fish swimming.
Centre: A wave of sediment starts to overwhelm it.
Bottom: The fish is rapidly and deeply buried

Drawings by Brian Newton

FLIGHT: A GOOD 'TEST CASE'

The origin of flight should be a good 'test case' for evolution. Flight is supposed to have evolved four times — insects, reptiles, birds and bats. So, if evolution really happened there should be fossils showing creatures that were evolving wings. But this is not the case. Flying creatures appear in the fossil record with fully-developed wings. A good example are the extinct flying reptiles (right). According to *Wikipedia.org*: “Because pterosaur anatomy has been so heavily modified for flight, and immediate “missing link” predecessors have not so far been described, the ancestry of pterosaurs is not well understood.” That's an understatement — it would be more accurate to say there is no evidence that pterosaurs evolved from anything!



ABOVE: Reconstruction of a pterosaur.
BELOW: Fossil, showing elongated fingers which supported the wings.
There are no fossils of 'proto-pterosaurs'



The same goes for birds, bats, and flying insects. The fossil dragonfly on the left is supposed to be “300 million years old”, but it's just like modern dragonflies, except that it was much larger.

Surely any creature with partly-evolved wings would be at a disadvantage, and be more likely to be eliminated by natural selection than take to the air?

Paul Abramson: www.creationism.org

'MISSING LINKS' PROBLEM

Ever since Charles Darwin's time, evolutionists have been grappling with the problem of the “missing links” — the fact that there is no continuous chain of fossils leading from single-celled creatures to “higher” animals and humans. Even committed atheist and evolutionist Professor Steve Jones (right) has admitted: “The fossil record — in defiance of Darwin's whole idea of gradual change — often makes great leaps from one form to the next. Far from the display of intermediates to be expected from slow advance through natural selection many species appear without warning, persist in fixed form and disappear, leaving no descendants.”¹



Evolutionary “family trees” often include dotted lines where fossils are missing. Some evolutionists have even proposed a new theory — “punctuated equilibrium” — meaning that evolution proceeded in rapid bursts. In other words, it happened so fast that we can't see any evidence!

However, in the absence of the hoped-for fossil links, surely it makes sense to consider another alternative: that evolution never happened, and that the basic kinds of animals and plants were created by God, with the genetic information for limited variation with boundaries?

Wikipedia photo by Michal Marías

Photo: Wikipedia Commons

IN THE NEWS

DID E.T. HITCH A LIFT ON A BALLOON?

Scientists have been searching for evidence of extra-terrestrial life for decades, including listening for radio messages from far-off planets. So far, no evidence of life outside of earth has been discovered. However, according to recent news reports, "A team of British scientists is convinced it has found proof of alien life, after it harvested strange particles from the edge of space."

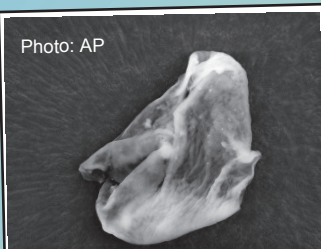
The *Journal of Cosmology* reported that team leader British Professor Milton Wainwright claims to have found evidence on a balloon that was sent 27 km. (17 miles) into the stratosphere, and came back "carrying small biological organisms." Professor Wainwright is "95% convinced" that they could not have come from earth. "If we're right, it means that there's life in space, and it's coming to earth. It means that life on earth probably originated in space."¹

However, other scientists are not convinced by Prof. Wainwright's claims, and the *Journal of Cosmology* has had its reputation called into question more than once by other

members of the scientific community. 17 miles above the earth is a very small distance — the International Space Station orbits at more than 210 miles from earth. The particles found on the balloon could have been floating in space, or been there before it left the ground. So why do these scientists prefer to believe that these organisms travelled through millions of miles of space? It appears that there is a reluctance among many scientists to face the possibility that earth is unique. And have they considered that if life came from outer space they still have to explain where that originated?

1. *The Independent* 19th September 2013.

Photo: AP



One of the particles



Did a balloon like this really collect evidence of extra-terrestrial life?

Photo: NOAA

Fossils don't come date-stamped!

Many people believe that fossils can be accurately dated. After all, whenever a fossil is found, we are told it is "x" millions of years old. However, fossils don't come date-stamped, and they can't be placed in some machine which produces a date. This is because almost all fossils are found in sedimentary rocks, which can't be dated by the "radio-metric" method. This can only be used on volcanic rocks, and even then, several unprovable assumptions must be made.¹



Fossil tree at Joggins, Nova Scotia, Canada

Organisms must be buried rapidly to become fossils, so the layers of sediment also had to form rapidly. There is plenty of evidence that rock layers were formed in days, even hours, not over thousands or millions of years. Fossil trees, like the one on the left, often pass through as much as 10 metres (32 ft) of rock, and are sometimes in a leaning position. If the rock had really taken thousands or millions of

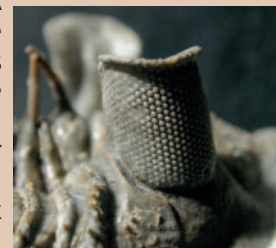
years to form, these trees would have rotted away and disappeared. The vast fossil "graveyards" found in many parts of the world also suggest that rocks were formed in a short time, and many geologists are now rethinking their theories of how rocks form.

1. See our Factsheets: "The Dating Game" at www.crt.org.uk/Factsheet49.pdf and "How Old are Fossils" at www.crt.org.uk/fs-46.pdf or free by post from address on back page.

EYE EVOLUTION? THERE'S NO FOSSIL EVIDENCE!

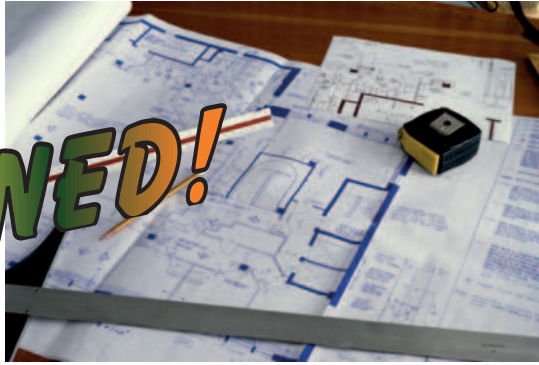
How could complex organs like the eye evolve gradually? Well-known evolutionist Prof. Richard Dawkins wrote: "Eyes don't fossilize, so we don't know how long our type of eye took to evolve its present complexity and perfection from nothing."¹ (But Prof. Dawkins is wrong; eyes do fossilise!

A excellent example is the trilobite's eye (right). These sea creatures, which now appear to be extinct, had very complex compound eyes, with specialised multiple lenses. The eyes of this fossil, claimed to be around "400 million years old", even had eye-shades, to block the glare of the sun! There is no evidence that these eyes evolved from anything simpler; they just appear, fully formed, in the fossil record. People may believe they evolved, but this belief is based on *faith*, not fact.



1. *The Blind Watchmaker*, 1986, p. 40).

**WELL
DESIGNED!**



The Glass Knife-fish

PARALLEL processing is the ability of computers to undertake a number of different tasks at the same time. This is similar to the way our own brain works, as it processes information received from our ears, eyes, and other senses. Computer scientists have developed powerful super-computers that use *parallel processing* to quickly carry out difficult calculations.

Researchers at the University of California have discovered that the **Glass Knife-fish**, has such a complex nervous system that it could be described as “a computer with fins.” These fish, which are 16 cm (6-7 in.) long, come from South America, and are popular in aquariums. They generate weak electrical impulses at up to 700 times a second. These signals bounce back, and are received by special cells on their body. Their brain then processes these signals to help them navigate.



Part of the Roadrunner super-computer, built by IBM in 2008 for the U.S. Dept. of Energy

US Dept. of Energy



Glass Knife-fish

The difference between us and Knife-fish is that where we use sound waves to tell us direction, they use electrical impulses that travel much faster than sound. In fact, these fish are able to process such a large amount of information because they use *parallel processing* – just like super-computers !

The idea that the glass knife-fish evolved gradually, by chance mutations, is surely unbelievable . After all, super-computers are the product of intelligent design. And the highly sophisticated information-processing technology built into this fish can be best explained as the work of a wise, powerful Creator.

Thanks to creationmoments.com for information in this article

The REAL Fossil Story

In the past there have been many strange ideas about fossils, and how they were formed. Some people believed God placed them in the rocks to fool us, or test our faith. Others believed they were put there by the devil! At one time, many scientists believed that fossils were not the remains of living things, but just strange shapes that had somehow formed in the earth. Today, no-one doubts that fossils are the remains of once-living plants and animals, but there is still much debate about how the fossils were formed, and what they tell us about life on earth.



We believe the fossils tell us four things: (1) Many were buried suddenly while they were still alive. (2) They tell a story of death, not life. (3) There is no continuous chain of fossils leading from “simple” creatures to humans. (4) The evidence is exactly what would be expected if the Biblical accounts of creation and a world-wide flood are true. The Bible says that God created specific “kinds” (*Genesis 1*), and that a world-wide, catastrophic flood occurred (*Genesis 6-8*). This would have buried millions of organisms in a short space of time.

Have you considered that the Biblical record may actually be true? That evolution never happened, and there is a Creator-God to whom we are all accountable? The Bible tells us that

God entered His creation, 2,000 years ago. Jesus Christ was born, lived and died. Through His death on the cross, He took the penalty we deserve as sinners against God. “God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him (*The Bible, John 3: 17*). History records that He rose from the dead, which means that “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life.” (*John 3: 36*). The fossils tell a story of death, not life, but though faith in Jesus we can discover life, and be set free from the fear of death!



SMILE

Teacher: Why are you late for school, James?

James: Because there's a sign down the road that says, "School Ahead, Go Slow!"

Teacher: Who succeeded the first Emperor of Rome?

Pupil: The second one!

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