Aardvarks have spoon-like claws on their feet, which they use to dig their burrows. They live mainly on ants and termites, though they sometimes also eat wild fruit. Ants and termites live in nests made from earth, and aardvarks use their strong, sharp claws to dig their way through the tough, outer shell, and then lick the insects up with their long, sticky tongue. The Aardvark's skin is so tough that insects can't sting them. In fact, they sometimes sleep in a nest when they have had their fill. Their nostrils have lots of hairs and fleshy tentacles to prevent insects crawling into them.

Evolution can't explain where Aardvarks came from. The fossils show that they have always been much as they are today. These strange animals seem to have been specially designed for their way of life by God, their Creator.

Another Home

Some day you may be able to buy a house of your own, and you would want to look after it well. In the same way, we should look after this planet, where God is allowing us to spend our lives. God planned a perfect world, where everyone could have lived in peace, and where there would have been no evil, pain of death. And everything was wonderful before the first people disobeyed Him and spoilt everything.

We can be sure that God is not pleased about the many things we have done to spoil His world, but He has promised that some day He will restore the whole of creation — a new heaven and a new earth where goodness lives. (The Bible, 2 Peter 3: 13). That new world will be another home, where there will be no evil, and where only people whose sins have been forgiven can live. We have all sinned, but the good news is that God's Son, Jesus, died on the cross so that we could be forgiven. Then He came back from death, and went to heaven to start preparing a place for those who love Him. He told His followers, “There are many rooms in my Father's house…” It’s just right for us!
THE MOON: OUR GOOD NEIGHBOUR

When you see the moon in the sky, do you realise how very special it is? Other planets have moons – some have lots – but earth’s moon is different. Compared with other moons it is very large, and the tug of its gravity helps to keep the earth from wobbling. It also makes our daily tides (see below) in fact, life on earth would be impossible without our good neighbour in space.

Although the moon is 400 times smaller than the sun, both appear to be the same size in the sky. This is because the moon is 400 times closer to us. Sometimes the moon passes in front of the sun and hides it for a few minutes. We call this a total eclipse. Because the moon fits over the sun so perfectly, scientists have been able to examine the sun’s atmosphere and learn a lot of things about it. Many of them believe this perfect fit is by design, not chance.

THE MOON AND THE TIDES

As the moon travels around the earth each day, the pull of the moon’s gravity on the earth lifts the surface of the sea, making our twice-daily tides. The tides keep our river mouths and harbours clean and fresh. They also allow oxygen to get into the water, without which the oceans would become stagnant and fish would die. Lots of creatures which live on the seashore between the low and high tide mark also depend on the tides. Without the regular rise and fall of the sea to bring them food they wouldn’t be able to exist. If the moon were much larger than it is, or closer to the earth, huge tidal waves would sweep over the earth twice a day. We should be thankful that God gave us the moon — and that He made it the right size for us!

Creatures which live on the seashore depend on the daily tides.

Nature Notes by the Editor

Although they have no eyes, arms or legs, earthworms are one of the most useful creatures in nature. Although we may not often see them, there can be as many as a million of them in one acre of soil! There are about 2,700 different kinds of earthworm, and some live as long as 15 years. They spend most of their lives below the ground, sometimes burrowing to a depth of 2 metres (6 feet), especially when the weather is very hot or very cold. They actually “eat” their way through the ground, feeding on a mixture of soil, rotting leaves and microbes. They also eat rotten wood, plants and even dead animals. This all passes through their bodies, and leaves a rich, fertile soil behind. Worms move lots of soil — as much as 40 times their own weight — as they burrow. Their tunnelling also allows air to get into the soil, and helps water drain away in wet weather.

Worms are so good at recycling waste that many gardeners use worms to turn their garden waste into rich compost. It is possible to buy “wormeries” specially designed to hold both worms and compost. We couldn’t really do without earthworms, so we should be grateful to God for creating these tiny, legless helpers.

— Geoff Chapman

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