In his famous book about evolution, *The Origin of Species* (1859), Charles Darwin (right) wrote that he believed life on earth began with "simple" things, and that "higher" forms of life slowly evolved. However, he was worried about the missing fossils — the links that should show how one kind of creature had turned into something different. He believed that those "missing links" would be found, but 150 years later, although millions of fossils have been found, the links Darwin hoped for are still missing. The fossils show that the different kinds of plants and animals were separate in the past, just as they are now.

In some of the oldest rocks there are fossils of creatures like starfish and trilobites (left), but no evidence they evolved from more "simple" ancestors. There are fossils of fish in these rocks, too, but no evidence they evolved from anything else, or that some fish grew legs and began to walk on the land. Evolutionists believe that bats evolved from shrew-like animals. For this to happen, the finger-bones would have had to grow very long to support the flaps of skin which make the bats’ wings. But how would a half shrew-half bat creature survive, since it wouldn’t have been able to walk or fly properly? In any case, the oldest bat fossils are just like bats living today, and no "half-bat" fossils have ever been found.

The Bible says that God created separate "kinds" in the beginning (see Genesis chapter one). The fossils show no evidence that one kind has ever changed into another, so the Bible’s story of creation is the best explanation of life.

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**Fossils Show No Evolution!**

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**Nature Notes by the Editor**

Do you like snails — those slimy creatures that carry their home with them? Maybe you don’t, but many birds do like them, and you can often see empty shells lying around after a hungry bird has eaten the snail. If you go into a garden or park on a warm, damp summer evening you won’t have to look far to find them. Snails come with a variety of shell patterns and colours. Many are camouflaged, with colours which match their surroundings, and snails that live in woods are usually darker than those that live in grassy areas. Some scientists have set up a special project, encouraging children and others to look out for snails, and make a note of the different patterns and colours of their shells.

This is a very interesting project, but those who have set it up say that those who take part will see "evolution at work", which is nonsense! Evolution is the idea that all living things — not just snails, but whales, kangaroos, penguins, tortoises, humans beings, and everything else that lives on earth — evolved from the same ancestor over millions of years. The colours and patterns on snails’ shells will vary and change over time, but they will still be snails, as they always have been since God created them in the beginning. This has nothing to do with evolution, which no one has ever seen happening anywhere.

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**FOSSIL GRAVEYARDS**

Many people believe that fossils tell the story of life on earth. The truth is, they tell a story of death! Fossils are the remains of animals and plants that once lived on earth, but were buried and preserved before they had time to rot away. Huge fossil "graveyards" have been found in many parts of the world, sometimes with the remains of thousands of plants and animals. This shows that the rocks were not formed gradually over millions of years, but that some catastrophe buried them quickly.

In 1878 in a coal mine at Bernissart, Belgium, at a depth of 322 m. (1056 ft), the fossils of at least 38 Iguanodons (a type of dinosaur) were uncovered by miners. Scientists said they must have been swept into a ravine by a flood. In the Green River fossil bed in Wyoming, USA, there are thousands of fossil fish still with their flesh, skin and scales. There are also fossils of plants, birds and bats.

The Bible tells us that about 4,400 years ago, because of people’s wickedness, God judged the earth with a worldwide flood that lasted a whole year. (see Genesis chapters 7 & 8). Millions of plants and animals must have been buried in mud and sand, including fish and other sea creatures which were trapped on the sea-bed. Like most creation scientists, we believe that most of the fossils on earth were formed in the flood, though some may have come from smaller, local floods which happened soon afterwards. This means that fossils cannot be millions of years old, as many people claim, and there is no proof that they are that old — fossils don’t have dates stamped on them!

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**FOSSIL GRAVEYARDS**

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**FOSSIL GRAVEYARDS**
ANTS are fascinating insects that live in communities, where they work as a team. All ants build some kind of nest, often from soil, but the most amazing are the weavers which build nests from leaves. A weaver ant colony begins when a queen lays some eggs on a leaf. When the larvae hatch, they feed them until they grow into workers. Then they build a nest and help the queen rear more larvae, building more nests as they are needed.

The way weaver ants build their nests is truly wonderful. They form a chain to pull the living leaves together, then saw them together by using their young larvae like a needle and thread. The workers squeeze the larvae, and they produce a sticky silk thread which is strong enough to hold the nest together.

It seems impossible to believe that the weavers’ method of nest-building could have come about by thousands or millions of years of evolution, or that the larvae gradually evolved a way to produce sticky silk thread, and that the workers then gradually learned how to use them to saw the leaves together. The ants couldn’t afford to practice nest-making — they had to get it right from the very beginning!

Weaver ants work by instinct — they don’t think about what they do. The whole community works as a team, following a plan which was “programmed” into them by God, when He created them.

### Fossils and Faith

Charles Darwin hoped that fossils would be found to fill the gaps between the various kinds of plants and animals, but the “missing links” are still missing, and some evolutionists admit this. You could visit all the museums in the world, with all their thousands of fossils, but never see any fossil that is truly a link between two different kinds. Some evolutionists must have faith to believe that they existed in the past, and go on hoping that they will turn up.

However, if God created different kinds of living things in the beginning, we wouldn’t expect to find any “missing links.” The Bible tells us that God created by speaking. He said, “Let the earth be filled with animals. And let each produce its kind” (Genesis 1:24, 25). We also read that God created human beings separately from the animals (Genesis 1:26), so we wouldn’t expect to find fossils of “ape-men” — and we don’t.

The fossils are a story of death, which came into the world because of sin, and sin separates us from God. But Jesus, God’s Son, came to earth to bring us back to God. The Bible says: “There is only one God. And there is only one way that people can reach God. That way is through Jesus Christ... Jesus gave himself for us, dying on the cross. Jesus took the punishment for our sin. Because Jesus died and rose again, if we are sorry for our sin, and turn to Him in faith, we receive forgiveness and eternal life as a free gift from God. Jesus is the only “missing link” we need!”


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### PUZZLE CORNER ANSWERS

1. TIE 2. EAGLE 3. BIBLE 4. CHARM 5. EMBRACE 6. SNAKE "WORSE" (right) were called “thunder-stones”, because some people thought they were created by lightning, and often wore them as charms, believing this would protect them from a lightning strike!

The Bible verse: “BIBLE VERSE (right) were called ‘thunder-stones’, because some people thought they were created by lightning, and often wore them as charms, believing this would protect them from a lightning strike!”

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### WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

A NTS are fascinating insects that live in communities, where they work as a team. All ants build some kind of nest, often from soil, but the most amazing are the weavers which build nests from leaves. A weaver ant colony begins when a queen lays some eggs on a leaf. When the larvae hatch, they feed them until they grow into workers. Then they build a nest and help the queen rear more larvae, building more nests as they are needed.

The way weaver ants build their nests is truly wonderful. They form a chain to pull the living leaves together, then saw them together by using their young larvae like a needle and thread. The workers squeeze the larvae, and they produce a sticky silk thread which is strong enough to hold the nest together.

It seems impossible to believe that the weavers’ method of nest-building could have come about by thousands or millions of years of evolution, or that the larvae gradually evolved a way to produce sticky silk thread, and that the workers then gradually learned how to use them to saw the leaves together. The ants couldn’t afford to practice nest-making — they had to get it right from the very beginning!

Weaver ants work by instinct — they don’t think about what they do. The whole community works as a team, following a plan which was “programmed” into them by God, when He created them.

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