Sea slugs live in the oceans all around the world. Unlike the slugs which eat the plants in our gardens, many sea slugs are very colourful. There are some sea slugs called nudibranchs (right), which have a very strange diet — they eat sea anemones, including their poisonous stingers, which normally burst and kill anything which attacks them. Although scientists don’t know how, these sea slugs swallow the sea anemones’ stingers without bursting them.

This is quite amazing, but even more amazing is what happens to the stingers when they reach the sea slug’s stomach. There are tiny tubes, lined with moving hairs, leading from its stomach to the tips of those waving spurs on its back. The stolen stingers move through those tubes to the spurs, where they are stored to be used as a defence against its own enemies. If a fish should come along and attack the sea slug, it will fire one of those stolen stingers at it!

Evolution simply can’t explain how the sea slug is able to do this, because it couldn’t have happened gradually. If, at some time in the past, a sea slug happened to attack a sea anemone, and swallow its stingers without bursting them, they would have exploded inside it! It needed to have those special tubes leading from its stomach the very first time it swallowed the stingers. It also had to be able to shoot them out when it needed to. So all this clever equipment must have been there right from the beginning.

Charles Darwin believed that all life on earth evolved gradually, and said that if any complex organ existed which could not have evolved by small, gradual steps his theory would be destroyed. The sea slug is surely an excellent example of this. Only creation by God can explain how it came to be!

**EVOLUTION WAS NOT GOD’S WAY!**

Charles Darwin was right to say that living things had not stayed exactly the same since they were created. However, he was wrong to claim that one kind could change into another, and that all life on earth evolved from the same “simple” beginning, with fish evolving legs and walking on the land, different kinds have been separate since they first appeared.

Darwin’s theory is not only unscientific; it does not agree with what God has told us in the Bible. We read that God created different kinds of animals, and that when He had finished, “God looked at everything he had made, and it was very good.” (Genesis 1:31), if evolution were true it would mean that animals had been attacking and killing each other for millions of years before God created animals. Awful, like that could never be called “very good”, so we can be sure there was no killing, no disease and no pain.

**What the Bible says about creation**

In Darwin’s time, most people believed that nothing had changed since creation, but Darwin saw lots of evidence for change, so he believed the Bible was wrong. However Darwin (and most people) misunderstood the creation story. The Bible says that God created different kinds or families (see box, far right), but made them so that there could be lots of variation within each kind. So in the dog family we now have over 300 different dogs, plus wolves, foxes and jackals — all from the “dog kind” created by God in the beginning.

In the “rabbit kind” there are many different varieties of rabbits and hares, some, which live in the arctic, have developed white coats as camouflage (below), but they still belong to the same kind. Darwin wrongly believed that these small changes meant that, over thousands or millions of years, one kind could evolve into another. However, he never found any evidence for this, and no one has ever seen that kind of change. We can still believe what God has told us in the Bible!
EVOLUTION?

Charles Darwin took careful notes of everything he saw during his 5 years as naturalist on HMS Beagle. He was especially fascinated by the wildlife of the Galapagos Islands (circled on map). He found that tortoises varied slightly from one island to the next. He could not believe that God had created them separately, so he thought they were all related, and had descended from the same ancestor. He saw the same differences in the plants and birds on the islands.

When he returned from his trip, Darwin began to compare all his notes, and decided that the idea that nothing had changed since creation was wrong. He suggested that if small changes can happen in a short time, then over thousands or millions of years, one kind of animal could evolve into something quite different. This is where Darwin made his big mistake — the Galapagos tortoises were still tortoises, and they always will be. When God created the different kinds of animals and plants, He made it possible for them to evolve in quite different ways. However, this does not mean that tortoises have evolved from some other kind of animal, or that they will ever be anything other than tortoises!

Above: the route taken by Darwin. He called this trip “the most important event in my life.” Although he discovered that plants and animals could change, his idea that all life evolved from the same beginning was completely wrong.

GALAPAGOS TORTOISES: On the Galapagos Islands local people could tell which island a tortoise came from just by looking at it. This made Darwin realise that all tortoises must be related. However, this does not mean that tortoises have evolved from some other kind of animal, or that they will ever be anything other than tortoises!

EVOLUTION and variation are not the same

For centuries farmers and animal breeders have produced new varieties that are useful to them, or which they find attractive. We call it artificial selection. One example is the cattle kind. Some have been bred to produce lots of milk, others to produce beef, and some, like water buffalo, to pull ploughs. Darwin thought that if humans could make such small changes in a short time, then nature could make big changes over a long period of time. But there is a difference between people choosing which animals to breed for their own benefit, and the way nature selects those which are better able to survive. It is also important to remember that, in all these changes, nothing will ever change into a different kind. So Darwin was mistaken.

MISSING LINKS

Charles Darwin had a problem with fossils. He realised that if all living things evolved from the same beginning there should be fossils of “links” between different kinds. So he was very excited when the fossil of a creature called archaeopteryx (below) was discovered in Germany in 1861. It had feathers, but also teeth and wing claws, like reptiles, so he thought it was the “missing link” between reptiles and birds. However, we now know that archaeopteryx was not half reptile-half bird, but a true bird, and not even the oldest bird. We also know that some ancient birds had teeth and some reptiles didn’t. Some modern birds, such as ostriches, have claws on their wings, too, so archaeopteryx was just a bird with teeth and wing claws. The “missing links” are still a problem for people who believe in evolution.

Galapagos Islands, which can grow up to 10 metres (32 ft) tall.

Field daisies

Most people think of daisies as small flowers, but daisies come in lots of different sizes and colours (right). Sunflowers belong to the daisy ‘kind’ or family, as well as the tiny daisies and dandelions that grow in gardens and fields. Plant breeders have produced many beautiful varieties of daisies, including asters and dahlias.

On the Galapagos Islands Charles Darwin saw members of the daisy family called Scalesia, which were like trees. He suggested that all members of the daisy family must be related to each other, and had the same ancestor — and he was probably quite right. However, he was wrong to say that all the different kinds of plants had evolved from the same beginning. Although there is a lot of variety within each kind of plant, they can never change into a different kind. Daisies — large or small — will always be daisies!

Darwin’s home, Down House in Kent, where he wrote his famous book

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CREATED “KINDS” QUIZ

Match the animals on the left to the right “kind” or family below.

The horse kind
The big cat kind
The camel kind
The bear kind
The duck kind
The deer kind
The dog kind

(answers on next page)