WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

Caddisflies

CADDISFLIES are moth-like insects which live in fresh-water streams, ponds and lakes around the world. There are around 12,000 different species of this insect. The females lay their eggs, which hatch in water. Some species spin silk nets, which they fix to underwater plants. These nets catch small creatures and plant material as they are carried along by the stream, providing food for the larvae.

The larvae spend some months underwater, with some species taking more than a year before they spin a cocoon around themselves. Most species build a hard tube-shaped case and seal themselves inside it, before spinning their cocoon. These cases are often decorated with bits of rock, sand or twigs. After a while, the pupae break out of the tube, using special jaws, and swim to the surface, where they throw off their old skin, spread their wings, and fly away. Caddisflies don't "learn" to make nets or to make cases — they do it by instinct. This means that they must have been created to do it. They couldn't gradually evolve these skills, but had to get it right the first time. Fossils of caddisflies have been found, but they show they haven't changed. So there is no evidence that they evolved from anything else.

SPECIAL BECAUSE WE ARE SPECIAL!

Scientists who don't believe in God as Creator hate the idea that anything is special. They don't want to believe the earth is special because this would suggest that it was designed. So they would rather believe that there are lots of other planets like the earth around the universe — even though they have never found any evidence for them. And they don't want to believe that human beings are special, either, but prefer the idea that we have evolved by accident over millions of years.

However, God’s book, the Bible, tells us that our planet is special because God created it to be our home. "He made heaven and earth. Heaven belongs to the Lord. But he gave the earth to people.© (Psalm 115: 15-16). We are special because, unlike all the other living creatures, we are created in God’s Image. (Genesis 1: 27). Human being alone can worship Him as their Creator-God, and know Him as their heavenly Father, through faith in Jesus, God’s Son.

We know that earth is more important than any other planet because Jesus left heaven to come here. “God loved the world so much that He gave his only Son.” (John 3: 16). By dying on the cross, Jesus took the punishment for our sin, and by rising from the dead made a way for us to live with Him for ever. Although earth has been spoiled by people’s sin, Jesus will come again some day and make everything new. Earth is special because we are special! Do you know Jesus as your Saviour and Friend?

Jumbled Words Answers

6. Sun
5. Earth
4. Mars
3. Venus
2. Uranus
1. Neptune

Includes graphics from Clipart.com and Planet Images AC. Copyright from The Holy Bible, New Century Version, Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Our Planet is so Special, or Did God Design it as a Home for us?

If your family bought a new house, you would know that it had been designed for your comfort. Unless you live in a hot country, it would most likely have central heating, double glazing, loft insulation, and hot and cold running water. It might also have air conditioning — all designed for your benefit. So it is with our planet earth. Scientists sometimes say it is “finely tuned.”

The earth’s atmosphere protects us from being bombarded by meteors by burning most of them up before they reach the ground. The surface of Mercury (above), which has hardly any atmosphere, is covered with craters.

The earth is 8,000 miles in diameter, and this seems about right. If it were 800 miles larger the weight of our atmosphere would double, producing much more water, and the whole earth would probably be flooded. But if the earth were 800 miles smaller, most of the atmosphere would escape into space. Without this warm blanket, the earth would become frozen, and too cold for life.

Our World is published 3 times a year by the Creation Reasons Trust (Reg. Charity No. 1076968). Editing and design by Geoff Chapman. Unless otherwise stated, articles are written by the editor. There are no subscription charges, but donations towards costs are appreciated. For more information about this, and other resources, please contact CRT at 170 Nor 32b, Abingdon 5052 TDC +44 7 1759 9236 9236. Email info@ct2.org.uk. Web site: www.ct2.org.uk © 2013 CRT
A seed is an amazing little packet of information which contains the instructions to make a plant similar to the one it came from. When I sow seeds I am always thrilled to see the way they germinate and eventually produce vegetables or flowers. Seeds are produced when the flowers on a plant die, and come in many shapes and sizes. The largest is the seed of the Double Coconut Palm, which weighs 23 kg (50 lb). Seeds will often germinate many years after the plant they came from died. In Israel there is a Jucdean Date Palm (right) which grew from a 2,000-year-old seed!

The Space Station was only launched after scientists had spent many years in careful planning. The fact that people can live on it for long periods shows how well designed it is. Surely planet earth, with its perfectly designed life-support systems, could never have come into existence by accident? Like the Space Station, it was designed to support life.

In 2008 Peggy Whitson (above), the first female commander of the International Space Station, “walked” in space for over 7 hours. She had to wear a space suit and take an air supply with her to stay alive. Deep-sea divers (below) also have to take an air supply with them. Human beings were designed to live on earth, not in space or under the water!

In 2008 a special Storage Vault was built deep inside a frozen mountain on the Arctic island of Spitsbergen, 1,300 kilometres (800 miles) from the North Pole. It was designed to store seeds from all over the world so that they can be kept safe for future generations. There are now more than 400,000 different seed samples in the vault! The Bible tells us that God created plants to produce seeds to make more of their own kind (Genesis 1: 11-12). There are many varieties within each kind, and this seed storage vault will help to preserve them so that people of the future can enjoy them.

—Geoff Chapman

The Spitsbergen Seed Vault

Photos from NASA