

# **EVOLUTION:**

**Fact or Fiction?**



**Seeing a Museum  
Through Creationist Eyes**

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Cover photo: from display at the Creation Museum, Kentucky, USA.

***Rev 1.2***

## ***Introduction***

In museums around the world you will be amazed at the wonderful kinds of life that you can see. Museums display beautiful butterflies and ugly beetles, awesome dinosaurs and man-eating lions. The amount of scientific data found in museums is truly amazing.

However, museums also *interpret* scientific data. They assume a *materialist* worldview which says all things can be explained by evolution. It says that our Earth formed about 4.5 billion years ago and all life originated and descended from random, natural processes without the help of any god. Most museums claim this interpretation is proven.

The Bible provides an alternative worldview that contrasts with materialism. In the *creationist* worldview, God exists and is active in the world. We will follow a straightforward reading of the Bible that states that God created the universe very recently (less than ten thousand years ago) in six days. Evil, disease and death entered the world when the first pair of people, Adam and Eve, deliberately disobeyed God. The worldwide Flood of Noah explains the world's geological formations as well as or better than evolutionary views do. Mankind was divided into races at Babel where God confused the languages of the families and caused them to spread across the surface of the Earth.

Notice that the scientific data is the same in a creationist worldview as in a materialist worldview. The only difference is the way the data is *interpreted*. The way the data is interpreted is determined by the *assumptions* the scientists and museum display artists make.

This booklet will help you see some of the problems in the evolution story. It is written to be helpful as a stand-alone booklet to give an overview of the problems of the evolutionary theory and how it can be answered with a Biblical worldview. It is also written with the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago in mind. The section titles of the booklet that are in quotes relate directly to

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displays in the Field's "Evolving Planet" permanent exhibit. Reading the booklet as you walk through the exhibit will help you understand the displays from a Bible-based worldview.

### ***Things to look for in a museum***

As you walk through a museum, read the display descriptions carefully. Keep track of how many times you see the following:

*Story*: a statement with no justification.

*Smog*: a statement with uncertain words like "might have" or "could have."

*Substance*: a statement with data that is said to clearly support the statement.

Also, look for evidence of violent turbulence in the fossils. This kind of data is what you would expect from Noah's worldwide Flood.

Now, suppose you enter the Field Museum's "Evolving Planet" exhibit. Let's look at the displays in the order they occur in the exhibit.

### ***"Evolution is one of science's best supported theories"***

In the entry to the "Evolving Planet" exhibit at the Field Museum is a plaque that states: "All available evidence, which includes fossils, comparative anatomy, and DNA, supports the theory of evolution as the scientific explanation for the rich diversity of life on Earth." This is an assumption that is common to other evolution exhibits and books. We will examine data and assertions commonly used to see if this assumption is true. We will also interpret data in a way that is consistent with a creationist worldview.

## ***“Life Evolves”***

The display goes on to assert, “Everything on Earth that has ever lived is connected through, and the result of, evolution. It’s a process that’s been happening since the first tiny life forms appeared some four billion years ago.”

How much uncertainty does this statement express? Would you call it a story (no evidence), smog (uncertain words like “could have” or “might have”) or a statement with substance (provides solid evidence)?

Science has never proven that life can appear from nonliving things; this is assumed since no one was present at the beginning of life to observe it. From a Biblical perspective, God created all the various kinds of life. We’ll see more on this later.

## ***Scientific logic***

Before we proceed, we should differentiate between "physically testable" (empirical) and "non-physically testable" (historical) forms of "science."

*Empirical* science involves study of the physical world and its phenomena that are observable and can be repeatedly tested. This includes, for example, the study of gravity. *Historical* science involves the study of events that happened in the past, e.g., evolution and creation. Since neither evolution nor creation is observable or repeatable, both assume hypotheses (e.g., evolution is true) and make predictions (e.g., there should be similarity between arms/wings/fins if evolution is true). If the predictions are verified, the hypotheses tend to be supported. But note carefully, it is impossible to prove a hypothesis by verifying predictions.

For example, if someone were to say, “If it rained last night, the grass will be wet. The grass is wet. Therefore, it rained last night.” This is a logical fallacy since the lawn sprinklers could have been on. Saying the prediction proves the assumption is a logical fallacy, the fallacy of “affirming the consequence.”

Actually, both evolution and creation use the same logical form – assume the truth of the assumption, make predictions and test the predictions. If many pre-

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dictions are proven true, the assumption tends to be believed. However, neither evolution nor creation can be proven in a scientific, logical sense.

### ***“Welcome to Earth four billion years ago”***

Evolutionists make three major assumptions. We’ll introduce the first here and the other two later. All are from *Evolution and Creationism: A Guide for Museum Docents<sup>1</sup> of the Museum of the Earth*, in Ithaca, NY. <sup>i</sup>

Evolution Assumption #1: The universe, the solar system and the Earth are very old.

Scientists rely on radiometric dating to prove old ages. How reliable are these dating techniques?

Let’s look at carbon-14 dating. (For more detailed information see the referenced material in endnote on *Carbon 14* dating by Carl Wieland.<sup>ii</sup>)

Carbon-14 is absorbed by all living bodies; after an organism dies the carbon-14 decays to nitrogen-14. It can be shown that after about one hundred thousand years there should be no Carbon 14 remaining in the organism.<sup>iii</sup>

The book *Thousands . . . not Billions<sup>iv</sup>* documents studies of ten coal samples which would originally contain Carbon 14 since coal is made from once living plants. The coal samples were from locations conventionally dated at (depending on location) 34 million to 311 million years old. Because of the assumed very old age of the coal, there should be no Carbon 14 in the samples. However, significant amounts of Carbon 14 were found in all ten samples. So, since Carbon 14 is found in coal, it is impossible for the coal to be more than about 100,000 years old. This contradicts the old age assumption of the evolutionists.

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<sup>1</sup> A docent is a lecturer or tour guide in a museum.

In addition, radiometric dating techniques claim to be able to determine the age of certain rocks. Only rocks once in a hot, molten condition, such as granite or volcanic rocks, are candidates for radiometric dating.

Scientists claim that radiometric dating gives accurate dating results. But dating rocks of known age shows that this is not true.



**Figure 1 Lava dome  
in Mt. St. Helens crater**

For example, the lava dome at Mount St. Helens in Washington State was created between 1980 and 1986. Yet, Steve Austin, PhD in geology, notes that samples from the dome dated using the potassium-argon method give ages of up to 2.8 million years.<sup>v</sup> Clearly, the age estimates are much too old. Dr Aus-

tin's article also gives results of radiometric dating of recent Hualalai basalt (Hawaii, laid down in AD 1800-1801); the lava was said to be laid down 1.4 billion to 1.6 billion years ago. This again illustrates the inaccuracy of radiometric dating: it does not give real dates.

Since the Carbon 14 and other radiometric dating methods give unreliable results, the statement that the Earth is old is a materialist worldview assumption, not a scientific statement.

It seems more reasonable to use the dating of the Bible whose events were observed and recorded by people. Using the chronologies in the Bible, one arrives at an age of the Earth of less than ten thousand years.

***“Did organic compounds come from . . . Earth [or] . . . extraterrestrial sources?”***

This display describes two possibilities which are commonly given by evolutionists for the origin of the first components of life: (1) from hydrothermal vents in the ocean (where hot water escapes into the ocean) and (2) from space. Both options tend to be described in ways that show they are both speculations (“might have,” “may have” and “may well have”). Would you call this a story (no evidence), smog (uncertain words like “could have” or “might have”) or a statement with substance (provides solid evidence)?

Note that this display suggests there are only two possibilities for the origin of the components of life. The third possibility is that God created not only the components of life, but also life itself.

For discussion’s sake, let’s assume organic compounds did arise on their own from a hydrothermal vent or from space. There remains the huge problem of assembling these compounds into proteins and organizing them into cells. Putting organic compounds together randomly to produce life is like randomly combining alphabet soup letters to produce a Bible.

Even some evolutionists know that generating life from nonlife is impossible. Francis Crick, Nobel Prize co-winner for the discovery of the structure of DNA, computes the probability of randomly combining amino acids to produce a single protein as one chance in  $10^{260}$ .<sup>vi</sup>

This is a big number that we cannot get our minds around. Let’s look at it this way. There have been less than  $10^{17}$  seconds (1 followed by 17 zeroes) since the Earth formed supposedly 4.5 billion years ago. If nature were to randomly try all combinations of amino acids to produce one small protein of 200 amino acids, it would need to attempt  $10^{260}$  divided by  $10^{17} = 10^{243}$  (1 followed by 243 zeroes) combinations *every second* for 4.5 billion years!

Consequently, Crick says, "It is very clear that evolution simply cannot happen, no matter how long one is prepared to wait. Evolution is statistically



impossible."<sup>vii</sup> Instead, Crick proposes panspermia, the arrival of actual life (not life components) on Earth from space! Scientists look for evidence of life in space, but panspermia remains only an unprovable speculation.

### ***Additional assumptions***

Before discussing the origin of life, let's look at the second assumption made by evolutionists (also from the docent guide referenced earlier<sup>viii</sup>):

Evolution Assumption #2: continuity of present and past processes.

This assumption means that the present is the key to the past. Everything happened in the past just like it does today. (In particular, it excludes the possibility of creation and Noah's worldwide Flood.)

However, today we do not see non-living substances becoming living; this contradicts the evolutionists' second assumption. What we do see is described by the law of biogenesis – life comes from life.<sup>ix</sup> Biogenesis is what the Bible in Genesis 1 suggests when it says animals and plants will reproduce “after their kinds”.

The third assumption made by evolutionists is:

Evolution Assumption #3: physical law is the same at all times and everywhere in space.

This assumption suggests that evolution is as scientific as the empirical sciences. But, consistent with the law of biogenesis (living cells come from only living cells), biochemistry has shown that life cannot be created from nonliving materials in a test tube. The assumption that life comes from nonliving chemicals is not supported by biochemistry.

Because of these three assumptions, evolutionists believe they can extrapolate the present into the past. They study the present and use it to draw conclusions about the past. They call this process *extrapolation* and say it is the same as what

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is used in other sciences. For example, the Museum of the Earth's docent guide explains this process:

A fundamental tool of all science is **extrapolation**. For example, if we drop a ball, we can measure how fast it falls. We can then use this result to apply to other falling objects. . . . the essence of science is to make an observation or experiment, and then use the results to predict what we will see in another instance [emphasis theirs].<sup>1</sup>

Darwin used this technique when he observed the varieties of finches in the Galapagos Islands. He assumed (perhaps correctly) that an original finch pair migrated from the mainland to the islands and then diversified into the varieties of finches there today. From this he **extrapolated** backward in time and concluded that all finches (and all other life) came from an original single-celled animal.

The difficulty with this extrapolation is that although today we see adaptation of species to different environments, we do not see, for example, fish turning into four-footed animals (tetrapods). This extrapolation is not valid.

### ***“First Life was Single-Celled”***

The Field Museum gives this explanation for how the first cell evolved: “There is much we don't understand about how these living cells first formed from organic compounds. But we do know that life had begun.” This explanation simply assumes evolution is true. Would you call this a story (no evidence), smog (uncertain words like “could have” or “might have”) or a statement with substance (provides solid evidence)?

When Darwin proposed the theory of evolution, scientists thought the cell was very simple, containing little more than protoplasm, a cell wall and a nucleus. We now know that the cell is very complex, consisting of factories, energy plants, waste disposal plants, transportation systems, etc.

In addition, we noted earlier that the chance for a single protein to form from random combinations of amino acids is only one in  $10^{260}$ . To form the simplest

cell, it has been estimated that 60,000 proteins shaped in 100 different ways would be needed. The odds of this happening are about one in  $10^{4,400,000}$ , or one in 1 followed by 4,400,000 zeroes!<sup>x</sup> This is clearly mathematically impossible.

### ***“How do we know there was life on Earth 3.5 billion years ago?”***

Scientists say we know there was life on Earth 3.5 billion years ago because of fossil evidence in rocks which are that old. However, we saw earlier that radiometric dating cannot be trusted. A Biblical worldview would say that the fossils were deposited about 4,400 years ago during Noah’s Flood. The waters of the Flood sorted the life, depositing smaller organisms in lower layers and larger ones in higher layers, as we see in floods and streams today. Also, some forms of life were more mobile and agile than others, so were able to escape being buried early in the Flood. Since they would have been destroyed later in the Flood, they would appear in higher sedimentary layers.

### ***“Oxygen from photosynthesis transformed the Earth”***

Evolutionists know that amino acids, the building blocks of proteins, cannot form in the presence of oxygen, so they assume the early Earth had no oxygen in the air. Over time, evolutionists speculate, forms of life not dependent on oxygen (like bacteria) became established. Using photosynthesis, these forms gave off oxygen into the atmosphere. Over time enough oxygen accumulated so that oxygen-dependent forms of life-like animals could evolve.

Evolutionists point to layers of iron rust deep in the earth as evidence that oxygen was created by bacteria. They suppose that by photosynthesis the bacteria gave off oxygen which combined with iron to form rust. Rust settled and formed the layers we see in the rocks.

However, Earth scientists have shown that there is no period in the history of Earth when there was no free oxygen.<sup>xi</sup> The photosynthesis of oxygen is a story invented to support the assumption that there was no oxygen in the early Earth.

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In addition, the process of photosynthesis is a very complicated biochemical reaction. The display glosses over this complexity with a simple description and assertion that it occurred. The complexity of photosynthesis suggests an intelligent designer!

### ***“Cells joining forces formed a new type of life”***

Scientists assume that prokaryotes, single-celled animals with no nucleus (e.g., bacteria), evolved into eukaryotes, life consisting of cells with a nucleus. The process was supposed to have occurred when some prokaryote cells began to engulf others to form the first eukaryote cells. Is this a reasonable assumption? What is the proof that this happened? Consider what B. D. Dyer and R. A. Obar write:

In tracking the emergence of the eukaryotic cell one enters a kind of wonderland where scientific pursuit leads almost to fantasy. Cell and molecular biologists must construct cellular worlds in their own imaginations.<sup>xii</sup>

In other words, the evolution of prokaryotes into eukaryotes is seen only in the imagination of the evolutionists! In the creationist worldview, God created both prokaryotes and eukaryotes during creation week.

### ***“Evolution of Sex”***

Scientists note that the first organisms were asexual, that is, offspring had only one parent. This Field Museum display explains some of the advantages of having two parents, but it does not tell how sexuality evolved. Richard Dawkins says in *Climbing Mount Improbable*:

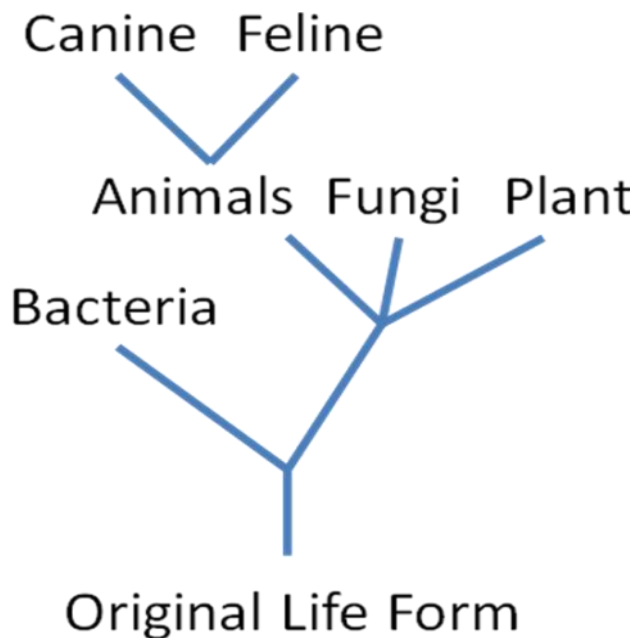
To say, as I have, that good genes can benefit from the existence of sex whereas bad genes can benefit from its absence is not the same thing as explaining why sex is there at all. There are many theories of why sex exists, and none of them is knock-down convincing.<sup>»xiii</sup>

The Bible states that in the beginning God created male and female and told the creatures to have offspring after their own kind. This explanation is consistent with what we see in the real world.

### ***“Why is GENETIC VARIATION important?”***

Scientists state that variations in the genes of organisms lead to natural selection. They then assert that natural selection is proof for evolution. Since each generation may be different in some small way from previous generations, the display claims that “Over time, these small changes can add up to bigger changes. **This is evolution.**” (Emphasis theirs.)

Many people are surprised to know that creationists believe in natural selection. The creationist view of natural selection sounds very much like the

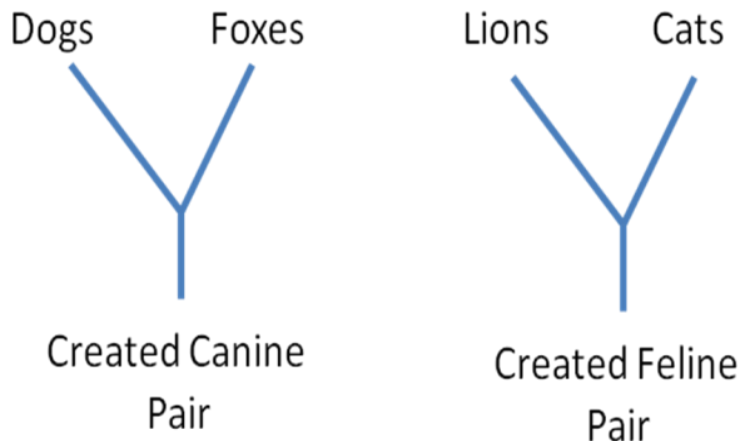


evolutionist view but with a key difference: Evolutionists believe natural selection (with genetic mutations) caused all life to develop from a single common ancestor. This is seen in the evolutionary tree diagrams showing all life originating from one original life form (see Figure 2). (Note canines are animals like dogs and foxes; felines are animals like cats and lions.)

**Figure 2 Evolutionary tree of life**

Creation scientists believe that God created a variety of “kinds” of life. For example, God created both canines and felines. Through natural selection, the descendents of the original canine kind diversified into species such as dogs, foxes, wolves, jackals, coyotes and so on. Similarly, the descendents of the original feline kind diversified into species such as lions,

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**Figure 3 Creationist forest of life**

cheetahs, domestic cats and so on.<sup>xiv</sup> Each kind can be considered a tree of life and the collection of all kinds can be called the forest of life (see Figure 3). What we see is variations within created kinds, not descent from an original life form.

Creationists study these ancestral relationships in a science called *baraminology*, the study of the created kinds.

### ***“The first animals were like nothing ever before on Earth”***

Scientists assert that about 600 million years ago many individual cells with separate functions began working together as single organisms. The Field Museum says, “Earth’s first animals had evolved.” But Niles Eldridge says (*Darwin’s Enigma: Fossils and other Problems*):

“There is still a tremendous problem with the sudden diversification of multi-cellular life. There is no question about that. That’s a real phenomenon.”<sup>xv</sup>

Where is the evidence that single-celled creatures combined to form these organisms? Consider what Walter Brown says (*In the Beginning*) about multi-celled life:

Many single-celled forms of life exist, but no known forms of animal life have 2, 3, 4, or 5 cells. The forms of life with 6-20 cells are parasites, so they must live inside a complex animal to obtain such functions as di-

gestion and respiration. If macroevolution happened, one should find many forms of life with 2-20 cells as transitional forms between one-celled and many-celled organisms.<sup>xvi</sup>

The creationist worldview understands that God created both single-celled and multi-celled animals using the appropriate number of cells for each form of life.

### ***“Welcome to the world of water”***

Except possibly for some microscopic fossils and an exception we’ll discuss below, there are no fossils of life from prior to the Cambrian period (said to be 543 million years ago until 490 million years ago). But, scientists say there was an “explosion” of life that happened during the Cambrian and Ordovician periods (supposedly 543 million years ago to 443 million years ago). This Field display asserts that in “less than 30 million years . . . nearly all the major animal groups living today first appeared.”

The display says the fossil record goes from no fossils in the pre-Cambrian period to fossils of “nearly all the major animal groups living today.” Yet, there are no transitional fossils. If evolution were true, there should be literally billions of transitional fossils, but there are none. Since we believe God created various kinds of animals, there is no need for transitional fossils. The lack of transitional fossils is what a creationist would expect

The primary example of pre-Cambrian fossils is the Ediacaran “explosion” seen only in southern Australia. The Ediacaran period is immediately before the Cambrian. Shaun Doyle of Creation Ministry International notes:

The Ediacaran biota is a group of fossils of multi-cellular organisms that are found directly below the Cambrian (‘dated’ 542-488 Ma), and they consist of a wide range of morphologies [body forms]. However, both their origin and relationship to Cambrian animals is a complete mystery to evolutionists. . . . All these assemblages display an incredibly wide array of morphology, and there is no trace of them in the fossil record above the Ediacaran period.<sup>xvii</sup>



**Figure 4 Trilobite**

among the first animals with eyes.... Some eyes are so well preserved that scientists can study the individual lenses.” There is no fossil record of any near

ancestor from which the trilobite eye could have evolved.



**Figure 5 “Recent” and “old” trilobites.**

Fossil #1 evolved from single-celled animals in 30 million years, then remained virtually unchanged (a condition called *stasis*) for the next approximately 250 million years! Then, the trilobites all became extinct.

Sudden appearance, stasis and extinction are a problem for the evolutionists. The worldwide Flood explanation suggests the trilobites were “simply another grouping of organisms that were overwhelmed and fossilized by the Flood.”<sup>xviii</sup>

In other words, there are no fossil ancestors to or descendants from those fossils found in the Ediacaran period.

Evolutionists claim that life evolved from simple to complex, but the earliest forms of life are complex. For example, the trilobite has two compound eyes (see Figure 4). The Field display says, “Trilobites were

Evolution cannot explain how forms of life can suddenly come into existence, remain unchanged, and then become extinct. For example, consider Figure 5. The fossil on the right is said to have lived between 543 and 490 million years ago in the Cambrian period. But, the fossil on the left, which looks very similar to #1, is said to date from the Permian period between 290 and 248 million years ago. Evolutionists want us to believe that



Why do evolutionists continue to believe evolution? See what Richard Dawkins, an evolutionary biologist and popular science author, says:

[All evolutionists] despise so-called scientific creationists equally, and [all] agree that the major gaps are real, that they are true imperfections in the fossil record. The only alternative explanation of the sudden appearance of so many complex animal types in the Cambrian era is divine creation and (we) both reject this alternative."<sup>xix</sup>

Dawkins, speaking for all kinds of evolutionists, says the reason evolutionists continue to believe evolution is that they reject the only alternative, which is divine creation!

### ***“Hard skeletons have solid benefits”***

This exhibit describes a number of benefits of skeletons, benefits accepted by evolutionists and creationists. For example, the Field Museum says that exoskeletons (e.g., those of trilobites) can provide protection from predators and a framework for attaching muscles. However, simply citing benefits of skeletons does not prove that evolution actually occurred.

It is as reasonable to assume that the designer God created some animals with skeletons designed to meet various needs.

### ***“Here’s a step-by-step guide to becoming a fossil”***

The “Evolving Planet” has a video that says the steps to form a fossil are:

1. An animal must die.
2. It must survive scavengers.
3. It needs to be buried fast (in a river, lake or ocean).
4. It must soak in ground water a long time.

However, if you examine many fish fossils, you will notice that almost all have dorsal fins (the ones on the top) that are erect. This indicates that the fish

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were alive when they were buried, since only living muscles can hold the fins upright. In addition, almost all clams open when they die, but many fossil clams are found closed [Figure 6]. This indicates that the clams were alive when they were buried. This contradicts the assumption that an animal must die first before it can be fossilized.



**Figure 6: Fossil clam**

Creationists describe fossil formation as:

1. An animal is buried quickly – it may be dead or alive. This protects it from scavengers.
2. It must be buried deeply – to protect it from oxygen which can decompose the remains.
3. It must soak in ground water so minerals can fossilize the bones. This process need not take a long time.

Noah’s Flood explains how the fish and clams were buried alive, deeply and quickly. It provides a logical explanation for how fish and other life fossilized.

### ***“Mass Extinction #1”***

Numerous mass extinctions have been identified by scientists. The Field Museum identifies six mass extinctions. Creationists believe there was only one, and that it occurred during the Flood of Noah. At the time of Noah all people and land-dwelling animals were killed except for those on the Ark.

The Field Museum gives various reasons for the different extinctions, including climate change due to volcanoes and meteor impacts. These extinctions are said to have each destroyed up to 90 percent of Earth’s life. In each case, evolutionists believe sufficient life remained to repopulate the Earth with more advanced life forms.

Emil Silvestru, a PhD geologist, researcher, speaker and writer, says in *Creation* magazine:

There is need for a clear distinction at this point. Unlike evolutionary geologists, creationists do not need sophisticated scenarios to explain [catastrophes], or any other extinction. The Flood can wrap the whole nine extinctions in one 400-day event.<sup>xx</sup>

### ***“The Greening of the Earth”***

This Field Museum display says “It took around 50 million years, but from the first tiny vascular plants near the water’s edge arose a remarkable diversity of plant life.”



**Figure 8 Orchid**



**Figure 7 Frog in duckweed**

What evidence is there for plant evolution? Consider what E.J.H. Corner, professor of botany at Cambridge University, has to say in

*Evolution in Contemporary Biological Thought*: “Much evidence can be advanced in favour of the theory of evolution from biology, biogeography and paleontology, but I still think that to the unprejudiced, the fossil record of plants is in favour of special creation. Can you imagine how an orchid, a duckweed, and a palm have come from the same ancestry, and have we any evidence for this assumption? The evolutionist must be prepared with an answer, but I think that most would break down before an inquisition.”<sup>xxi</sup>

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Professor Corner is concerned that if forced to give evidence for plant evolution, evolutionists would not be able to do so.

### ***“Limbs were made for walking”***

This Field Museum display asserts that:

Over time, some . . . fishes may have begun using their muscular, lobed fins to “walk” in shallow, swampy waters, pushing their way through dense plant growth. From one type . . . evolved the first “tetrapods” vertebrates with four paired limbs and digits (fingers and toes).

Tetrapods took their first steps around 370 million years ago. Eventually they would move from shallow waters to land. **Today, tetrapods include reptiles, birds, and mammals, like you** [emphasis theirs].

What proof is given that limbs and digits evolved? The first paragraph says these fish “may have begun” using their fins as limbs. From this assumption the display boldly moves to the absolute conclusion that all tetrapods have evolved from fish. Would you call this a story (no evidence), smog (uncertain words like “could have” or “might have”) or a statement with substance (provides solid evidence)?

The display talks about the evolution of limbs. But an equally difficult problem involves the change from gills to lungs. The display does not describe how this change might have occurred.

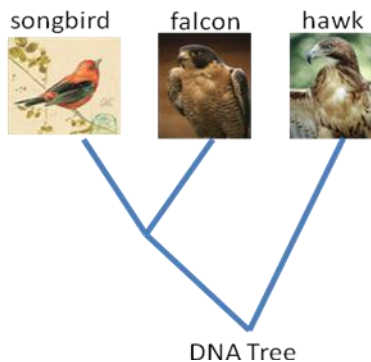
### ***“How do we know where mammals came from?”***

The Field Museum has an extensive collection of reptile and synapsid (mammal-like) fossils from which the mammals are said to have evolved. In the mammal area there is a video that says scientists learn where mammals came from by studying *phylogeny*, the evolutionary history of organisms. A nearby display states:

“By looking at features organisms share, scientists can tell how closely related the organisms are. Knowing these relationships, we can trace evolutionary history – phylogeny – and figure out where mammals came from.



**Figure 9 Tree of life based on appearances**



**Figure 10 Tree of life based on DNA**

“The tree that shows relationships is called a cladogram.”

Interestingly enough, the DNA researchers at the Field Museum determine their own tree of life by looking at similarity of the DNA. The DNA trees are very different from the cladograms.

For example, a cladogram would show hawks and falcons as having common ancestors and as being more distantly related to parrots and songbirds. However, DNA studies

show that falcons are closely related to parrots and songbirds and distantly related to hawks. The two approaches give conflicting results!

One evening I was talking with two Field Museum scientists who study cladograms. I asked them which I should believe – the cladograms or the DNA trees. They laughed and one of them said that at this time I should not believe either of them. They simply don’t know the relationships between organisms.

Evolutionists assume similar features or

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similar DNA implies common ancestors. As creationists we would say that similarity suggests a common designer.

### ***“Dinos of a feather”***

Evolutionists believe dinosaurs evolved into birds. The Field Museum has a dinosaurs-to-birds display that shows the two possible explanations of how this



**Figure 11 Bird evolution by jumping from a tree**

could have happened. In the first explanation, dinosaurs began leaping from trees and gliding to catch their prey. Those who had the right features survived their falls and passed those features on to their descendants. Eventually, the right inherited changes caused dinosaurs to become birds.

become birds..

What proof is given that dinosaurs learned to fly by one of these two methods? The story assumes that by jumping, dinosaurs grew feathers from scales and wings from legs. In addition, what we are not told is that the respiratory systems of birds are completely different from their supposed ancestors.

The second explanation is that dinosaurs ran along the ground and jumped into the air, flapping their forelimbs to catch flying prey. Again, over time, these dinosaurs are said to



**Figure 12 Bird evolution by jumping from the ground.**

Dinosaurs probably had a trachea and lungs as do humans. They would breathe in and out (two cycles) like humans do. However, air in a bird flows through the trachea to rear air sacks, then into the lungs, then into front air sacks

and then out the trachea (a four-cycle system). The two-stage breathing of the dinosaur would have to be replaced by a four-stage breathing system for the dinosaur to become a bird<sup>xxii</sup>. How did this happen by dinosaurs jumping out of trees or leaping from the ground?

Some evolutionists, evidently aware of this problem, state that dinosaurs may have had bird-like respiratory systems.<sup>xxiii</sup> This assumption only moves the problem to how the bird-like dinosaur respiratory system evolved from the mammal-like reptile respiratory system by the reptile's crawling? Creationists believe God created dinosaurs and birds with their unique features for crawling, walking, flying and breathing.

### ***“Archaeopteryx”***

The Archaeopteryx is shown as an evolutionary link between dinosaurs and birds since it seems to have had some characteristics of both. Does this prove the



**Figure 13** Artist representation of Archaeopteryx



**Figure 14** Duckbilled Platypus

dinosaurs-to-birds hypothesis? We have creatures today which have characteristics of multiple kinds of animals. For example, the duckbilled platypus is a mammal that lays eggs. It is venomous like a snake, has a bill like a duck, a tail like a beaver and feet like an otter. Is the platypus a transitional species between snakes, ducks, beavers and otters? Of course not!

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A docent (lecturer or tour guide) at the Field Museum told me that the Archaeopteryx is a transitional species because it shares common characteristics with dinos and birds. When I pointed out the multiple features of the platypus to him, he said that maybe the Archaeopteryx is not a transitional species after all!

Alan Feduccia (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, quoted in *Refuting Evolution*) says:

Paleontologists have tried to turn Archaeopteryx into an Earth-bound, feathered dinosaur. But it's not. It is a bird, a perching bird.<sup>xxiv</sup>

### ***“Coevolution”***

The Field Museum has a video that discusses how flowering plants diversified quickly. It observes that flowers are dependent on bees for pollination and bees depend on flowers for food. This type of relationship is called co-dependence: a situation that occurs when two kinds of life are dependent on each other.

The video assumes that co-dependence forces rapid changes. It says that changes in one co-dependent species quickly induce changes in the other, thus causing evolution to occur more rapidly.

But evolution does not explain how co-dependence began in the first place. The relationship is better explained as the work of a Creative Designer. Once the Designer has done his job, the flowers and bees can adapt to changing environments together as the Designer intended.

### ***“Take an underwater journey through the Mesozoic Era”***

The west end of the Field Museum's dinosaur hall has a wall of aquatic creatures' fossils that are said to have lived during the Mesozoic Era. The display states that in many cases life from that era still exists today in much the same form. The Mesozoic Era is said to span from 251 million to 65 million years ago. Evolution suggests that in the last 65 million years and more, man and other mammals evolved but that these Mesozoic forms of life remained essentially un-



changed. Creationists suggest that God created all these life forms recently. Which explanation do you think is more likely?

### ***“Horse History: from little to leggy”***

This display depicts the evolution of the horse proceeding from a dog-sized, four-toed “dawn horse” or Eohippus (50 million years ago) through a series of progressively larger horses with fewer toes to today’s one-toed horse. This sequence is commonly shown in school textbooks, as well.

But biologist Heribert-Nilsson says (quoted in *The Non-Evolution of the Horse*): “The family tree of the horse is beautiful and continuous only in the textbooks.” In other words, the evolution of the horse is not actually seen in the real world! And the famous paleontologist Niles Eldredge calls the pictures of horse evolution found in textbooks “lamentable”.<sup>xxv</sup>

### ***“The Human Story Begins”***

The Field Museum states that humans are part of an animal group called hominids. It states that the hominids include other species that at one time inhabited the earth, species like the Neanderthals. The display admits that “There are gaps in the fossil record, and many fossils are fragmentary.”

There is very little evidence for human evolution. Note that the fragmentary fossil evidence can be interpreted from a creationist perspective as well as from an evolutionary one. During the Flood, people would have been more mobile than other species, climbing to higher ground or hanging onto floating debris. Since people were generally able to avoid being buried, they would not have fossilized. Hence, the human fossils are sparse and fragmentary .

### ***“Meet Lucy, one of the earliest hominids”***

Scientists have searched for fossils of creatures which look like they are partly human and partly ape. Some such creatures are called australopithecines. Lucy is supposed to be an australopithecine who lived 3.2 million years ago. She has



been shown on TV, in museums and in magazines as proof that people and apes descended from a common ancestor.

As you can see in Figure 15, few head or hand bones were found for Lucy, but the Field’s model of her hand is very human-like while her face is very ape-like (Figure 16). How much science is reflected in the reconstruction? What do you think the Field wants you to think about Lucy?

Lucy’s own head and missing hand bones do not give a strong indication of whether Lucy is human-like or ape-like. But other specimens of this spe-

**Figure 15 Lucy’s fossil**

cies have been found with long, curved fingers<sup>xxvi</sup>, typical of tree-dwelling apes, unlike the Lucy reconstructions usually seen in museums. The rest of the skeleton appears ape-like. For example, the jaw



**Figure 16 Reconstruction Of Lucy’s hand and head**

bone “was very ape-like, and certainly nothing like that of a human.”<sup>xxvii</sup> The human-like hand and ape-like head are reconstructions not based on the fossil but the evolutionists preconceptions to fit an evolutionary agenda. In addition, while Lucy is usually described as walking erect, as do humans, the TV program *NOVA* documented that her pelvis was altered by a scientist to appear more “correctly” human.<sup>xxviii</sup>

### ***“First hominids out of Africa”***

An early human-like (hominid) fossil is called the Turkana Boy is presented as an early form of humans. However, scientists have shown him to be fully human; for example, his brain capacity, height and weight are comparable to humans today. A. W. Mehlert of the Creation Research Society says in *Homo Erectus to Modern Man*:<sup>xxix</sup>

The growing creationist (and evolutionist) view is gathering strength - that *H. erectus* and all *H. sapiens* forms should be considered not as separate species but as a single human species encompassing a range of genetic and phenotypic diversity. In the creationist view there was no evolution from the apes, nor was there any phylogenetic ‘ascent’ from an inferior type of human to a more advanced type.

In other words, all examples like Turkana Boy are completely human, not transitional species.

This conclusion should not be a surprise. People around the world today look different from each other, so fossils of people from around the world should look different, too!

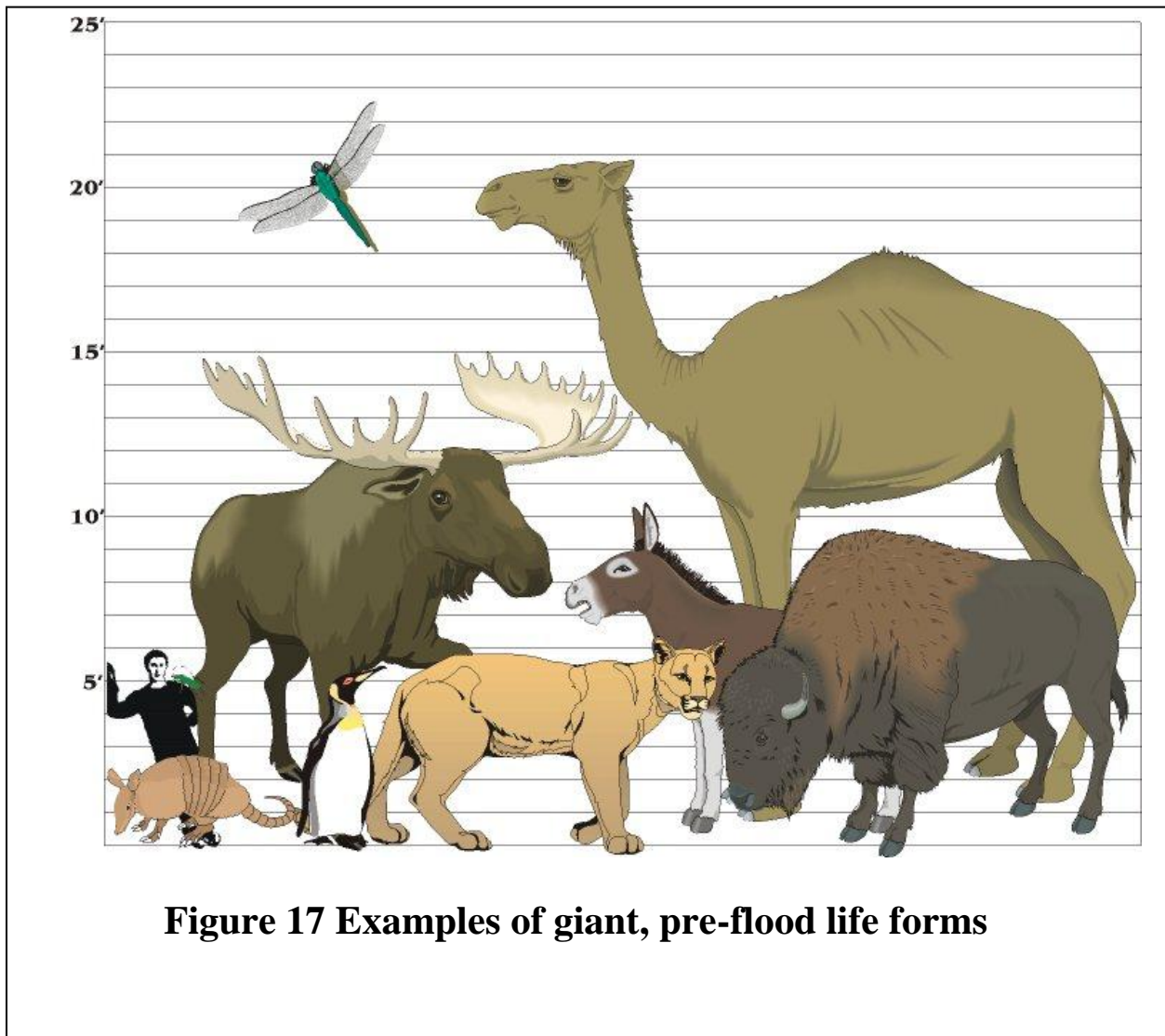
### ***Giant Ground Sloth***

In pre-Flood times some animals, insects and plants grew very large by today’s standards. The Field Museum has an example of gigantism: a ground sloth that stands approximately twelve feet tall.

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A similar ground sloth, the megatheriid ground sloth, was more than five tons in weight, six meters in length, and able to reach as high as seventeen feet. It was taller than an African Bush Elephant bull.<sup>xxx</sup>

Ian Juby, geologist of Creation Science Museum of Canada, provides further illustrations of relative sizes of some pre-Flood creatures:<sup>xxxi</sup>: Juby's drawings give an idea of how much life has changed since the Flood completely changed



**Figure 17 Examples of giant, pre-flood life forms**

the Earth's environment. Evolution typically shows life changing from smaller to larger; what we actually find is that some pre-Flood life was much larger than what we see today.

## ***The bottom line***

Theodore Roszak is a professor emeritus of history at California State University (East Bay) and a social thinker, writer and critic. He states in *Unfinished Animal*:<sup>xxxii</sup>

"The irony is devastating. The main purpose of Darwinism was to drive every last trace of an incredible God from biology. But the theory replaces God with an even more incredible deity--omnipotent chance."

Do you want to believe in the evolutionary god of "omnipotent chance" or the designer God of the Bible?

## ***Going forward***

How will you look at evolutionary statements in the future? Albert Einstein once said, "A theory informs you of what you are permitted to see."<sup>xxxiii</sup> The theory of evolution tells you that you can only see the world from its viewpoint. Yet, the theory clearly makes bold, non-provable statements. Its assumption that God did not create the world is false.

We need to listen critically to what we are told. When told why you should believe in evolution, ask if the reasons are story (no evidence), smog (uncertain words like "could have" or "might have") or a statement with substance (provides solid evidence).

We need to know the Bible and understand the world in terms of the Bible, not vice versa. When there seems to be a conflict between the Bible and science, we can be confident that if we wait long enough, science will eventually confirm the Bible.

## ***Here's the good news***

The purpose of this booklet is to show you that the Bible is historically accurate and can be trusted to tell the real origin and history of the world and mankind.

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Part of this real history is the bad news that the rebellion of the first man, Adam, against God's command brought death, suffering and separation from God into this world. We see the results all around us. All of Adams descendants are sinful from conception (Psalm 51:5) and have themselves entered into this rebellion (sin). They therefore cannot live with a holy God, but are condemned to separation from God. The Bible says that "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23) and that all are therefore subject to everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord (2 Thessalonians 1:9)

But the good news is that God has done something about it. "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:15).

Jesus Christ, the Creator, though totally sinless, suffered, on behalf of mankind, the penalty of mankind's sin, which is death and separation from God. He did this to satisfy the righteous demands of the holiness and justice of God, His Father. Jesus was the perfect sacrifice; He died on a cross, but on the third day, He rose up from the dead, conquering death, so that all who truly believe in Him, repent of their sin and trust in Him (rather than their own merit), are able to come back to God and live for eternity with their Creator.

Therefore: "He who believes on Him is not condemned, but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:18).

What a wonderful Savior – and what a wonderful salvation in Christ our Creator!

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### ***Spiritual help***

Billy Graham Evangelistic Association:

[www.billygraham.org/SpiritualHelp\\_Index.asp](http://www.billygraham.org/SpiritualHelp_Index.asp).

### ***Technical help***

#### ***Web sites:***

Answersingenesis.org – popular and technical

Creation.com – more technical

icr.org – more technical

#### ***Magazines***

*Answers* –popular, and some technical articles, [www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org)

*Creation* –somewhat technical articles, [www.creation.com](http://www.creation.com)

#### ***Books***

Ken Ham, *Answers Book 1 & 2*

Jonathan Sarfati: *Refuting Evolution* (response to National Academy of Science book on evolution)

Jonathan Sarfati: *Refuting Evolution 2* (response to PBS NOVA Evolution program)

Don DeYoung: *Thousands . . . Not billions* (report on radiometric dating)

Russ Humphreys: *Starlight and Time (how earth appears young and stars appear old)*