

The Physical & Biblical Evidence for Creation

VI. Fossils

Introduction

At first the discovery of many different kinds of fossils seemed to favor the theory of evolution. However, as more and more discoveries have been made, the fossil evidence points to the rapid appearance of life forms.



1. The word “fossil” comes from the Latin word *fossus* which literally means “_____.” They are the _____ remains of plants, insects, and animals.
2. Fossils are formed when an organism dies and is covered with _____. As the tissues and bones disintegrate, they are replaced by minerals that solidify.
3. The fossil record tells us that there have been a wide variety of organisms that have become _____.
4. Darwin’s theory predicted that scientists would find many _____ in the fossil record.
5. There are _____ transitional forms. All are debatable.

“Paleontologists have tried to turn *Archaeopteryx* into an earth-bound, feathered dinosaur. But it’s not. It is a bird, a perching bird. And no amount of ‘paleobabble’ is going to change that.” Alan Feduccia (World authority on birds), *Science*, “Archaeopteryx: Early Bird Catches a Can of Worms”, 1993

6. Whale Evolution: What about...?

Enormous lung capacity with efficient oxygen exchange for long dives
Powerful tail with large horizontal flukes
Eyes designed to see underwater and withstand high pressure
Ears designed to pick up airborne sound waves and eardrum to withstand high pressure
Skin lacking hair and sweat glands, but incorporate fatty blubber
Whale fins and tongues have counter-current heat exchangers to minimize heat loss
Nostrils on top of the head (blowholes)

Breastfeed under water
Sonar capacity

7. Evolution of the Horse...

- A. In 1879, an American fossil expert, O. C. Marsh, and famous evolutionist Thomas Huxley, collaborated for a public lecture which Huxley gave in New York. Marsh produced a schematic diagram which attempted to show the so-called development of the front and back feet, the legs, and the teeth of the various stages of the horse. He published his evolutionary diagram in the *American Journal of Science* in 1879, and it found its way into many other publications and textbooks. The scheme hasn't changed. It shows a beautiful gradational sequence in 'the evolution' of the horse, unbroken by any abrupt changes. This is what we see in school textbooks.
- B. If it were true, you would expect to find the earliest horse fossils in the lowest rock strata. But you don't. In fact, bones of the supposed 'earliest' horses have been found at or near the surface. Sometimes they are found right next to modern horse fossils! O. C. Marsh commented on **living** horses with multiple toes, and said there were cases in the American Southwest where 'both fore and hind feet may each have two extra digits fairly developed, and all of nearly equal size, thus corresponding to the feet of the extinct Protohippus'.¹ In *National Geographic* (January 1981, p. 74), there is a picture of the foot of a so-called early horse, *Pliohippus*, and one of the modern *Equus* that were found at the same volcanic site in Nebraska. The writer says: '*Dozens of hoofed species lived on the American plains.*' Doesn't this suggest two different species, rather than the evolutionary progression of one?
- C. There is no one site in the world where the evolutionary succession of the horse can be seen. Rather, the fossil fragments have been gathered from several continents on the assumption of evolutionary progress, and then used to support the assumption. This is circular reasoning, and does not qualify as objective science.
- D. The theory of horse evolution has very serious genetic problems to overcome. How do we explain the variations in the numbers of ribs and lumbar vertebrae within the imagined evolutionary progression? For example, the number of ribs in the supposedly 'intermediate' stages of the horse varies from 15 to 19 and then finally settles at 18. The number of lumbar vertebrae also allegedly swings from six to eight and then returns to six again.
- E. Finally, when evolutionists assume that the horse has grown progressively in size over millions of years, what they forget is that modern horses vary enormously in size. The largest horse today is the Clydesdale; the smallest is the Fallabella, which stands at 43 centimetres (17 inches) tall. Both are members of the same species, and neither has evolved from the other.

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