

Creation Evolution: The Fossil Record



Pastor Michael Walther, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Collinsville, Illinois 2008

1. The word “fossil” comes from the Latin word *fossus* which literally means “having been dug up.” They are the mineralized remains of plants, insects, and animals.

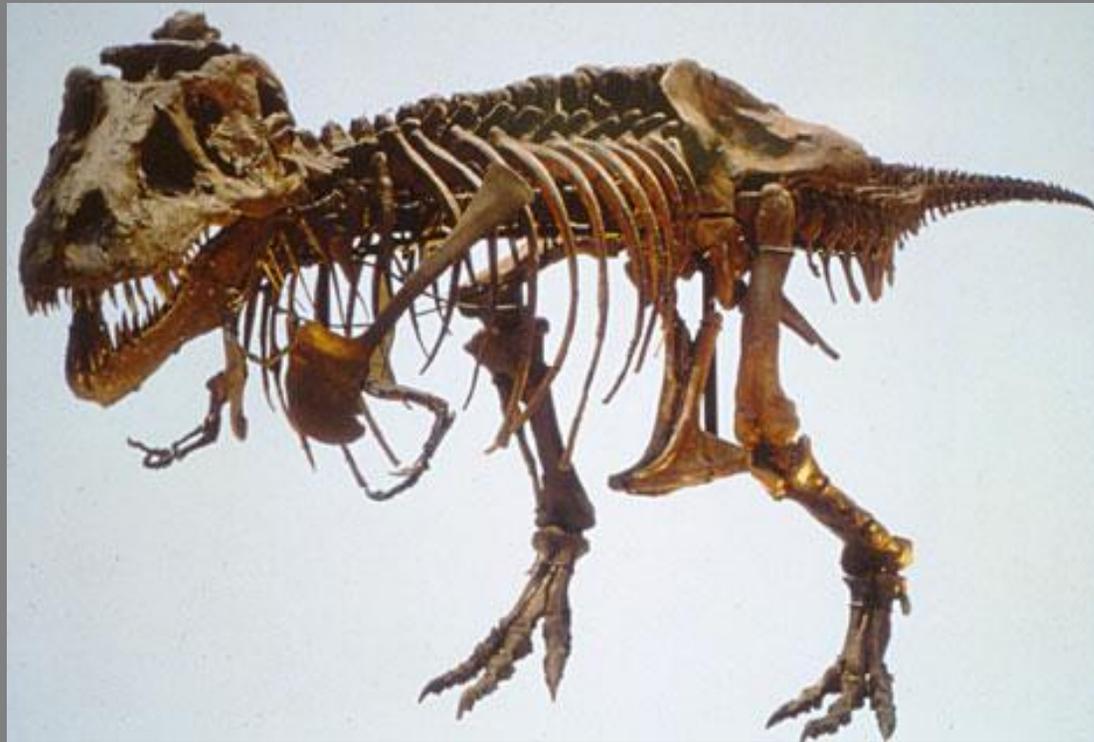


2. Fossils are formed when an organism dies and is covered with sediment. As the tissues and bones disintegrate, they are replaced by minerals that solidify.

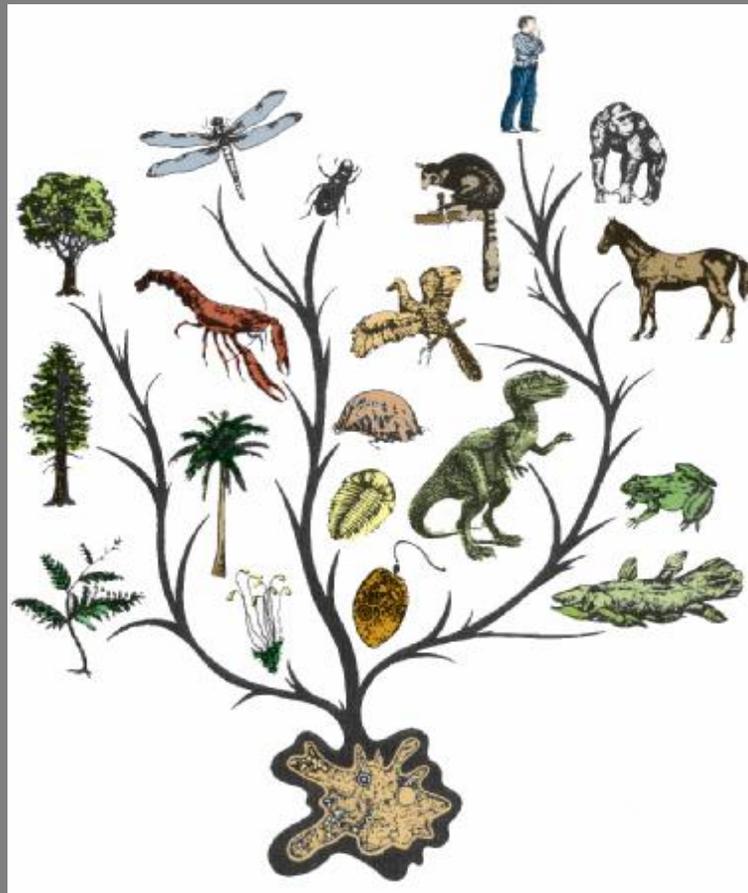


Fossil of a rainforest tree discovered in a coal mine near Danville, Illinois 2007

3. The fossil record tells us that there have been a wide variety of organisms that have become extinct.



4. Darwin's theory predicted that scientists would find many transitional forms in the fossil record.

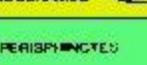
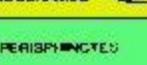
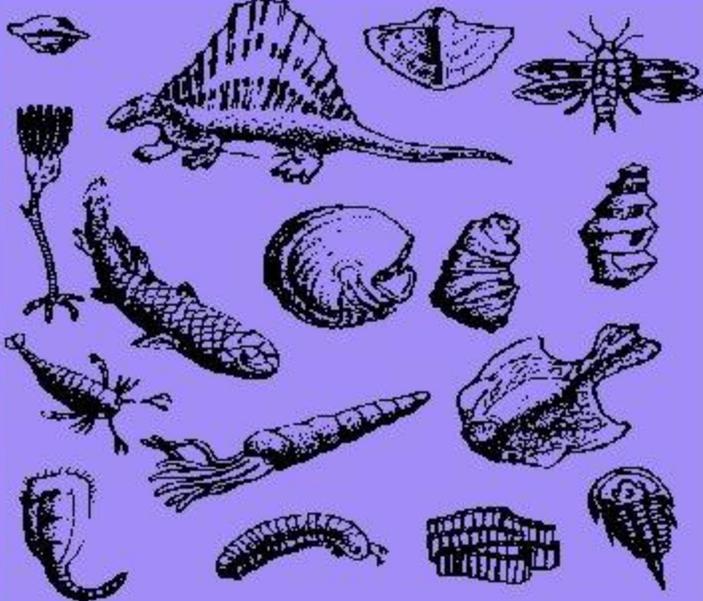
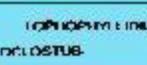
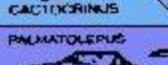
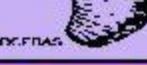
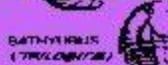
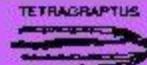


From: *Young Earth* by
John Morris

Cambrian Explosion



GEOLOGIC TIME SCALE

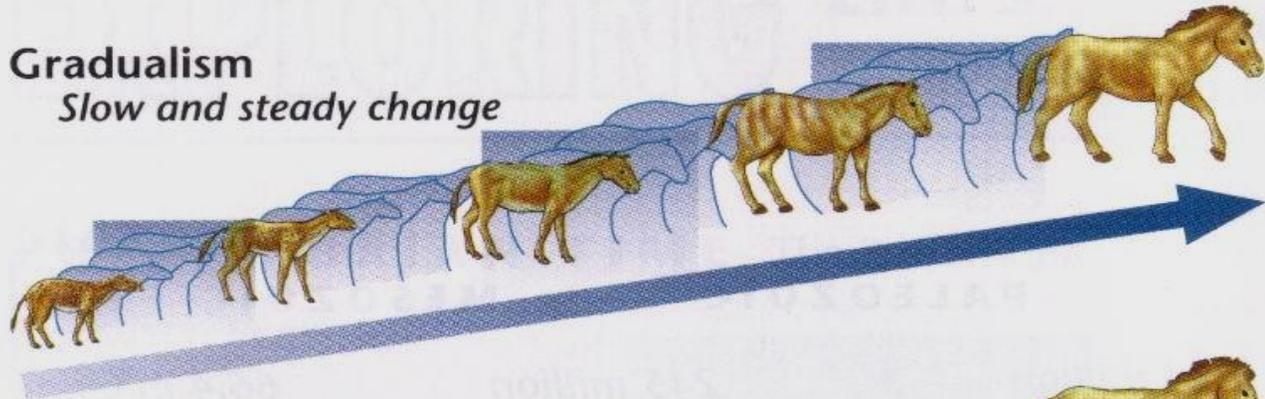
ERA	PERIOD	EPOCH	SUCCESION OF LIFE	INDEX FOSSILS
CENOZOIC <i>recent life</i>	QUATERNARY 0-1 Million Years Rise of Man	Recent Pleistocene		   
	TERTIARY 62 Million Years Rise of Mammals	Pliocene Miocene Oligocene Eocene Paleocene		      
MESOZOIC <i>middle life</i>	CRETACEOUS 72 Million Years Modern seed bearing plants. Dinosaurs		      	
	JURASSIC 46 Million Years First birds			
	TRIASSIC 49 Million Years Cycads, first dinosaurs			
PALEOZOIC <i>ancient life</i>	PERMIAN 50 Million Years First reptiles		               	
	PENNSYLVANIAN 30 Million Years First insects			
	MISSISSIPPIAN 35 Million Years Many crinoids			
	DEVONIAN 60 Million Years First seed plants, cartilage fish			
	SILURIAN 20 Million Years Earliest land animals			
	ORDOVICIAN 75 Million Years Early bony fish			
	CAMBRIAN 100 Million Years Invertebrate animals, Brachiopods, Trilobites			
	PRECAMBRIAN Very few fossils present (bacteria-algae-pollen?)			

Why is not every geological formation and every stratum full of such intermediate links? Geology assuredly does not reveal any such finely-graduated organic chain; and this is the most obvious and serious objection which can be urged against the theory. (Origin of Species, p. 413)

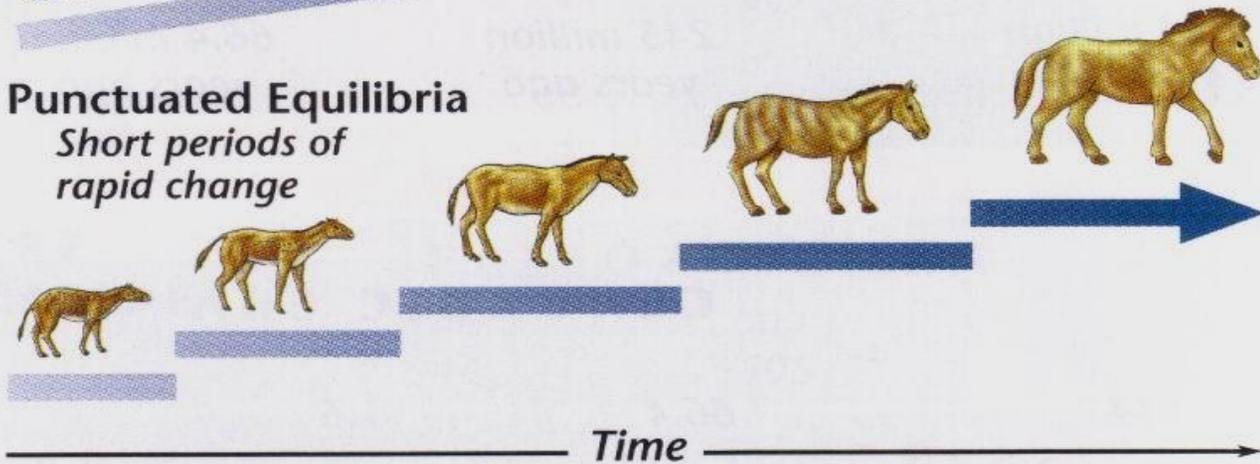
5. There are very few transitional forms.
All are debatable.



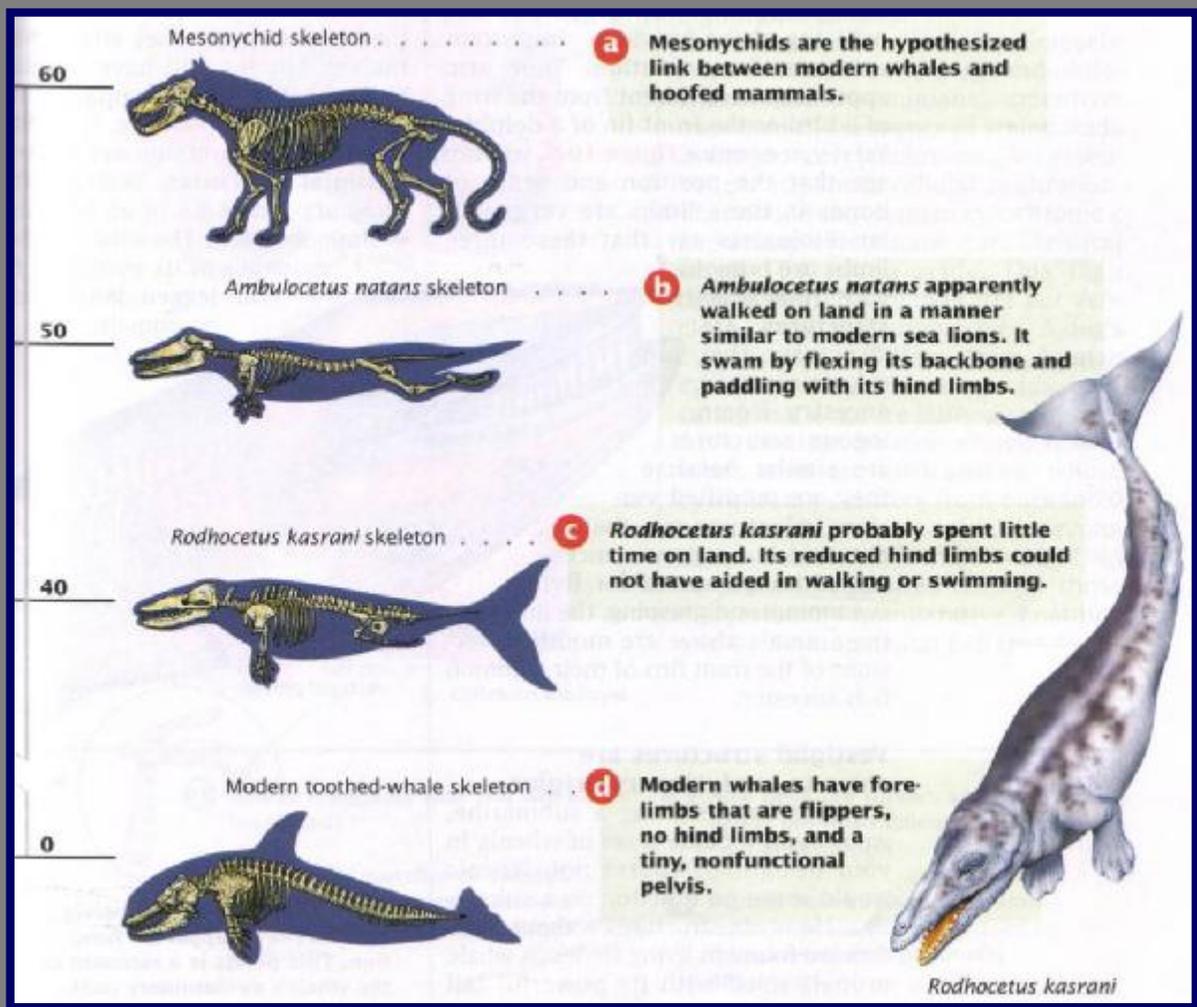
Gradualism
Slow and steady change



Punctuated Equilibria
Short periods of rapid change

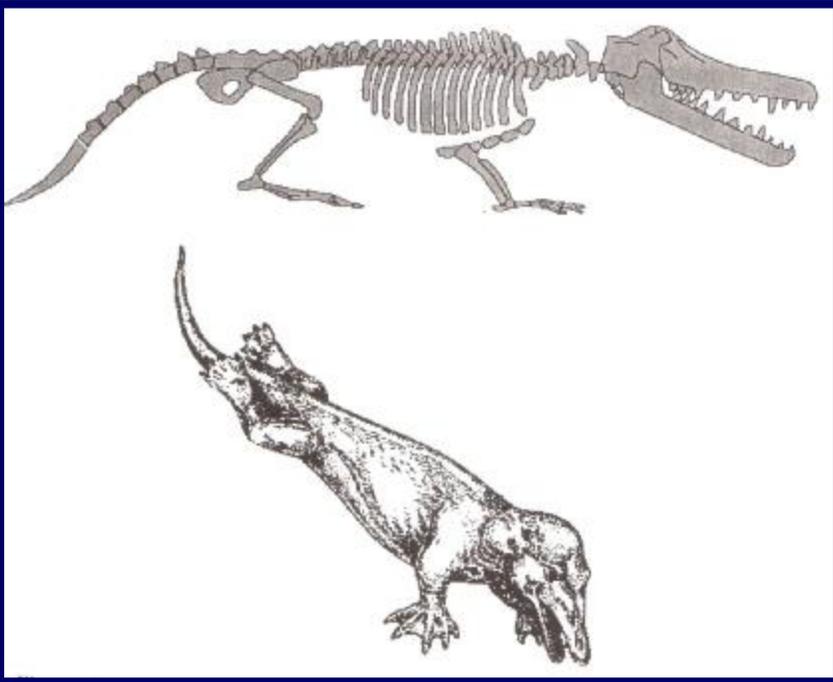


6. Example: Evolution of the whale



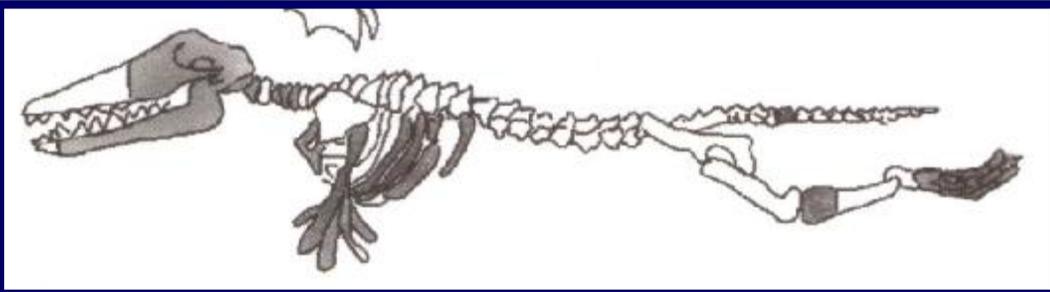
Stretching the Facts

Kenneth Miller, *Finding Darwin's God*, 1999, p. 265.



Ambulocetus skeleton, as drawn in Miller's book

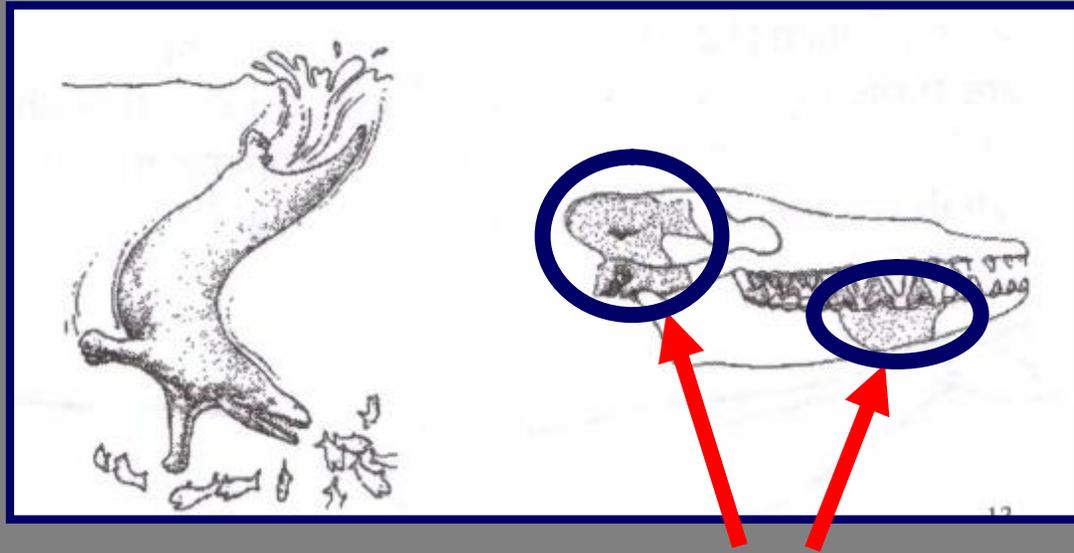
Ambulocetus reconstruction, as drawn in Miller's book



Actual bones found (shaded portion)

Stretching the Facts

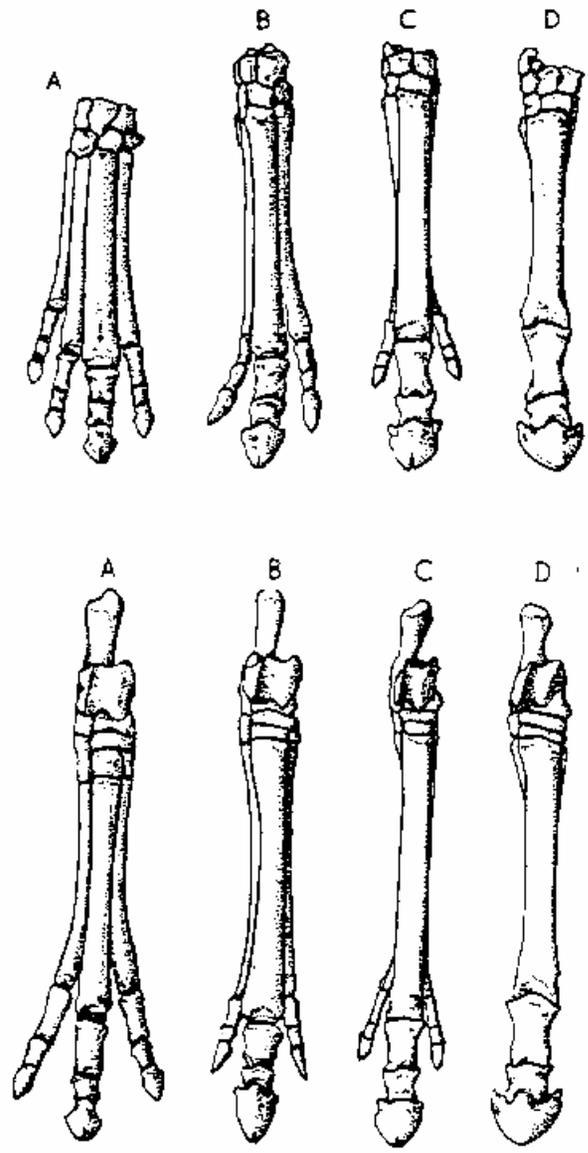
Pakicetus: another candidate for whale evolution



Artist
reconstruction

Only the shaded
portions of the skull
were found

7. Evolution of the Horse



**Dr Niles Eldredge, curator of the
American Museum of Natural
History, has said:**

'I admit that an awful lot of that [imaginary stories] has gotten into the textbooks as though it were true. For instance, the most famous example still on exhibit downstairs [in the American Museum] is the exhibit on horse evolution prepared perhaps 50 years ago. That has been presented as literal truth in textbook after textbook. Now I think that that is lamentable ... '.