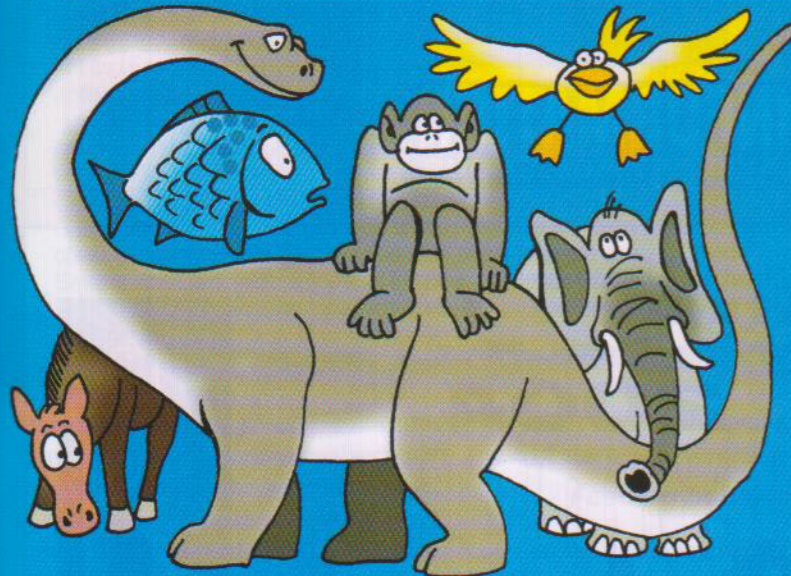


Helping children defend their faith!

ANSWERS FOR KIDS

WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE!



Evolutionists are people who believe that living things, over millions of years, evolved or changed from one kind of creature into another. These changes included making fins into feet, legs into wings and patches of skin changing into eyes. These changes are supposed to have turned a tiny creature, with only one cell, into all the kinds of life we have today. Evolutionists claim that fossils show that plants and animals of the past changed into very different ones of today.

Two fossils that evolutionists say are millions of years old are a mayfly and a *Polistes* wasp. *Polistes* wasps live today in southern Europe. But the living wasps are almost identical to the fossil one! There has been no great change! The mayfly fossil is also very much like mayflies

found today. No great changes are found here either! We can see that these animals have not changed much from when the fossil one lived to those living today. These are just two out of thousands of animals that are mostly unchanged from the way they look as fossils.

Evolutionists say the coelacanth fish lived 360 million years ago and is our ancestor or very like it! But coelacanths have been found living and really unchanged from the fossil ones. Looking at the living coelacanth we can see that it has only ever been a coelacanth and will only ever be a coelacanth.

LIVING



Evolutionists believe that creatures can change into more complicated kinds of creatures. Some evolutionists have even drawn pictures of what they believe the animals living today will change into in the future. They have imagined blood-sucking bees, giant rats and flying squid! In our history we have not seen any animal evolve into another kind of animal.

In the Bible, God tells us that He made each kind of living creature and that He said they were all 'very good'. He finished his creation and He is not making new types of animals today.

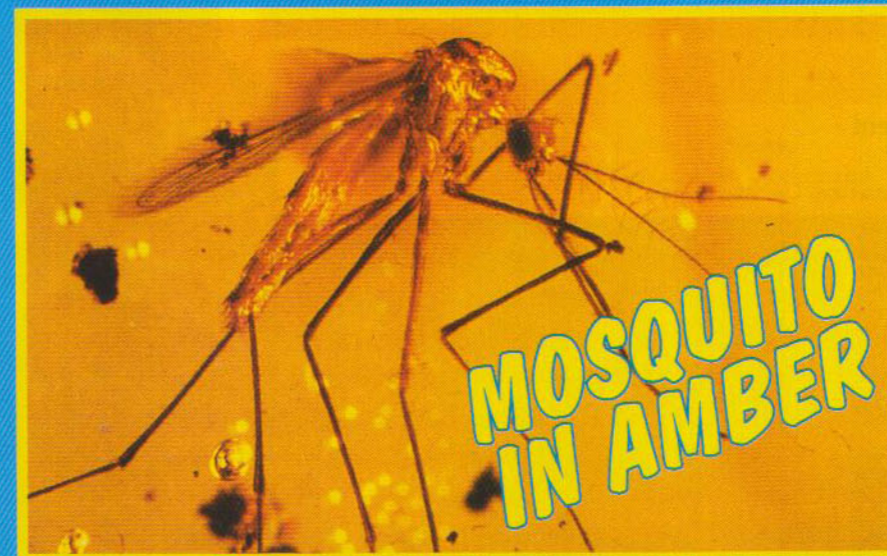
'So God created great sea monsters, all kinds of creatures that live in the water, and all kinds of flying creatures. And God saw that it was good. He blessed them all and told the creatures that live in the water to reproduce and to fill the sea, and he told the flying creatures to increase in number. Evening passed and morning came—that was the fifth day.

'Then God commanded, "Let the earth produce all kinds of animal life ...", and it was done. So God made them all, and God saw that it was good' (Genesis 1:22-25).

Fossils are the imprints or remains of animals or plants found in rocks. Just like your feet leave an imprint in the mud, so can an animal. If the imprint or remains are covered up by sand, for example, the imprint or remains can be protected, ready to be found years later.

Animals that have been caught in amber (hardened tree sap) have been kept from decaying. These animals have been preserved and are also a type of fossil.

When we compare living things with fossils, we do not see evidence for evolution. We see that God created different kinds of animals and plants, some of which have died out (become extinct).



Make your own fossil cast

Materials:

- Aluminium dish
- Potter's clay or plasticine
- An object to be the fossil
- Plaster of paris
- Water
- Paddle pop (popsicle) stick or pencil

Method:

1. Press some potter's clay or plasticine into an aluminium pie dish. Make sure the bottom is thick enough to press your 'fossil' into. Leave about 1 cm from the top of the clay to the top of the dish.
2. Choose your fossil. It should be the hard remains of something that once lived. A shell or bone make good fossils. Press your object into the clay or plasticine. Carefully remove the object and an impression should be left.
3. Mix some plaster of paris in a small container with a little water. The mixture can be changed by adding more plaster or more water. Stir it with a paddle pop (popsicle) stick or a pencil until it is thick and smooth.
4. Pour the plaster mix into your impression and fill to the top of the dish. Leave this to harden.
5. Press your finger gently onto the back of the plaster to test its hardness. When the plaster has hardened, carefully lift it out of the dish.

How old is the earth?

4.5 billion years? 10,000 years? 6,000 years? These figures (and others) have been tossed around as the 'real' age of the earth. So, since they can't all be true, how can we know how old the earth really is?

After all, none of us has been around since the beginning of time in order to know how long ago it was. So, we can only guess at what happened, and when—unless, of course, there was a record written down for us by someone who *was* there at the very beginning. Then we could study that record, and figure out how long ago 'the beginning' was.

Actually, we *do* have such a record (the 66 books of the Bible) which was given to us by someone who *was* there in the beginning—God. Now, the Bible doesn't say, 'God created the earth ... years ago.' But it does give us some clues. To figure out the age of the earth, you'll need your Bible, a sheet of paper and a pencil (and a little help from us).

First, make 3 columns on your paper, labelled 'Verse', 'Event' and 'Age of Earth (in years)'. We'll give you the first one:

Verse	Event	Age of Earth (in years)
Genesis 1:1-2:14a	Creation (in six days)	0

Genesis 5 gives a list of men. From this, fill in your paper, adding to the earth's age as you go:

Verse	Event	Age of Earth (in years)
Genesis 1:1-2:14a	Creation (in six days)	0
Genesis 5:3	Adam 130, Seth born	130
Genesis 5:6	Seth 105, Enos born	235 [=130 + 105]

Now do the same for the list beginning in Genesis 11:10 (hint: Noah was 502 when Shem was born).

Genesis 11:10 Noah 502, Shem born 1558

This list finishes with Abraham, but be a bit careful here:

Genesis 11:26, 32; 12:14 Terah 130 (=205-75; not 70), Abraham born 2008

The next event is when Abraham leaves his homeland, Haran, and journeys to Canaan:

Genesis 12:14 Abraham leaves Haran (age 75) 2083

Abraham's descendants (the Israelites) stayed in Canaan and Egypt until they were delivered from the Pharaoh by Moses:

Genesis 12:10 Israelites live in Egypt for 430 years 2513
Exodus 12:40
Galatians 3:17

The Israelites return to the Promised Land with Moses. They continued to live there, under the rule of Joshua, then the judges, then the kings. From the time they left Egypt until Solomon began to build the temple was 479 full years:

1 Kings 6:1 Solomon builds the Temple after reigning 3 full years 2992

King Solomon ruled for another 37 (40-3) years, and then the kingdom was divided between his sons:

1 Kings 11:42 Solomon dies 3029

The time from the kingdom's division to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians was 388 years:

Ezekiel 4:14-6 Ruled by Kings, Jerusalem destroyed 3417



This event is known to have occurred around 588 BC. Our current calendar assumes that Jesus was born in AD 1—2002 years ago (although He was probably born about 6 BC). Also, since the calendar system has no year zero, we can add the numbers to get the rough date of creation. That is, the age of the earth is: 2,002 + 588 + 3,417 = 6,007 (give or take a few years). Since the stars, our solar system, and all the other galaxies were created a few days after the earth, they're around 6,007 years old, too!

Since God always tells the truth, we can trust His account of history (in His Word) to give us an accurate idea of how old the earth (and universe!) is.