

Creation vs Evolution

Lesson 7: Fossils

1. Watch the video. Then fill in the blanks below with the help of the word bank.

WORD BANK

5 Bible bottom common design dinosaurs extinct fast forest imagine information
punctuated revised similar slowly tips transitional tree trilobites

The geologic column helps us understand the amazing variety of animals God created, many of which have now gone _____. Evolutionists would have us _____ that fossils represent plants and animals that descended from a bacteria-like _____ ancestor over millions of years.

Evolutionists sketch a _____ of life to illustrate how they believe living creatures evolved into the forms we have today. At the _____ of this tree is an imagined bacteria-like organism, while at the _____ of the branches of this tree are real living organisms (e.g. humans, horses, pine trees).

Most evolutionists once thought that living creatures changed _____ over millions of years. However, since there is no evidence of _____ life forms (“missing links”), some evolutionists now think that the change from one kind of creature to a new kind of creature happened very _____ and in only a few generations. Evolutionists call this imagined fast change from one kind to another “_____ equilibrium.”

The Bible paints a different picture about the origin of life. Rather than a single “tree of life,” the Bible describes a “_____ of life”—each tree in the forest representing a different kind of creature God made at the beginning. Some of these “trees” like the marine animals _____ have gone extinct, probably because of the flood.

Fossils provide very little _____ about the animal that died. For example, a dinosaur fossil can look like a bird, and bird fossils can look like dinosaurs.

Evolutionists assume that animals that share _____ designs must share a common ancestor. However, one could easily conclude that such commonality points to a common creator who used a common _____ in many creatures. The true history of how God created the universe is revealed in the _____.

Although evolutionists believe that all creatures today descended from a common ancestor, they cannot agree on how this descent unfolded. Since 2017 alone, there have been three different proposals for where _____ fit on the evolutionary tree. The human family tree is also frequently _____ by evolutionists who refuse to accept the Bible’s explanation for creation.

Tiktaalik: A Missing Link? (*left blank for notetaking*)

The Cambrian (and other) Explosion(s) (*left blank for notetaking*)

2. It can be daunting to witness to someone who rejects the Bible's account of creation. How will you ever convince them of the truth? Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-10a (printed below). Then underline the sections that give you encouragement for the task.

1 Corinthians 2:1-10a (The Message)

¹⁻² You'll remember, friends, that when I first came to you to let you in on God's sheer genius, I didn't try to impress you with polished speeches and the latest philosophy. I deliberately kept it plain and simple: first Jesus and who he is; then Jesus and what he did—Jesus crucified.

³⁻⁵ I was unsure of how to go about this, and felt totally inadequate—I was scared to death, if you want the truth of it—and so nothing I said could have impressed you or anyone else. But the Message came through anyway. God's Spirit and God's power did it, which made it clear that your life of faith is a response to God's power, not to some fancy mental or emotional footwork by me or anyone else.

⁶⁻¹⁰ We, of course, have plenty of wisdom to pass on to you once you get your feet on firm spiritual ground, but it's not popular wisdom, the fashionable wisdom of high-priced experts that will be out-of-date in a year or so. God's wisdom is something mysterious that goes deep into the interior of his purposes. You don't find it lying around on the surface. It's not the latest message, but more like the oldest—what God determined as the way to bring out his best in us, long before we ever arrived on the scene. The experts of our day haven't a clue about what this eternal plan is. If they had, they wouldn't have killed the Master of the God-designed life on a cross. That's why we have this Scripture text:

No one's ever seen or heard anything like this,
Never so much as imagined anything quite like it—
What God has arranged for those who love him.

But *you've* seen and heard it because God by his Spirit has brought it all out into the open before you.

For Further Study

“Evolution's Tree of Life.”

3 minutes to read; pages 28–29 of the winter 2016 LSI Journal at www.LutheranScience.org/2016winter.

“Punctuated Equilibrium.”

5 minutes to read; pages 28–30 of the spring 2018 LSI Journal at www.LutheranScience.org/2018spring.

“Tree of Life” through “Punctuated Equilibrium.”

7 minutes to read; pages 24–28 of the winter 2021 LSI Journal at www.LutheranScience.org/2021winter.

“Fossils in the Geologic Column—Problems for Evolution.”

21 minutes to read; pages 6, 17–32 in the spring 2018 LSI Journal at www.LutheranScience.org/2018spring.

“Fossils.”

11 minutes to read; pages 31–37 of the LSI Lesson Book –2nd ed.