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Discovery

Scripture & Science for Kids



LAVOIE

DINOSAURS

Small . . . and smaller

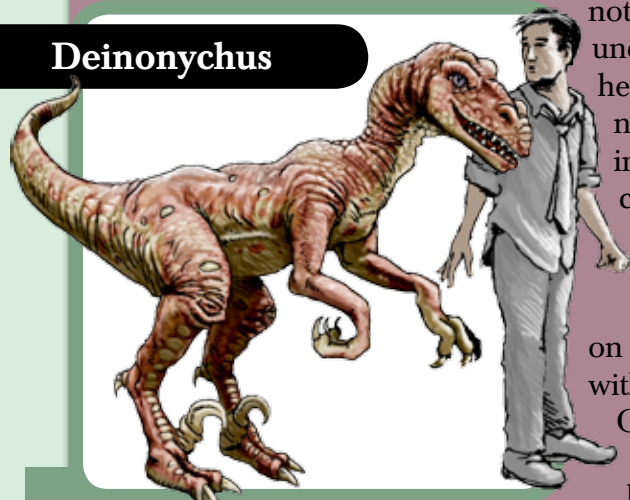
ERIC LYONS

Many people have the wrong idea that most dinosaurs were mega-ton monsters. Thirty-ton Apatosaurs or six-ton Tyrannosaurs are thought to be the norm to most people. The fact is, however, according to the fossil record, the average dinosaur actually was only about the size of a large cow, with many being even smaller.

The famed *Deinonychus* stood just a little taller than the average human. He had large, intimidating eyes, two slender, strong legs, a rigid tail, and powerful jaws filled with sharp, serrated teeth. Scientists have been most impressed with the intimidating claws of *Deinonychus*.

After taking a close look at this extinct reptile, it does not take long to understand why he was given a name meaning “terrible claw.” He had three fingers on each hand and four toes on each foot—all with sharp claws. One toe was short (scientists believe it probably never even touched the ground), while two toes were used for walking and running.

Deinonychus



NAME:	DEINONYCHUS
MEANING:	“TERRIBLE CLAW”
HEIGHT:	AVERAGE MAN

It was the other toe on each foot of *Deinonychus*, however, that makes this dinosaur stand out above all others. One toe on each foot was equipped with the “terrible claw”—a powerful five-inch long sickle-like claw that was most likely used to tear into or hold onto his food.

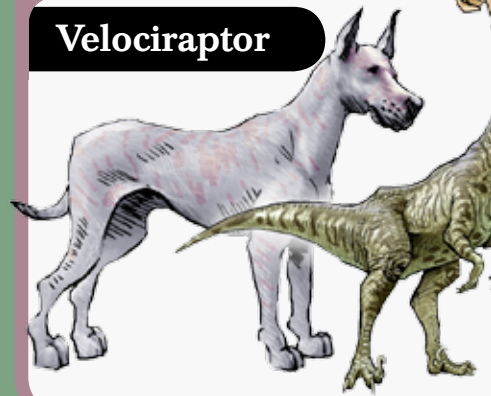
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After examining the fossils of *Velociraptor* (which have been found in the countries of Mongolia, Russia, and China), you will likely notice how much this extinct creature resembles the North American dinosaur named *Deinonychus*. Both dinosaurs had sharp teeth, thin, muscular legs, a stiff tail, and fierce claws. *Velociraptor* was, however, smaller than *Deinonychus*. It had a long snout that was low, flat, and narrow, which was very different from that of other dinosaurs, and its fierce claw was not quite as large as that of *Deinonychus*.

Although the producers of the movie *Jurassic Park* portrayed *Velociraptor* as being a fairly large dinosaur, scientists who have studied the fossilized remains of *Velociraptor* believe that he was no larger than a Great Dane dog—about four times smaller than the size this dinosaur was portrayed in *Jurassic Park*.

NAME:	VELOCIRAPTOR
MEANING:	“SPEEDY THIEF”
HEIGHT:	GREAT DANE

Velociraptor



Compsognathus



NAME:	COMPSOGNATHUS
MEANING:	“PRETTY JAW”
HEIGHT:	LARGE ROOSTER

Compsognathus was only about the size of a large rooster. This little guy weighed just 6 pounds and grew to be only 3 feet long from head to tail. His name means “pretty jaw.” The small jaw was filled with many little, sharp teeth that probably were used to eat small animals like lizards or rodents. (Contrary to what evolutionists teach, there would have been rodents and other mammals around at that time, just like there are now, because dinosaurs like *Compsognathus* were made on day six of Creation—the same day as all land animals).

Only two fossilized skeletons of *Compsognathus* have ever been found. In one case, the skeleton of a small lizard was found inside the fossilized stomach of a *Compsognathus*. This dinosaur’s ability to catch small lizards probably indicates that he could move around very swiftly on his skinny legs and three-toed feet.

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Oviraptor

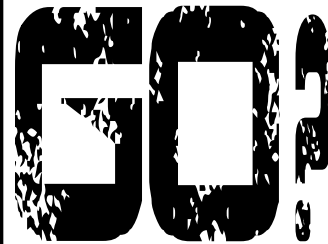


NAME:	OVIRAPTOR
MEANING:	“EGG THIEF”
HEIGHT:	GERMAN SHEPHERD

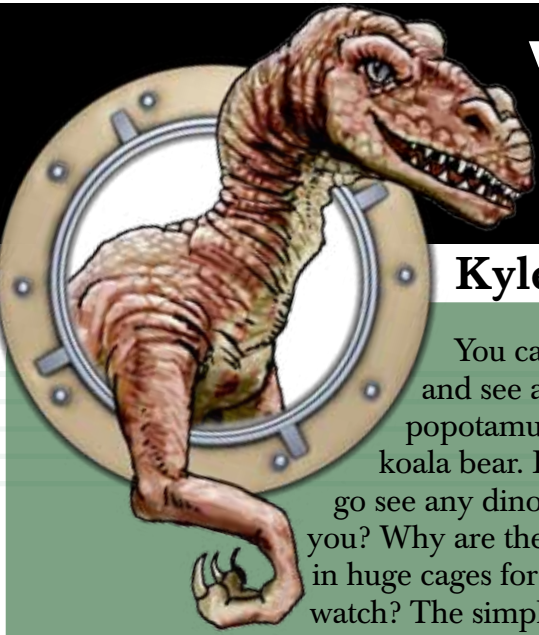
Reaching only about 3½ feet tall, *Oviraptor* was about the height and weight of an average German Shepherd dog. However, at 6-8 feet long, it would have been about 3 feet longer. The name *Oviraptor* means “egg thief.” Fossils of this little reptile were first found in 1924 very near a nest of eggs. Scientists then thought that the eggs belonged to a *Protoceratops*, and that the *Oviraptor* was stealing the eggs. The crushed skull of the fossilized “egg thief” was thought to have been an injury it received while trying to steal the eggs.

However, scientists are learning that their “egg thief” might not be such a thief after all. In southern Mongolia, an *Oviraptor* fossil was found near a nest of eggs. But this time, scientists found embryos (baby dinosaurs) in the eggs that were *Oviraptor* babies. As it turns out, the *Oviraptor* probably was not stealing eggs at all. Instead, it was probably protecting its own eggs. Isn’t it funny how many of our first thoughts about things (especially dinosaurs) turn out to be wrong when more evidence appears?

WHERE DID ALL THE DINOSAURS GO?



Kyle Butt



You can go to the zoo and see an elephant, hippopotamus, kangaroo, or koala bear. But you cannot go see any dinosaurs. Why can't you? Why are there no *T-rexes* in huge cages for us to visit and watch? The simple answer to that

question is that dinosaurs are extinct. The word "extinct" means that a certain animal or group of animals is no longer living on Earth (as far as anybody knows). We know that extinct animals once lived because we find their remains or fossils, but we no longer find any extinct animals alive. If we did, then they would not be labeled as extinct.

When we study dinosaurs, we quickly realize that they are extinct. Most of us then wonder what happened to them. Where did all the dinosaurs go? That is a very good question. In order to answer it, we must first get some things straight. Dinosaur extinction is interesting to us because dinosaurs were such amazing creatures, but extinction is not rare. Most animals that lived in the past are now extinct. In fact, it has been suggested that over 95 percent of all the animals that once lived on the Earth in the past are extinct. We no longer see dodo birds, saber-toothed tigers, woolly mammoths, African wolves, or thousands of other creatures. It is especially true that many of the larger animals who lived in the past, like dinosaurs, are no longer around today.

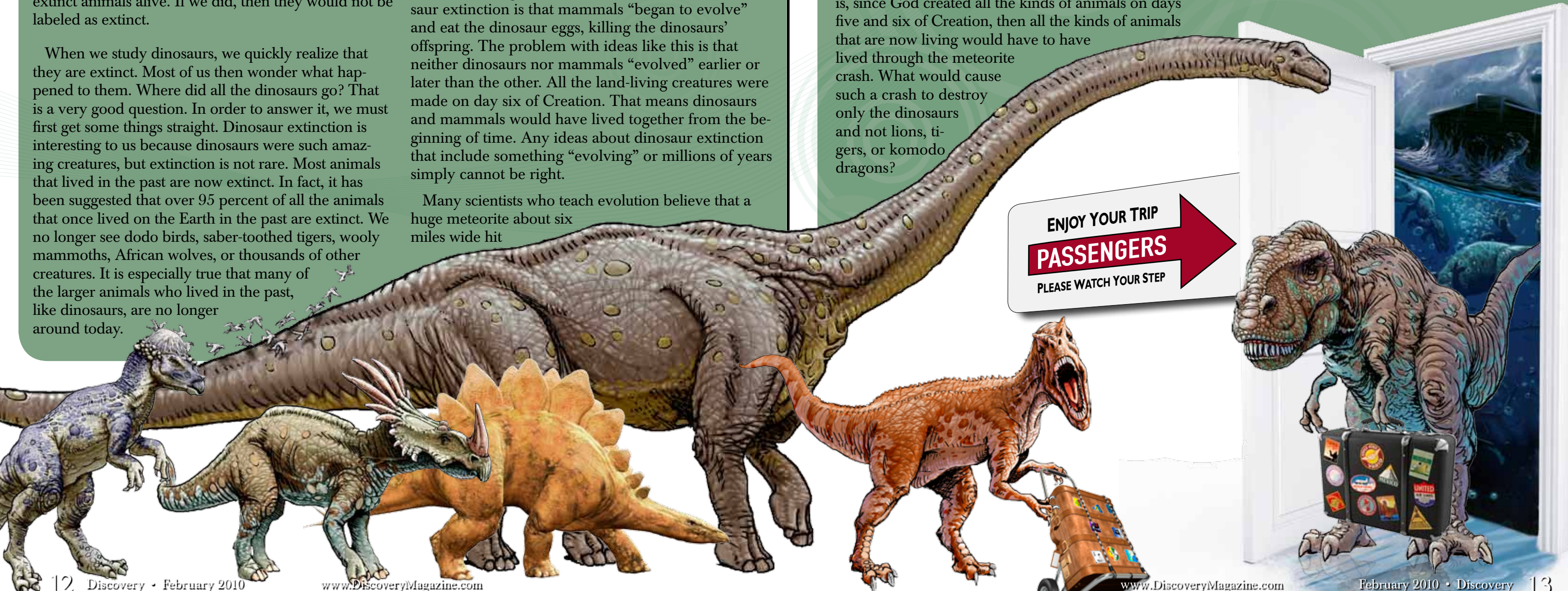
Also, most people who talk about dinosaur extinction say that it happened 65 million years ago, long before humans "evolved." But that is impossible. Dinosaurs were created on day six of the Creation week, the very same day as humans—neither dinosaurs nor humans evolved over millions of years but were created by God fully formed. Furthermore, the Earth is not millions or billions of years old. Whatever happened to the dinosaurs did not happen millions of years ago. We know this because we have lots of evidence that humans and dinosaurs lived together only a few thousand years ago.

Another thing that we sometimes hear about dinosaur extinction is that mammals "began to evolve" and eat the dinosaur eggs, killing the dinosaurs' offspring. The problem with ideas like this is that neither dinosaurs nor mammals "evolved" earlier or later than the other. All the land-living creatures were made on day six of Creation. That means dinosaurs and mammals would have lived together from the beginning of time. Any ideas about dinosaur extinction that include something "evolving" or millions of years simply cannot be right.

Many scientists who teach evolution believe that a huge meteorite about six miles wide hit

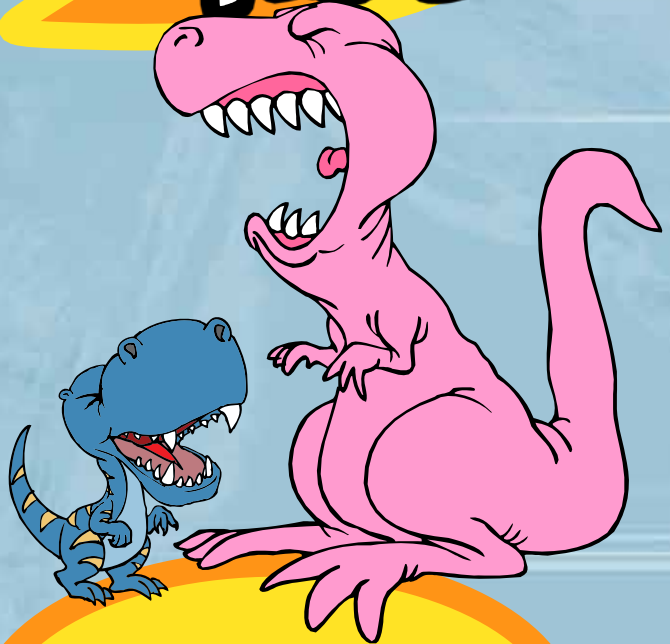
the Earth 65 million years ago and caused dinosaurs to become extinct. On the Yucatan Peninsula there is a crater known as Chicxulube that is about 112 miles in diameter. Scientists believe that this crater is evidence that their theory is right. But there are several problems with this idea. First, evolutionists' ideas about 65 million years cannot be right, as we have already shown. Second, in very recent studies, it has been discovered that the same animals and plants that were alive before the meteorite supposedly hit, were still alive after the crater formed. Scientists have discovered that, even if there was a huge impact, it did not cause the animals and plants in the area to become extinct. And third, many animals that scientists say lived before or during the time of dinosaurs and huge marine reptiles are still alive today. For instance, sharks were supposed to be alive during the age of the dinosaurs, but they are still alive. Why didn't the meteorite kill them? Also, some types of turtles and crocodiles were supposed to be alive during the dinosaur days, but they are still alive as well. The truth is, since God created all the kinds of animals on days five and six of Creation, then all the kinds of animals that are now living would have to have lived through the meteorite crash. What would cause such a crash to destroy only the dinosaurs and not lions, tigers, or komodo dragons?

The truth is, dinosaurs did not go extinct because of a huge meteorite. So why did they go extinct? The best answer is that many dinosaurs would have died in the global Flood of Noah. But they would not have gone extinct then. Since the whole world was flooded, the dinosaurs that Noah had on the ark would have been saved. He could have taken young dinosaurs so that they would not have taken up as much room on the ark. After the Flood, we have evidence that humans lived with dinosaurs for many hundreds of years. From the records, it looks like humans sometimes hunted them. In fact, we have records that talk about huge reptiles like dinosaurs living with humans until just a few thousand years ago. Dinosaurs did not all die out at one time in a huge event (although the Flood would have killed many), but instead they gradually died off over time. The biblical explanation of dinosaurs living with humans, and living through the Flood on the ark, matches perfectly with the real scientific evidence much better than theories about dinosaur evolution and extinction by a meteorite.



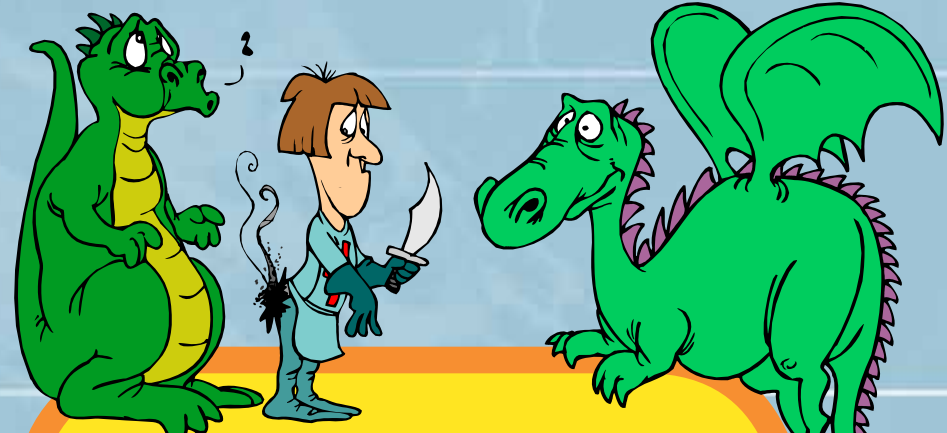
ENJOY YOUR TRIP
PASSENGERS
PLEASE WATCH YOUR STEP

ACTIVITY PAGES



MATCH, FIND, AND CIRCLE

- ___ A certain number of animals or groups of animals that are no longer living on Earth
- ___ About the size of a large rooster
- ___ The name of this dinosaur likely was wrongly chosen
- ___ The average dinosaur was about the size of this animal
- ___ His breath kindles coals, and a flame goes out of his mouth
- ___ Expels powerful chemicals from its backend at 212 degrees Fahrenheit
- ___ Created all things
- ___ Means "terrible claw"



P Y D G F Z J I D T G K M U Q L Y L F
 V Q X J D U F S R D G S U A S U R Y T
 D D I L X F Z Q Y O L J H F N N B C C
 J Q E G Q C Z G O G W S Y X B E L O N
 Q K Q I C L Y D J Y O S Y M L E B P I
 P F F G N J F Y T Y C N J T S Z C Z T
 D W I S O O C L M S O K E G U C O M X
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 C J G N M R X G A W L M D A S O M Q W
 Z U N Y A T C T H T S K V R P T R R V
 C Q V B L O Y Z B N H I H I M L E U S
 R N M I Q G R E B O Q A U V O F R V T
 K O I C K R P P W M X I N O C F O Y T
 B N B S L N X M I F S H M C Y T Q E R

- Deinonychus
- God
- Leviathan
- Oviraptor
- Bombardier Beetle
- Cow
- Compsognathus
- Extinct



FILL IN THE BLANKS

- The average dinosaur actually was only about the size of a large _____, with many being even smaller.
- "The Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and _____ that is in them" (Exodus 20:11).
- "His sneezings flash forth _____, and his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning. Out of his mouth go burning lights; sparks of _____ shoot out. _____ goes out of his nostrils, as from a boiling pot and burning rushes. His breath kindles coals, and a _____ goes out of his mouth."



TRUE OR FALSE

- ___ Dinosaurs evolved over millions of years.
- ___ The last of the dinosaurs died out 65 million years ago.
- ___ Leviathan was a fairy-tale creature.
- ___ All dinosaurs were as big or bigger than cows.
- ___ Dinosaurs are always portrayed accurately in the movies.
- ___ According to the Bible, dinosaurs and humans were created on the same day of Creation.
- ___ No animal ever breathed fire.
- ___ Many dinosaurs would have died during the Flood of Noah.
- ___ Velociraptor was much larger than a Great Dane.
- ___ Earth is billions of years old.



Dear Digger Doug,

Why are there so many trees on Earth?
 —Stuart Gee, Tanzania, Africa



Dear Stuart,

Thanks for sending your e-mail all the way from Africa. I'm sure you get to see many different kinds of trees in Africa than we see here at the mole hole in Alabama. The reason there are so many trees on Earth is because God knew that humans and animals would need trees to survive. Genesis 1:11 explains that God made trees on day three of Creation. Those trees multiplied, each one after its own kind, by producing seeds. Those seeds fell into the ground and sprouted into trees. Peach trees produced peach seeds that grew into more peach trees that produced more peach seeds.

Trees give humans and animals all kinds of wonderful blessings. Fruit and nut trees provide food, the green leaves on trees produce oxygen for humans and animals to breathe, and the wood from trees can be used to build houses and buildings. Some trees also provide medicine and other interesting, helpful substances like maple syrup for pancakes. When we look at the wonderful trees in the world, we should give thanks to God Who always provides us with everything we need.



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Illustrated by
Lewis Lavoie

A FIRE-BREATHING REPTILE?

Eric Lyons

No doubt you have heard reports from world history of fire-breathing “dragons.” Although many of these stories may have been exaggerated (similar to how a person today exaggerates the size of a fish he has

caught or a bear he has killed), the idea of a fire-breathing animal should not be too hard to accept. Surely atheists, who **mistakenly** believe everything evolved from nothing and life popped out of non-life, would not think it would be impossible for a mere fire-breathing animal to evolve. What’s more, creationists have no reason to think that an all-powerful, all-knowing Creator could not make such a creature. After all, God did create insects that light up, eels that can shock others but not themselves, and bombardier beetles that can expel powerful chemicals from their bodies at 212 degrees Fahrenheit (the boiling point of water).

Another, even greater, reason exists for believing in the one-time existence of a fire-breathing animal—God said

that one existed in the days of Job. In the book of Job, chapter 41, God described to the patriarch a real, terrifying, fire-breathing animal, saying:

His sneezings flash forth light, and his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning. Out of his mouth go burning lights; sparks of fire shoot out. Smoke goes out of his nostrils, as from a boiling pot and burning rushes. His breath kindles coals, and a flame goes out of his mouth.

What is this amazing creature that God described in His conversation with Job? It is called “leviathan” in verse one of the chapter. But just what is a leviathan? The description of this creature does not fit any known animal present in the world today. Thus, it must be some type of extinct creature. But what kind? God’s description of leviathan is similar in many ways to the descriptions we have of dinosaur-like, water-living reptiles that once lived on Earth—not millions of years ago as some believe, but only a few thousand years ago when Job was alive.



ANSWERS

TRUE OR FALSE: 1-F; 2-F; 3-F; 4-F; 5-F; 6-T; 7-F; 8-T; 9-F; 10-F.
 MATCH, FIND, AND CIRCLE: 1. H (Exhnt); 2. G (Composgnathns); 3. D (Ovtrptor); 4. F (Cow); 5. C (Levithan); 6. E (Bombardier Beetle); 7. B (God); 8. A (Demnychns).
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