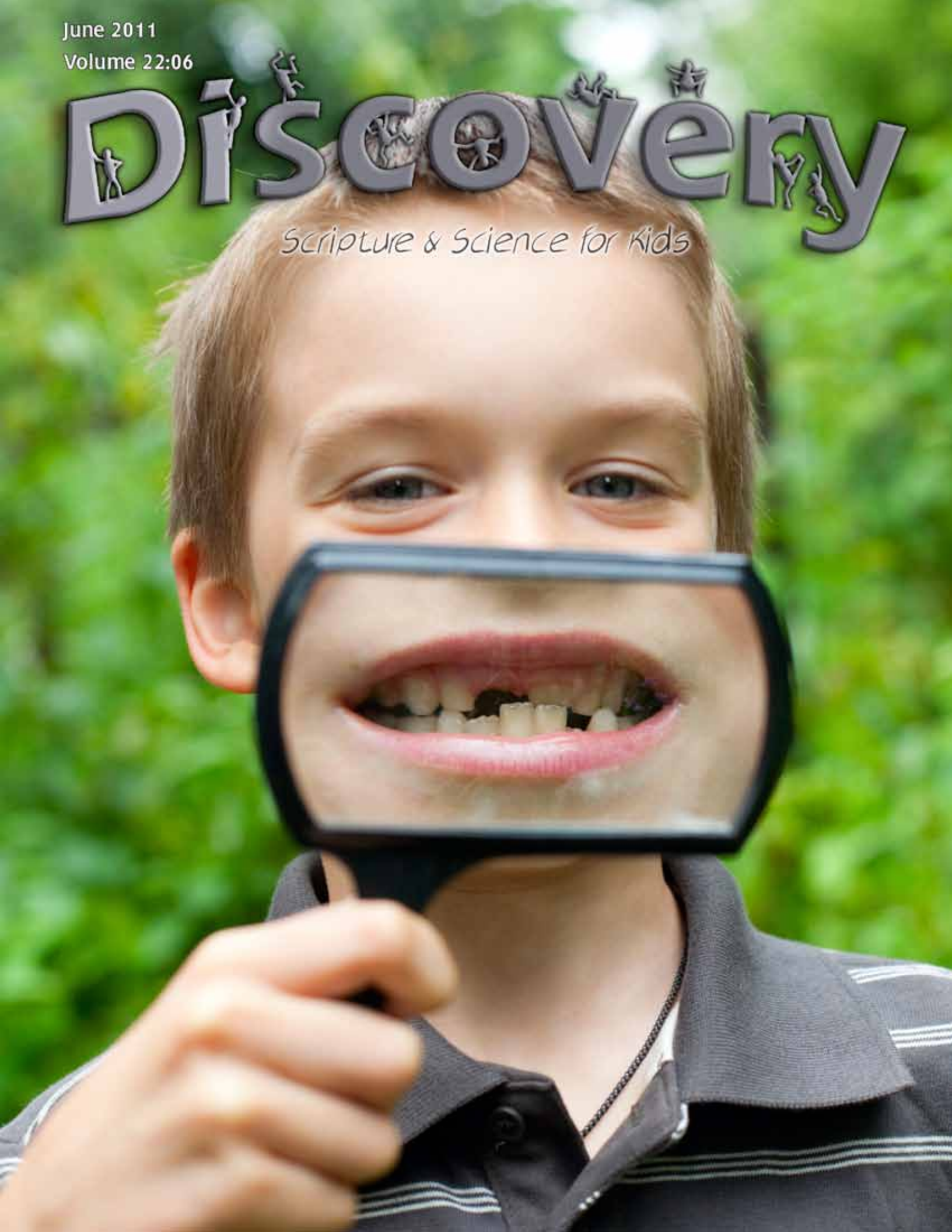


June 2011

Volume 22:06

# Discovery

*Scripture & Science for Kids*





# Teeth Testify to a Creator

ERIC LYONS

Animal teeth are amazingly sturdy, functional structures that demand a Designer. Animals use their teeth in a variety of ways. Many use their teeth to defend themselves when attacked by another animal (or perhaps by a human). When hunting, animals often use their teeth to strike and kill their prey. They can then effectively use their God-given teeth to tear and chew their food.

Unlike humans, who only receive two sets of teeth, some animals have teeth that con-

tinue replacing themselves. God designed sharks with this amazing ability. When a shark breaks or loses one of its teeth (which have no root, unlike humans'), a new tooth will grow in its place, often within only a few days. What's more, most sharks have several rows of teeth. Can you believe that at any given moment a shark may have thousands of teeth in its mouth (depending on the species)?



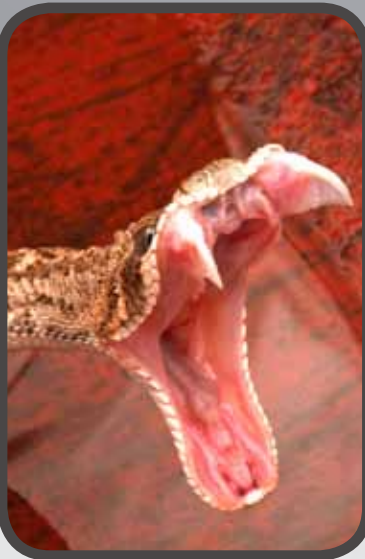
The strength of many animals is often linked to their teeth. A toothless shark would look funny, not scary. A dog with no canine teeth (the long, sharp teeth on the front-sides of its mouth) might be cute,

but not nearly as able to defend itself.

The prophet Joel once spoke of "the teeth of a lion, and...fangs of a fierce lion" (Joel 1:6). The teeth of lions are a great part of their overall strength. On the other hand, weakness is described as when "the teeth of the young lions are broken" (Job 4:10).

In Job 41, God described a creature called Leviathan (luh-VIE-uh-thun). In addition to its mighty power and ability to breathe fire and smoke, God described this animal as having "terrible teeth all around" (Job 41:14). So terrifying were Leviathan's teeth that God indicated no one would dare "open the doors of his face" (41:14).





Some snakes have fangs through which they inject venom. Venomous snakes produce the poison in small sacs behind their eyes. When these snakes bite their prey, venom is released through their hollow teeth. This action is similar to how a doctor uses a needle to inject

medicine into a patient.

No one would ever think that a doctor's needle just evolved by time and chance. Why, then, would anyone ever think that mindless evolution could explain a snake's "needles" (fangs)?



Though beavers have a total of 20 teeth, they are best known for their four incisors (front teeth). Unlike most all other animals, beavers use their strong jaws and sturdy teeth to cut down small trees to build dams and homes. Their teeth continue to grow throughout their lives, but the reason they never grow too long is because beavers' teeth are constantly wearing down as they use them to cut and gnaw wood.

The mouth of the beaver is wonderfully designed. The beaver has flaps of skin that can close in the large space between its front teeth and back teeth. By closing up its mouth behind its incisors, the beaver is able to gnaw on wood in the water without getting water in its mouth. The flaps of skin also help keep splinters out of the beaver's mouth. Just as a beaver's dam demands a designer, so does the

beaver's buckteeth and specially designed mouth.

The beautiful, brilliant, and awesome design of God's creation is all around us. God's "fingerprints" can be found even in the superb structures we call teeth. Indeed, teeth are just another tool that we can use to teach others about the Creator.





# Terrific TEETH



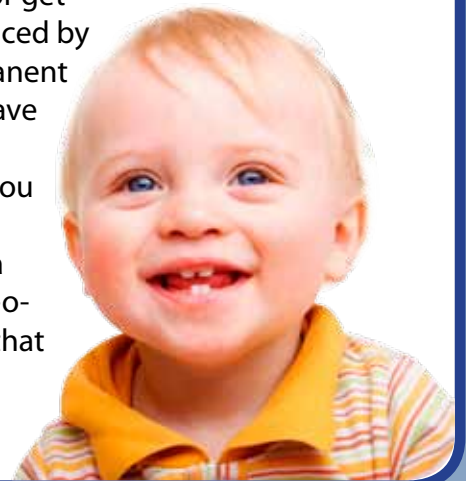
**H**ello kids. My name is Terry the Tooth, and I wanted to give you a quick tour through your mouth. Well, not really through your mouth, because I'm stuck on this page of *Discovery* magazine, and you are a real kid. What I mean is, I'm going to tell you all about your teeth.

The first thing you should know about your teeth is that they are amazing. They are specially designed by God to do important jobs and to keep you alive.



When you were a little baby, your teeth started to "erupt" when you were about six months old. The word "erupt"

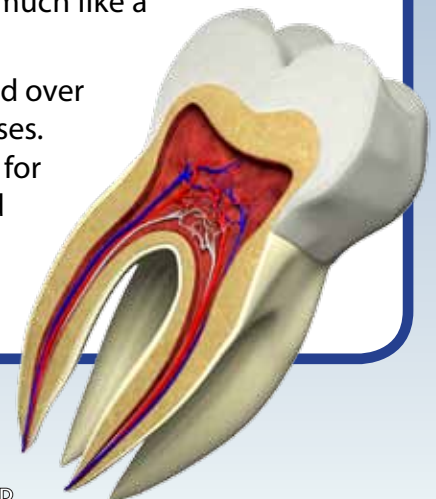
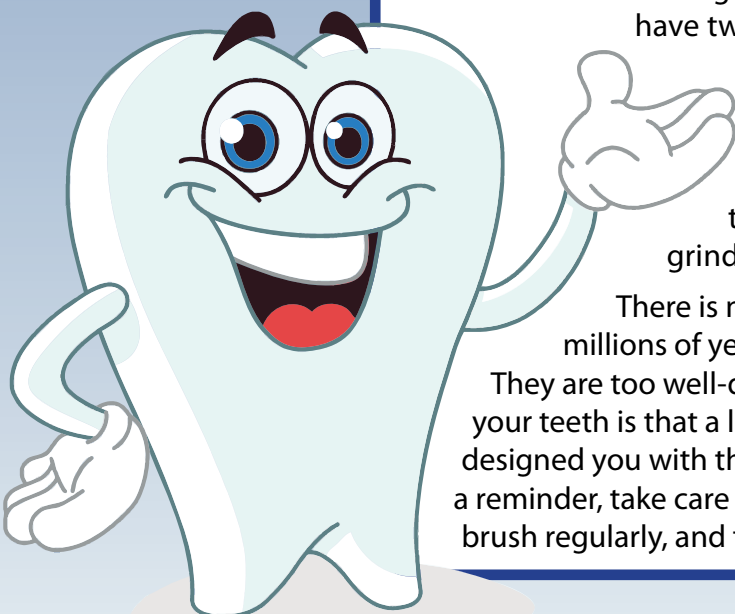
means that they grew out of your jawbone through your gums. Most people have 20 "baby teeth." These baby teeth fall out (or get pulled) and are replaced by another set of permanent teeth. Most adults have 32 permanent adult teeth. The fact that you get two sets of teeth means that you are a diphyodont (die-FIE-o-dont), a fancy word that just means you have "two sets of teeth."



When we look at how teeth are made, we cannot help but praise God for these terrific treasures. The hard, outside part of your teeth is called enamel. It is the hardest substance in your whole body. It's a good thing that it is so hard, too, because people use their teeth for all kinds of tough jobs. The most important tooth-job is cutting and chewing food. Your adult teeth include eight incisors, which are the first four teeth in the front of your mouth on top and the first four on the bottom. These teeth are designed to cut into food. The next teeth are your canines. You have two on top and two on the bottom. They are designed to puncture things, and to rip and tear tough foods like meat. After canines you have four premolars on top and four on the bottom, and six molars on top and six on the bottom. The premolars and molars are designed to grind food into small parts, much like a grinding wheel.

There is no way teeth could have evolved over millions of years of mindless, chance processes.

They are too well-designed. The only explanation for your teeth is that a loving God cares about you and designed you with these terrific teeth. Also, just as a reminder, take care of the teeth God gave you—brush regularly, and thank God for them.



# Evolution: Full of False TEETH



JEFF MILLER

According to the theory of evolution, modern human beings evolved over millions of years from a common, ape-like ancestor. If this belief were true, there should be lots of proof in the fossil record of “transitional” creatures—creatures that are ape-like but also human-like, as if they are in the process of

gradually changing into human beings. However, even though evolutionists have searched and searched the fossil record for “missing link” fossils over the years, there simply is no evidence of these transitional creatures.

In the past, evolutionists have run across fossilized teeth and hoped they were from transitional creatures.

In 1891, evolutionists found fossilized teeth, the upper part of a skull, and a thigh bone on the banks of the Solo River in the Dutch Indies and assumed they were from a transitional creature. From these, evolutionists drew what they thought the creature would have looked like, calling it “Java Man.” Over time, they found that the leg bone and teeth were actually from a human and the skullcap was from a monkey.

In 1912, a doctor found a jaw bone and a portion of a skull in a gravel pit in England and assumed that

the fossils were from a transitional creature they called “Piltdown Man.” From those two items, evolutionists made a skull to show what they thought the transitional creature’s head

would have looked like. But in 1953, Piltdown Man was found to be a fake. The skull fossil was from a human, and the jaw bone was from an ape. The fossilized teeth had been changed on purpose to make them look old.



“Piltdown” section of skull in blue

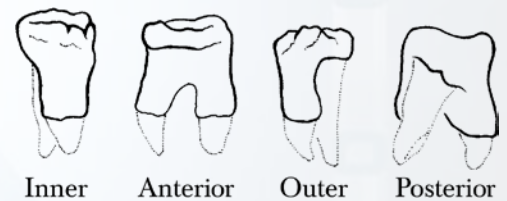


Evolutionist's rendering of “Nebraska Man”

In 1922, newspapers printed a picture of male and female human-like creatures that evolutionists had drawn based on one fossil tooth they had found, which they claimed was from a prehistoric transitional

creature. They called it “Nebraska Man.” However, within five years, scientists had decided that the tooth was actually from a wild pig—not a transitional creature.

Evolutionists really want to find proof of transitional creatures, since their



false theory needs them in order to be true. They will continue to have trouble finding them, however, since transitional creatures never existed. In truth, humans did not evolve from ape-like creatures. Instead, God created every creature “according to its kind” (Genesis 1:24).



Evolutionist's rendering of “Java Man”

# ACTIVITY PAGES



## TRUE OR FALSE



- \_\_\_ Tusks are actually teeth.
- \_\_\_ Teeth show divine design and deliberate intention—not “evolutionary development.”
- \_\_\_ Walrus teeth stop growing when the animal turns three.
- \_\_\_ The narwhal's tusk is another proof of God's remarkable designs.
- \_\_\_ Teeth evolved over millions of years by mindless, chance processes.
- \_\_\_ God created every creature “according to its kind.”

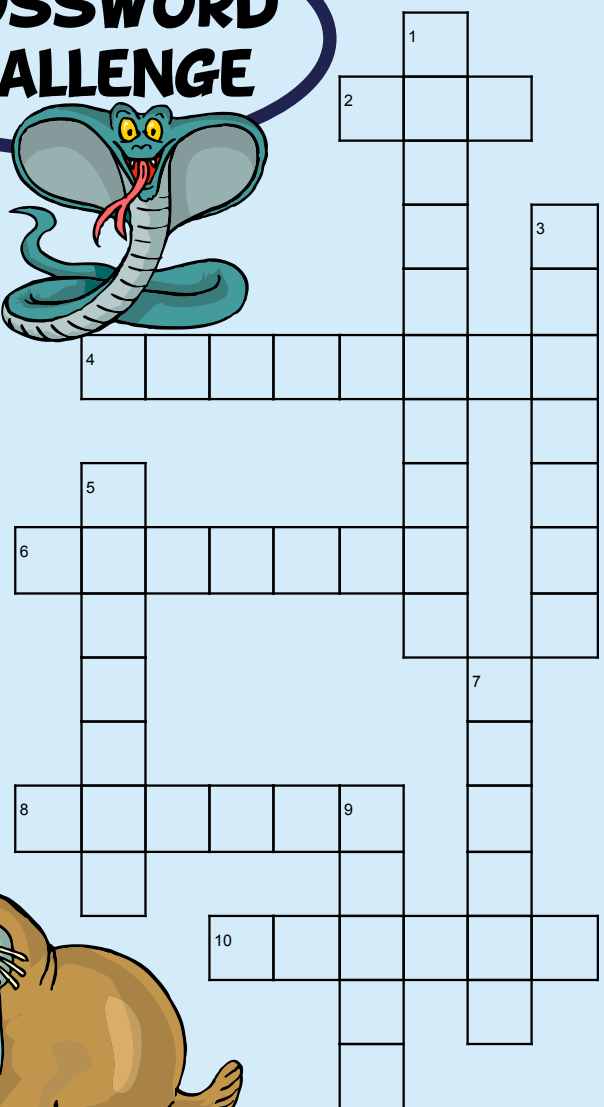
### Across:

- "Nebraska Man's" tooth actually came from this animal.
- The first eight teeth in the front of your mouth (four on top and four on bottom)
- A phony “missing link” that had teeth that were from a human and a skullcap that was from a monkey
- Uses its teeth (known as tusks) to pull its huge body out of frigid waters
- The hard, outside part of you teeth

### Down:

- Means you have two sets of teeth
- Another name for canine teeth
- A whale with a seven to ten foot long tooth
- God designed this animal with flaps of skin that can close in the large space between its front teeth and back teeth.
- When this animal breaks or loses one of its teeth, a new tooth will grow in its place, often within only a few days.

## CROSSWORD CHALLENGE



# MATCH, FIND, AND CIRCLE

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

- \_\_\_ Tusks are made out of this
- \_\_\_ The hardest substance in your whole body
- \_\_\_ A forged "missing link" which had a skull that was from a human and a jaw bone that was from an ape
- \_\_\_ Animal whose teeth have no roots
- \_\_\_ Have fangs through which they inject venom
- \_\_\_ An animal best known for its four incisors (front teeth)
- \_\_\_ God described this animal as having "terrible teeth all around" (Job 41:14).



- |                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| A. Shark        | E. Snakes    |
| B. Enamel       | F. Leviathan |
| C. Piltdown Man | G. Beaver    |
| D. Ivory        |              |

Dear Digger Doug,  
Why do twins and triplets look alike?  
—Alyssa, West Plains, MO

Dear Alyssa,

Terrific question. First, the reason that some twins and triplets look alike is because they have identical DNA. DNA is the blueprint that tells the body how to build itself. In the case of "identical" twins, one fertilized egg splits into two, and each "half" becomes a twin. In the case of "identical" triplets, one of those halves then splits in two again and becomes a twin of a twin. The reason I put the word "identical" in quotation marks is because even though they have the same DNA, there are things about them that are different. Sometimes their height and weight are different, and even their fingerprints are different. These differences occur because of factors in their environments and other things. For instance, one may like to eat more than the other, and that might cause that twin to be taller or weigh more. Also, it is important to know that not all twins are "identical." Some twins are called "fraternal" twins. Fraternal twins do not share the same DNA. In that case, one can be a boy and the other a girl. They develop just like typical children and are not "halves" of the same egg, but are from different eggs. Isn't it amazing how God designed humans to be able to have twins or triplets, or even more? And yet all those people are unique and precious in His sight.





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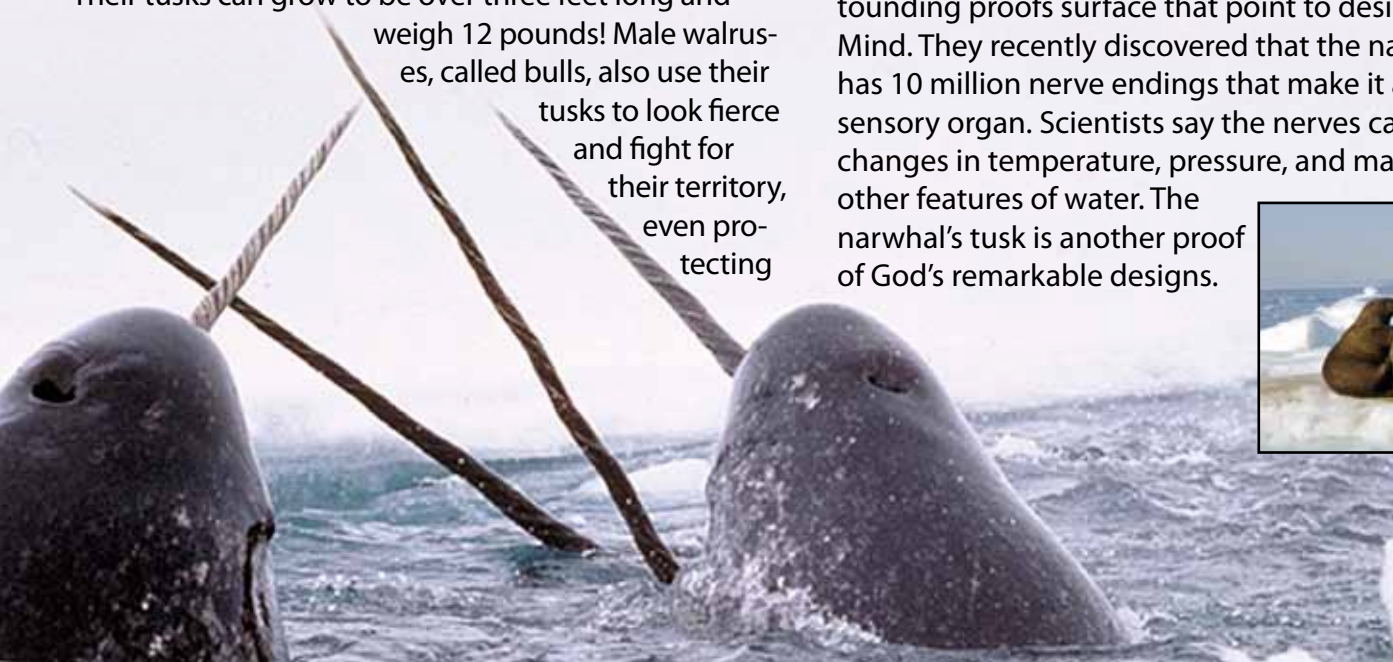
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# The Truth About *Teeth*

DAVE MILLER

There are so very many evidences on Earth for the existence of the divine Creator. Animal teeth are among those proofs. Take, for example, the long, pointed tusks of the walrus. Tusks are actually teeth—called canines, cuspids, or fangs—that are made of ivory. Walruses use their long tusks for many reasons, as God designed them to do, in order to make living in the Arctic easier. They use them to dig into the ice in order to pull their huge bodies out of frigid waters—which makes them look like they are walking with their teeth! They also use their tusks under water to poke breathing holes through the ice so they can get air from above. Their tusks can grow to be over three feet long and

weigh 12 pounds! Male walruses, called bulls, also use their tusks to look fierce and fight for their territory, even protecting



themselves (and females, called cows) from polar bears or killer whales. Walrus teeth never wear out, because they never stop growing! All of these purposes show divine design and deliberate intention—not “evolutionary development” (which does not happen!).

Another amazing example of teeth is evident in the narwhal—a rarely seen whale that lives in the Arctic Ocean. The male narwhal has a single tusk that projects from the left side of the upper jaw. The tusk is spirally twisted and can grow to be from seven to ten feet long—weighing up to 22 pounds (that would be heavy to carry around!). Scientists **think** that the narwhal uses its tusk to defend against predators, and to fight other males during mating season. But did you know that scientists do not know everything there is to know about God’s creatures? The more they study them, the more astounding proofs surface that point to design by a great Mind. They recently discovered that the narwhal tooth has 10 million nerve endings that make it an exceptional sensory organ. Scientists say the nerves can detect slight changes in temperature, pressure, and maybe many other features of water. The narwhal’s tusk is another proof of God’s remarkable designs.



## ANSWERS

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE: Across: 1. D (Ivory); 2. B (Enamel); 3. C (Pitdown Man); 4. A (Shark); 5. E (Snakes); 6. G (Beaver); 7. F (Levathan); 8. shark; 9. shark. Down: 1. diphiodont; 2. cuspids; 3. narwhal; 4. walrus; 5. walrus; 6. walrus; 7. walrus; 8. walrus; 9. walrus; 10. walrus. TRUE OR FALSE: 1-T; 2-T; 3-F; 4-T; 5-F; 6-T; 7-F; 8-F; 9-F; 10-T.

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