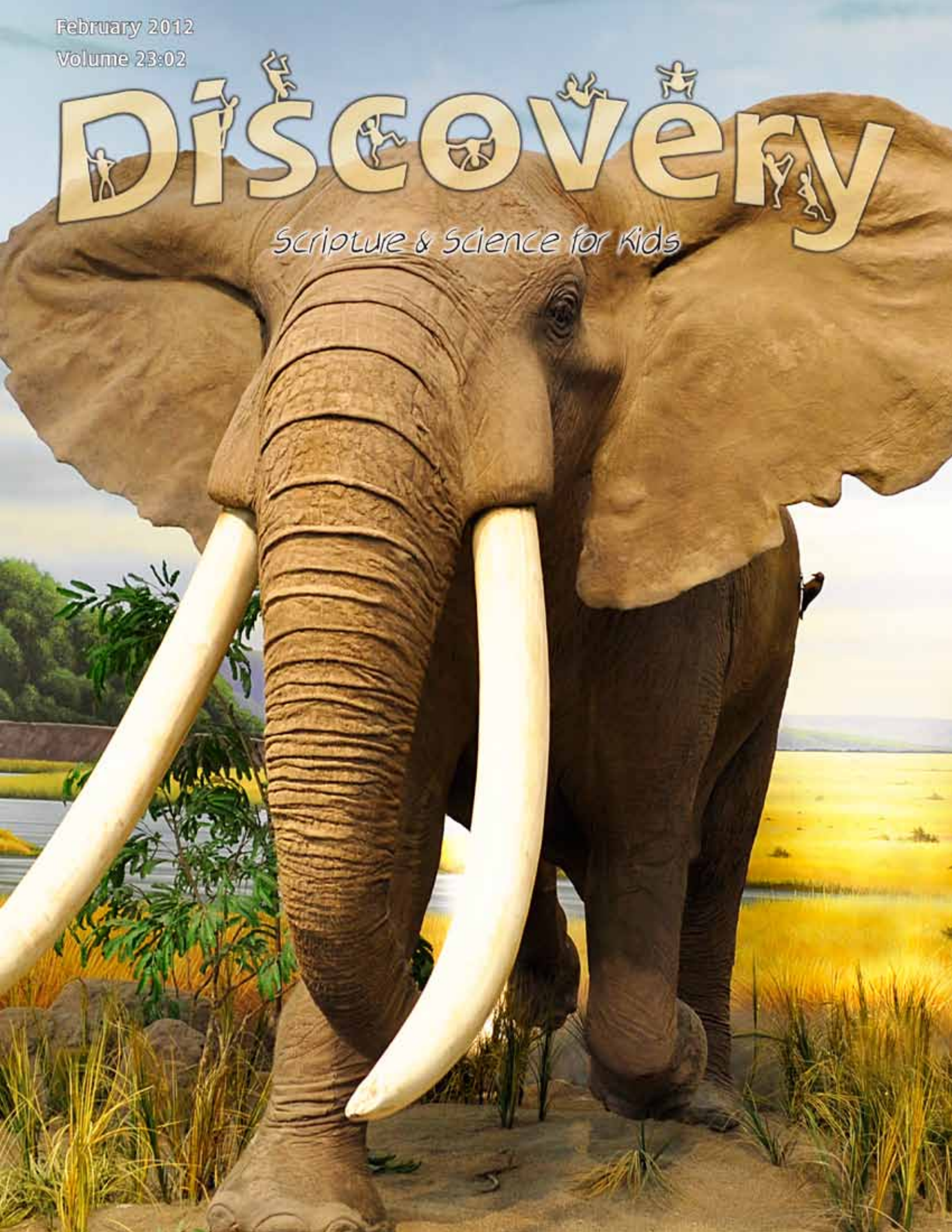


February 2012

Volume 23:02

Discovery

Scripture & Science for Kids



The ENORMOUS Elephant did NOT EVOLVE



LIONS MAY BE CONSIDERED THE "KING OF BEASTS," BUT THEY PALE IN COMPARISON TO THE SIZE OF ELEPHANTS.

The elephant is the largest land animal on Earth today. With somewhat amusing features (like a long "nose" and big ears), the awesome Imperial African elephant can reach weights of up to 11 tons (22,000 pounds!) and measure 13 feet high.

Whereas giraffes are well-known for being long all over, elephants are best known for being big all over. They have big bellies that can hold massive amounts of vegetation. They have sizeable skulls and big brains weighing about 11 pounds. They have a heavy heart that can weigh as much as an average seven-year-old human child (50 pounds!). They have large legs that, in addition to carrying around several tons of bodyweight, can move at speeds of up to 30



miles per hour. They have rear teeth (called molars) that can grow to be one foot long and weigh 10 pounds. Their tusks, which are actually long teeth, can grow to be 10 feet long and weigh 200 pounds. Even their skin is "big." It can grow to be up to one-inch thick in certain places. (Can you imagine having skin that thick?) Elephants even have big babies, which can weigh as much as 250 pounds at birth. The fact is, the African elephant is several times larger than the average dinosaur, which was about the size of a large cow.

The elephant is perhaps most well-known for the six-foot-long, 300-pound trunk hanging from its face. Scientists believe that the elephant's trunk is "the most versatile organ in the animal kingdom." It is made up of 100,000 muscle units. Some muscles run longways up and down the trunk. Other muscles radiate around each nostril, similar to the spokes on a bicycle.



The elephant can use his trunk to lift things three times the trunk's weight. An elephant with a 300-pound trunk could lift a 900-pound cow.

The elephant uses his trunk to suck, pour, and spray water into his mouth and on his body. He picks up food with it and tosses or blows it into his mouth. When he swims, he can use it as a snorkel. When he has an eye-itch, he wipes his eye with it. And when he gets mad, he can use his trunk in a fight.

This flexible, funny-looking, boneless flesh is not the result of random, evolutionary accidents as some would have us believe.

Logic demands that mindless, haphazard happenstances could never cause such an amazing organ to come about. There is no evidence for the evolution of the elephant's trunk.

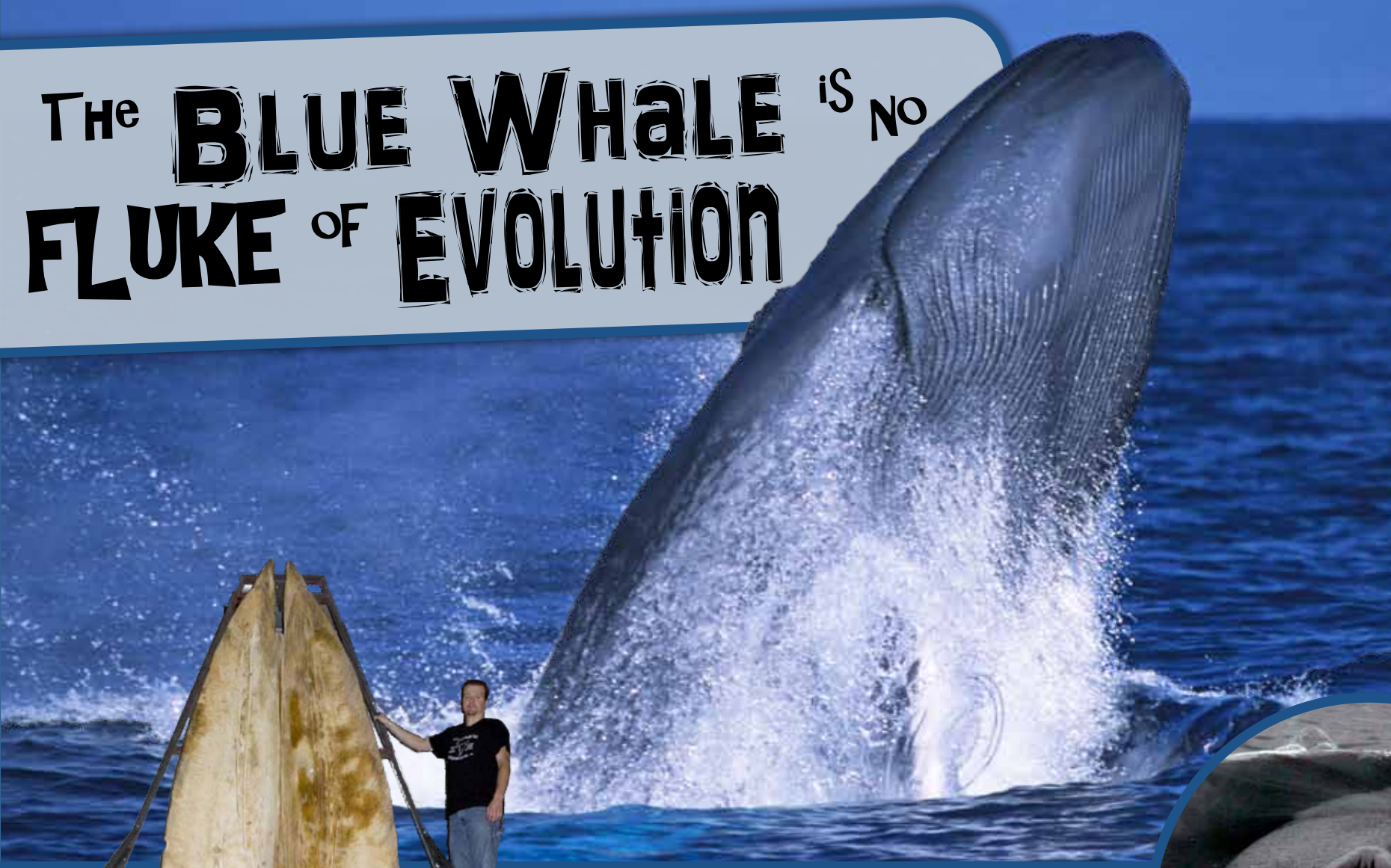


Did You Know?

One elephant easily could kill a man simply by stepping on him with one foot or by striking him with his powerful trunk. Yet, for thousands of years, humans have been known to live with, and even tame, these massive beasts. Over 2,200 years ago, the empire of Carthage, led by its legendary general, Hannibal, used tame African elephants to cross the Swiss Alps and battle the Romans. Today, many elephants are still being controlled by man. Tamed elephants are used in various Asian countries in religious ceremonies, or to do physical labor like hauling lumber or transporting people from place to place. Elephants also are frequently seen performing at circuses. Amazing, is it not, that humans have trained these creatures—which can outweigh them by as much as 22,000 pounds—to perform some of the same tricks we train dogs to perform. Why do you think humans are able to train these colossal creatures? For the same reason humans have been able to train lions, tigers, and bears (read Genesis 1:26-28).

Elephants can move at speeds of up to 30 miles per hour.

The BLUE WHALE IS NO FLUKE OF EVOLUTION



A 19-Foot-tall SKULL OF a BLUE WHALE

THERE IS BIG—AND THEN THERE IS THE BLUE WHALE.

Elephants are big, but they aren't "blue whale big." Even though *Argentinosaurus*—the largest dinosaur man has ever discovered—was huge (an estimated 100 tons or 200,000 pounds), it still was only about half the size of the largest known blue whale.

Blue whales are born big and then become enormous. Baby blue whales are almost 25 feet long at birth and weigh as much as a small pick-up truck (6,000 pounds). The calf feeds on her mother's rich milk and gains a whopping 200 pounds every day during the first year of her life. By the time the baby becomes a full-grown whale, she can reach 100 feet in length and weigh nearly 200 tons or 400,000 pounds.

Blue whales have a fluke (tail) used to propel them forward under water. This fluke is wider than a



racquetball court. Their tongue is so large that 50 people can stand on it at one time. Their heart is the size of a small car, and they have blood vessels large enough for small fish to swim through. (Not that fish do; that's just how large these whales' blood vessels are.) The blue whale's largest blood vessel (called the aorta) is so large that a small person could actually crawl through it.

Can you believe that evolutionists claim that blue whales evolved from land animals? Supposedly a small, fox-like creature began eating fish and started living more and more of its life in the water. Over millions of years, allegedly, this animal's front legs became flippers, its back legs all but disappeared, its tail became a fluke, and it began living full-time in the oceans. Where is the proof for such a story? Actually, there is no proof—there is only evolutionists' interpretation of various fossils they have found in the ground. The fact is, no one has ever proved (or will ever prove) that the blue whale's great-great-great... granddaddy was a fox-like, land animal.

Whereas humans and most land animals could survive for only a few minutes in the frigid waters that marine mammals call home, God designed whales perfectly for life in the sea. The blue whale is able to withstand bitterly cold water temperatures, because of the tens of thousands of pounds of blubber in its body. This blubber, which is made up mostly of fat, functions as insulation, helping keep the whale from freezing to death in chilly waters. What's more, when krill (shrimp-like creatures that whales feed on) are scarce, blue whales can live off of the energy stored in their blubber.

Does it really make sense to believe that a fox-like, land animal evolved into a whale over millions of years? How did it evolve the many specialized features of whales, such as the capability to withstand freezing cold temperatures? How did its nose move to the top of its head and become a blowhole? How did the mother whale (called a cow) evolve the necessary ability to pump her rich milk into the mouth of her baby (called a calf), rather than simply allow the calf to suck in the milk as land mammals do? (If calves had to try to suck 200 pounds of milk a day, they would likely suck in a lot of water and die.) How did the supposed fox-like ancestor of whales evolve the ability to endure the extreme water pressure that whales feel when they dive hundreds or thousands of feet below the surface? Such pressure would kill most animals.

Neither the blue whale nor any other whale evolved these incredible, specialized features. No fox-like creature fathered these amazing animals. God designed these wonderful whales to live in water. The Bible says that on the fifth day of Creation, "God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the water abounded, according to their kind" (Genesis 1:21).



A BLUE WHALE FEEDING, WITH POUCH INFLATED

WWW.NATUREPL.COM

ACTIVITY PAGES



TRUE OR FALSE

1. Hippos are the largest animals on Earth today.
2. The design of an elephant's trunk defies evolutionary explanations.
3. Komodo dragons live on Indonesian islands.
4. The designs seen in elephants, whales, and Komodo dragons demand a designer.
5. Whales evolved from fox-like animals.
6. Deadly bacteria live in the mouths of Komodo dragons, yet do not harm the Komodos.
7. A male whale is called a cow.
8. God created man with the ability to train and tame many animals, including elephants.
9. The fossil record proves that evolution is true.
10. God designed Komodo dragons with the ability to use their tongue to capture scent 2½ miles away.

MATCHING

1. Largest land animal on Earth today
2. How many pounds baby blue whales can weigh at birth
3. Number of muscle units in the elephant's trunk
4. Used tame African elephants around 250 B.C. to battle the Romans
5. How many pounds baby elephants can weigh at birth
6. The largest dinosaur man has ever discovered
7. Blue whale's tale
8. Has deadly bacteria that live in its mouth

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| A. 100,000 | E. Fluke |
| B. 250 | F. Komodo dragon |
| C. Elephant | G. Hannibal |
| D. <i>Argentinosaurus</i> | H. 6,000 |

FILL IN THE BIBLE VERSES (NKJV)

1. "_____ created _____ sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the water abounded, according to their _____" (Genesis 1:21).
2. "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have _____ over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over _____ the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God _____ man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and _____ it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth'" (Genesis 1:26-28).



Dear Digger Doug,
Why don't fish blink,
and if they do, how do they?

—Mary Esther, age 8, Soperton, GA.

Dear Mary Esther,

That is a great question. I like to look at colorful fish in a fish tank, and you probably do, too. If you watch them for long, you will notice that most of the fish in a fish tank do not blink their eyes. The reason for this is quite simple—they don't have eyelids. They can't blink because they don't have any eyelids to blink with. When we think about that, it makes perfect sense. God designed the human eye to blink. One main reason humans blink is so that their eyes stay moist. But since fish live in water, they do not need to keep their eyes moist. They are soaking wet all the time. There are some exceptions to this. Sharks actually do have eyelids and a membrane that they can "blink" over their eyes. They don't use this membrane, however, to moisten their eyes. Instead, they put the membrane over their eyes to protect their eyes when they are attacking their prey. There are other fish, like the mudskipper, that have a membrane that covers their eyes all the time. The way that they keep their eyes moist is to roll their eyes back into their eye sockets. Thanks for writing with your excellent question, and thanks for reading our magazine. Isn't it wonderful to see how God designed His amazing creatures?



What are you reading Doug?

A book about whales.

Did you know that blue whales spend the winter months where the water is neither hot nor cold, but travel to polar regions during the spring and summer, where they can feed in the water near melting ice?

It's just more proof that evolution just doesn't happen, since only God could've given them the instinct to go to and from the same places every year.

Too bad WE don't have anything like that. Where exactly ARE we?

Maybe this wasn't a good day for deep sea fishing. I **KNEW** I shouldn't have left my GPS at home.

I know where you guys are... **YOU'RE IN MY WAY!**



APOLOGETICS PRESS, INC.
 230 Landmark Drive
 Montgomery, AL 36117
 (800) 234-8558 (Orders)
 (334) 272-8558
 www.DiscoveryMagazine.com
 © 2012 Apologetics Press, Inc.
 All Rights Reserved

Nonprofit Organization
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Montgomery, AL
 Permit No. 513

Editor: Kyle Butt, M.A.
 Associate Editor: Eric Lyons, M.Min.
 Layout and Design: Rob Baker, M.Ed.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

KOMODO DRAGONS take a Bite out of EVOLUTION



KOMODO DRAGONS

LIVE IN INDONESIA ON THE ISLANDS OF KOMODO AND FLORES, AS WELL AS A FEW OTHER NEARBY ISLANDS. These reptiles are the heaviest living lizards in the world. They can reach 10 feet in length and weigh over 250 pounds. They have thick skin, powerful legs, lashing tails, tough toes, and sharp claws. Such physical characteristics allow komodos to kill animals that are several times their size, including water buffaloes.

Komodo dragons do not breathe fire, but they do have an eerie forked tongue and a vicious bite. Komodos have very sharp teeth—a total of 60—that they use to tear their prey apart. They can swallow large pieces of flesh at a time. In only a few minutes a 100-pound Komodo can eat 80 pounds of meat.

Unlike humans, Komodos do not mind leftover pieces of food in their teeth. In fact, these left-



over food particles promote the growth of deadly bacteria in the Komodo's mouth. Why would any Komodo want deadly bacteria living in its mouth? When a Komodo bites its prey, often times just once, those bacteria cause an infection in the prey, making the bite deadly. The bacteria begin to sicken and weaken the prey, eventually killing it in a few days. Amazingly, the bacteria do not harm the Komodo.

Evolution cannot logically explain the existence of this amazing animal. Why do the bacteria harm the Komodo's prey, but not the Komodo itself? How could the Komodo have evolved the ability to carry deadly bacteria in its mouth without first killing itself? If evolution is true, why did the first Komodo not die from these deadly bacteria before producing offspring? The bacteria-filled bite of the Komodo is a puzzle for those who think these animals evolved from earlier reptiles, which could not have survived with such bacteria growing in their mouths. Creationists, however, realize that Komodos came from the Creator on day six of Creation (Genesis 1:24-25).

ANSWERS

TRUE OR FALSE: 1-F; 2-T; 3-T; 4-T; 5-F; 6-T; 7-F; 8-T; 9-F; 10-T. MATCHING: 1-C (Elephant); 2-H (6,000); 3-A (100,000); 4-G (Hammibal); 5-B (250); 6-D (Argentinosaurus); 7-E (Fluke); 8-F (Komodo dragon). FILL IN THE BIBLE VERSES: 1-God, great, kind; 2-dominion, all, created, subdue.

Yearly Subscription Fees in U.S. Funds Only • United States of America: Individual rate: \$14 each • Bulk rate (at least 5 to same address): \$10.00 each.
 Club rate (at least 10 to different address paid together): \$12 • Homeschool discount 10% off above rates