

## Refuting Evolution Part 3: The Fossil Record (Grades 6-8)

Welcome to the third session of our three-part series. What is the Fossil Record? What caused it? Does the Fossil Record support Darwinian Evolution? These are the topics we're going to cover today. Let's get started!

### What is the Fossil Record?

The layers of the Earth's surface contain the fossilized remains of literally billions of creatures. Ken Ham, Founder and President of Answers in Genesis, has provided an excellent description of the Fossil Record:

***"Billions of dead things, buried in rock layers laid down by water all over the world." Ken Ham***

### The Geologic Column

Scientists refer to the layers of the Earth's surface as the Geologic Column. According to secular scientists, these layers were laid down over hundreds of millions of years and provide proof that Darwinian Evolution is true. Generally speaking, these layers and the fossils within the Fossil Record were laid down in a fairly consistent pattern.

Since many secular scientists believe the layers represent vast amounts of time, they use periods of time to classify and describe the layers. For example, some dinosaur fossils are found in the CRETACEOUS Period of the MESOZOIC Era.

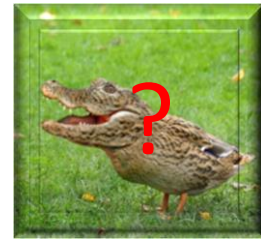
On the other hand, according to scientists who believe the Bible, most of these layers and the fossils in them were created by the Global Flood described in the book of Genesis. They believe the creatures in the Fossil Record were buried by the habitats they lived in during the one-year flood—not over millions of years.

What viewpoint does the evidence seem to support? Great question! Let's take a closer look!

ERA	PERIOD	EPOCH	SUCCESSION OF LIFE
CENOZOIC Recent Life	QUATERNARY 0-2 Million Years Rise of Man	Recent Pleistocene	
	TERTIARY 64 Million Years Rise of Mammals	Pliocene Miocene Oligocene Eocene Paleocene	
MESOZOIC Middle Life	CRETACEOUS 80 Million Years Modern Seed Bearing Plants, Dinosaurs		
	JURASSIC 56 Million Years First Birds		
	TRIASSIC 49 Million Years Cycads, First Dinosaurs		
PALEOZOIC Ancient Life	PERMIAN 48 Million Years First Reptiles		
	PENNSYLVANIAN 19 Million Years First Insects		
	MISSISSIPPIAN 41 Million Years Many Crinoids		
	DEVONIAN 57 Million Years First Seed Plants Cartilage Fish		
	SILURIAN 28 Million Years Earliest Land Animals		
	ORDOVICIAN 44 Million Years Early Bony Fish		
PRECAMBRIAN TIME	CAMBRIAN 54 Million Years Invertebrate animals, Brachiopods, Trilobites		
	EDIACARAN 28 Million Years Very few fossils present (bacteria/algae/pollen?)		

## Does the Fossil Record prove Darwinian Evolution?

Charles Darwin stated that if his theory is true, we should be able to find many fossils of intermediate species—the remains of creatures evolving from one type of creature to another. Although Darwin freely acknowledged the Fossil Record did not contain transitional fossils, he was confident they would eventually be found. It has been nearly 140 years since Darwin died. Since then, we have discovered literally billions of fossils. Was he right?

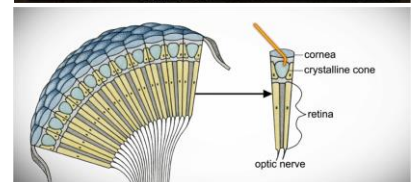
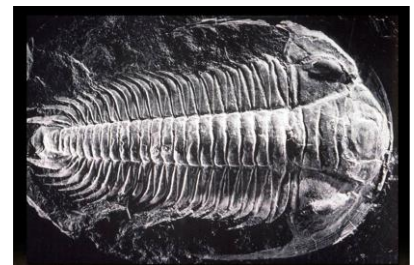


### Characteristics of the Fossil Record

#### 1. Creatures have always been complex

According to evolutionists, fossils that are found in the lowest layers of the Earth represent the earliest stages of evolution. If this is true, the fossils in these layers should be from very simple creatures.

However, scientists have discovered fossils of very complex creatures like trilobites in some of the lowest layers. When scientists examined trilobite fossils under powerful microscopes, they discovered these creatures had compound eyes that each had over 3,000 interconnected lenses to help them see underwater (humans only have one lens per eye). Does that sound like a “simple creature” to you? The Fossil Record reveals astonishing complexity from the very beginning.



Trilobites had compound eyes that each had over 3,000 interconnected lenses. Image credit: [The Fossil Record](#), John D Morris & Frank J. Sherwin

#### 2. Creatures are basically the same – they did not evolve (change) into some other type of creature

The Bible teaches that God created all living things according to their kinds. This truth has been confirmed by the existence of “living fossils”. These fossils are supposed to be millions of years old, yet look very similar to the creatures living today. Living fossils dating back to the so-called “age of reptiles” (dinosaurs) have been found for every major group of living things including invertebrates, fish, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, insects and plants. Here are four examples of living fossils:

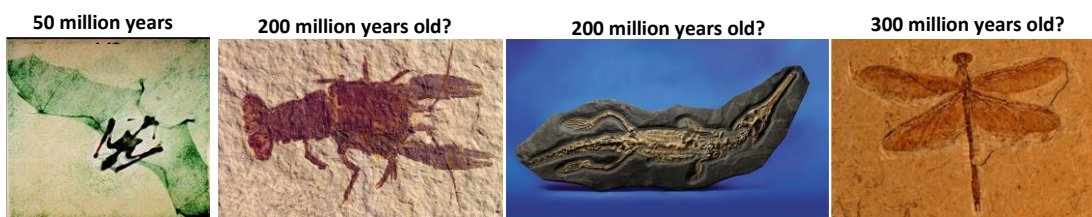


Image credits: [The Fossil Record](#), John D Morris & Frank J. Sherwin

**Exercise:** please answer the questions below.

What is the significance of living fossils? \_\_\_\_\_

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When asked about living fossils, some evolutionists say these creatures did not change much because they were already well adapted for their environment. Yet, during the last 70 million years, whales, bats and humans supposedly evolved from a shrew-like ancestor. Does this explanation make sense to you? Why or why not?

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**Activity:** find the hidden living fossils below

## Living fossils

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

Bat

beetle

cockroach

cricket

crocodile

dragonfly

fly

frog

lobster

paddlefish

scorpion

stingray

3. **Most fossils were created during the Global Flood described in the book of Genesis.**

The Global Flood was a major catastrophe that wiped out billions of living creatures. The Fossil Record provides ample evidence to support this idea including:

- **Massive fossil graveyards** (example: the Dinosaur National Monument in Utah features a pile of over 2,000 fossilized bones of 11 kinds of dinosaurs in a jumbled mass, together with crocodiles, turtles, lizards, frogs, and clams)
- **Evidence of violent death / drowning** (example: dinosaur fossils in the “death pose”)
- **Evidence that fossils that were buried rapidly** (example: fossils of fish eating other fish)
- **Marine fossils on mountaintops** (example: 500 giant fossilized oysters on top of the Andes Mountains)
- **Soft tissues in fossils** (example: The Institute for Creation Research (ICR) has documented over 40 instances when soft tissue has been found in fossils that are supposed to be millions of years old. Source: <http://www.icr.org/soft-tissue-list/>)

**Question:** Over 15 types of soft tissue (example: red blood cells) have been found in fossils that evolutionists claim are millions of years old. Although laboratory experiments show these types of tissues break down quickly and should not be present in these fossils, some of these scientists still insist the fossils are millions of years old. Why do you think this is happening?

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## Key takeaways

- The Fossil Record is “Billions of dead things, buried in rock layers laid down by water all over the world.” (Quote from Ken Ham, Answers in Genesis)
- The Geologic Column and the fossils within it were created by the Global Flood. There is ample evidence to support this idea including massive fossil graveyards, evidence of violent death/drowning, fossils that were buried rapidly, marine fossils found on mountaintops and the presence of soft tissue in dinosaur (and other) fossils.
- Creatures have always been complex (example: trilobites)
- Creatures are basically the same – they did not evolve (change) into some other type of creature. Living fossils provide evidence of this fact.
- Always share the truth with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15)

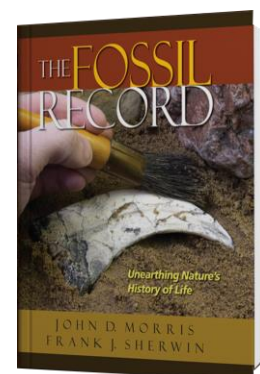
## Why does this matter?

You may be wondering why the subject of evolution is so important. Ultimately, it is a question of **our** origins. The Bible clearly states that humans were created by God on Day 6 of creation week (Genesis 1:26-31). People are special since we are the only ones created in God’s image (Genesis 1:27). Compare that with these statements below:

**“You are an animal and share a common heritage with earthworms.”** Johnson and Brusca  
Biology: Visualizing Life, 1994

**“We belong to a highly specialized group of boney fishes...we are fishes whether we like it or not.”** John Maisey, in Discovering Fossil Fishes, American Museum of Natural History, 1996

As Christians, it is important for us to always be ready to give an answer to those who ask us questions about our faith (1 Peter 3:15). Many people believe that fossils provide proof that Darwinian Evolution is true. They reject the Bible because they think it has been disproven by science (it hasn’t of course). The good news is there are excellent resources available to help us prepare for these conversations. I highly recommend The Fossil Record by John D. Morris and Frank Sherwin. You can purchase this book from the Institute for Creation Research ([www.icr.org](http://www.icr.org)).



*“For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day.”*  
Exodus 20:11