

NAME _____



“Thus I establish My covenant with you: never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth” (Genesis 9:11).

Thinkin' about fossils!

Some scientists spend their whole lives studying the petrified remains of dead things (fossils) to try to understand what life was like in the past. This can be a fascinating job as these “paleontologists” seek to determine when the animals (or plants, etc.) died, what they looked like while they were alive, how they moved, what they ate, etc. Each paleontologist looks at a fossil with certain ideas about what the past was like. In fact, we all do!

For instance, take a look at the fossil at the right. Now take a moment and write down five things you know about that fossil.



Perhaps you said “it’s millions of years old,” or “it took a long time to form.” Now think about what you’ve written for a moment—do you really know these things or are they just your ideas about the fossil? How do you know how old the fossil is or how long it took for the animal to be fossilized?

It’s important, as Christians, that our ideas about the past are based on what the Bible tells us has happened. Using the Bible’s true record of history to help us understand, we might say the following things about the fossil:

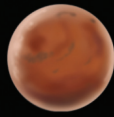
1. This animal died. Animal death was not a part of God’s original creation, so the animal must have died after the world was corrupted through Adam’s sin.
2. The fossil can’t be “millions of years” old, since adding up the years in the Bible shows us the world is only about 6,000 years old.
3. An animal that is buried quickly is more likely to be preserved than to decay and fall apart. The worldwide Flood in Noah’s day provided great conditions for quickly burying lots of animals and plants, so the animal may have died at this time.

These are just a few things we can learn from the Bible about this fossil.

Studying the fossils you find (maybe even in your own backyard!) can be exciting, but it’s important to distinguish between what we actually find and what others may say about our findings. Since God’s Word gives us the true history of the world, we need to apply this to fossils as well.



DID YOU KNOW?



Water covers 70% of the earth's surface? Yet many deny the earth was completely covered in water at one time. Did you also know . . . no (liquid) water has been found on Mars? Yet many believe water shaped the surface of the Red Planet (Mars) in the past. Why would people deny a huge flood on Earth and promote one on Mars?



2 Peter 3:5-6 reminds us, "For this they willfully forget: that . . . the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water."

DO YOU KNOW YOUR BIBLE?

Who closed the door to the Ark?

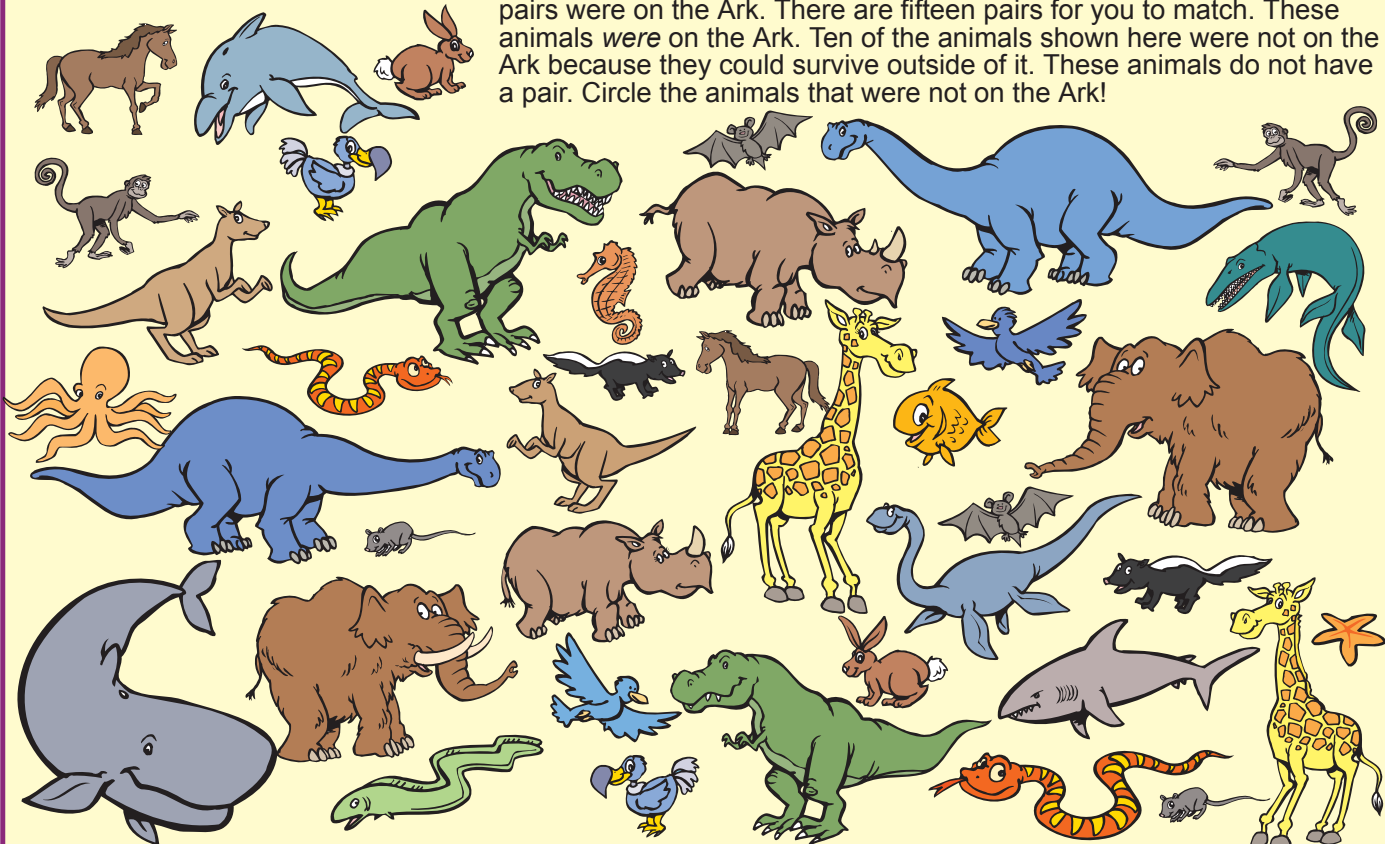


Answer: Genesis 7:16 "And they that entered, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in."

LET THERE BE FUN!

All aboard Noah's Ark?

God told Noah to have at least two of certain kinds of animals (seven of some) on board the Ark (Genesis 6:19-7:3). The animals shown here in pairs were on the Ark. There are fifteen pairs for you to match. These animals were on the Ark. Ten of the animals shown here were not on the Ark because they could survive outside of it. These animals do not have a pair. Circle the animals that were not on the Ark!



Animals on the Ark: Apatosaurus, bat, bird (flying), dodo bird, giraffe, horse, kangaroo, mammoth, monkey, mouse, rabbit, rhinoceros, skunk, snake, Tyrannosaurus rex
Animals not on the Ark: dolphin, eel, fish (gold), Kronosaurus, plesiosaur, octopus, octopus, sea horse, shark, starfish, whale