

TOOLS FOR TEACHING

Volume 4: Fossils and the Flood

Many people believe fossils and/or fossil-bearing layers were formed over millions of years ... but is this true? Or are many of the billions of dead things buried in rock layers the result of the Flood of Noah's day, which occurred just a few thousand years ago?

1. Expected results form a globe-covering Flood (as found in Genesis 6–9):
 - a. Billions of dead things buried in rock layers laid down by water all over the earth (i.e. fossils).
 - b. Unknown location of Garden of Eden, as it would have been destroyed in the Flood. Further, present day Tigris and Euphrates rivers sit on thousands of feet of fossil-bearing sediments, indicating these rivers must have formed *after* sin (and its consequence, death) entered the world.
 - c. Fossils recording death, disease, suffering and violence (results of the Fall).
 - d. Names of pre-Flood places carried into the “new world” by Noah and his family.
 - e. Rainbows remind us of God's promise to never again destroy the world with a flood.
2. Indicators of a “young” world, supporting the biblical framework:
 - a. Mt. St. Helens exploded on May 18, 1980. Catastrophic processes over the next few months resulted in hundreds of feet of sedimentary layers being laid down. In one instance, over 25 feet of finely-laminated sediments formed within three hours, indicating the power the “fountains of the great deep” may have had on a much larger scale to form rock layers quickly.
 - b. Dead animals left alone will rot or be consumed by scavengers. Fossilization requires rapid, catastrophic events.
 - c. Ham found petrified in New Zealand a few years after volcanic eruption, indicating fossilization occurs rapidly.
 - d. Red blood cells found in dinosaur bones.
 - e. Synthetic diamonds created in just a few days with chemical vapor deposition that “meet every measure of being a diamon.”
 - f. Opals grown in a laboratory in only months that are indistinguishable under an electron microscope from mined opals.
 - g. Diamonds, oil and coal made in a laboratory in short time periods.
 - h. Stalactites and stalagmites observed to form quickly.
 - i. Coral reefs observed to form quickly.

Conclusion: The Pathfinder Mission found supposed evidence of a flood of “biblical proportions” on Mars, yet no liquid water has been found on the Red Planet. Earth is 70% covered with liquid water, yet many deny there was ever a global flood. Why is this? 2 Peter 3:5–6 indicates people deliberately deny a global flood as described in the Bible ever occurred. They wrongly interpret evidence of an Earth-covering flood, because the Apostle Peter and Christ Himself (Luke 17:26–27) clearly link the history of God's past judgment on sin with the certainty of future judgment. Fossils, rather than being a record of “millions of years” of Earth history, testify instead to the judgment sent by God on man's disobedience. Just as the Ark provided salvation for Noah and his family, so Jesus Christ today provides salvation for all those who believe on Him (Acts 4:12). Which do you trust to tell the truth about the past and about eternal life ... the infallible Word of God or the fallible words of man?

Outline

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Philip Currie and Eva Koppelhus, *101 Questions about Dinosaurs*, 1996, pages 11–12.

Fossilization is a process that can take anything from a few hours to millions of years ...

The amount of time that it takes for a bone to become completely permineralized is highly variable. If the groundwater is heavily laden with minerals in solution, the process can happen rapidly. Modern bones that fall into mineral springs can become permineralized within a matter of weeks.

Bones do not have to be “turned into stone” to be fossils, and usually most of the original bone is still present in a dinosaur fossil.

Mary Schweitzer and Tracy Staedter, ‘The Real Jurassic Park,’ *Earth*, June, 1997, pages 55–57.

A thin slice of *T. rex* bone glowed amber beneath the lens of my microscope. Blood vessel channels snaked through a bone matrix, and tiny chambers known as lacunae, which house bone-forming cells, appeared as small ovals. ... The lab filled with murmurs of amazement, for I had focused on something inside the vessels that none of us had ever noticed before: tiny round objects, translucent red with a dark center. ...

Then a colleague took one look at them and shouted, “You’ve got red blood cells. You’ve got red blood cells!” ... Finding remains of dinosaur blood cells would have astounding implications.

Dr. Ralph Molnar (paleontologist for the Queensland Museum speaking on *Megalania*, a large extinct lizard), ‘Into the Unknown,’ *Discovery Channel*, October 21, 1997.

One of the things that we have is a part of the hip bone or pelvis. Now this specimen actually looks like it had come from an animal that looks like it died two or three hundred years ago. All dry, chalky, this sort of thing. Doesn’t actually mean it died two or three hundred years ago. In Montana, I’ve seen dinosaur bones that look like they’ve come from animals that died two or three hundred years ago, and I know very well that they died much longer than that. It gives the suggestion that *Megalania* may have been alive fairly recently.

Greg Hunter and Andrew Paparella, “New Diamond Age?” www.ABCNews.com, September 9, 2003.

Apollo Diamond Inc. in Massachusetts and Florida-based Gemesis Corp. each have produced a new type of lab-made diamond that is difficult, though not impossible, to distinguish from natural diamonds. ...

Natural diamonds are mined from deep in the earth. They are formed of carbon that has been exposed to immense heat and pressure over billions of years. Synthetics have the same physical properties, but they are created in a laboratory.

The new manmade diamonds from Apollo Diamond are created in a few days by a machine in an industrial park near Boston through a process called chemical vapor deposition. ...

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Though they do not come from the earth, these synthetic diamonds' properties are the same as those of diamonds that come from mines, said Apollo Chairman Robert Linares.

"They are real," said Linares. "They meet every measure of being diamond. From the aesthetic point of view, from the scientific point of view, they are diamonds and so therefore they have all the properties of diamond."

Marilyn Taylor, "Descent," *Arizona Highways*, January, 1993, page 11.

Geologists don't know how long cave development takes. And, while some believe that cave decorations such as S.P. Caves beautiful icicle-looking stalactites take years to form, Jerry Trout (cave specialist with the Forest Service) says that through photo-monitoring, he has watched a stalactite grow several inches in a matter of days.

Jerry Trout (cave specialist with the Forest Service), "Descent," *Arizona Highways*, January, 1993, pages 10–11.

From 1924 to 1988, there was a visitor's sign above the entrance to Carlsbad Caverns that said Carlsbad was at least 260 million years old. In 1988, the sign was changed to read 7 to 10 million years old. Then, for a little while, the sign read that it was 2 million years old. Now the sign is gone.

Recommended resources:

The Young Earth, by Dr John Morris

The (Revised and Expanded) Answers Book, by Ken Ham, Carl Wieland, and Jonathan Sarfati, edited by Dr Don Batten

Creation magazine quarterly subscription

quotes

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1. Why must Grand Canyon have formed within the past few thousand years, and not millions of years ago?

Answer: The Flood of Noah's Day (about 4,300 years ago) would have destroyed the Canyon if it had formed "millions of years" before the Flood occurred. It must have formed some time since then.

2. What is the connection between fossils and Noah's Flood?

Answer: We would expect a worldwide flood to result in billions of dead things (i.e. fossils) buried in rock layers laid down by water all over the earth. The majority of the fossils found around the world are a result of Noah's Flood.

3. Why does a belief in "millions (or billions) of years" of Earth history usually lead to a belief in a local, rather than global, Flood?

Answer: Those who believe Earth is millions of years old usually believe the Flood was a local event because a global flood destroys the "evidence" (the fossil record / rock layers) of the "millions of years."

discussion