



SWAMP MAN!

DISCUSSION

1. When Buddy is talking about his different breeds of dogs, he says that dogs are dogs and always have been. What would we expect to see if evolution were true?

If evolution were true, we would expect to see one kind of animal turning into another kind of animal. This would show through "transitional animals" that are in-between one kind and another (especially in the fossil record). But dogs are still dogs, cats are still cats, and all animals reproduce to make more of their kind, just like the Bible says.

2. How does sawgrass exhibit BOTH the curse of the Fall and God's provision for His people and creatures?

Buddy shows how sharp the sawgrass is and how it can cut you if you aren't careful. But, he also shows how the sawgrass can be a good source of food for animals and humans, and how alligators will use it to make nests. Buddy also describes how the Seminole tribes even ground up sawgrass to make bread.

3. Buddy refers to vultures as “God’s way of cleaning up.” What purpose do vultures serve?

It is unknown how many deadly diseases have been stopped because of vultures. They scavenge and clean up dead animals (called carrion) and are essential to different ecosystems.

4. How can reptiles and other animals disrupt a habitat where they are not native?

Buddy and Rick talk about how reptiles, such as iguanas and snakes, will reproduce and can essentially take over an ecosystem. The warm conditions in Florida can cause an area to become overpopulated with pythons when they lay more eggs and more snakes survive in the warmer climate.

5. What day of Creation Week is Buddy reminded of as he looks at the flying and swimming creatures in the Everglades? How do we learn about God from the creatures that He has made?

Day Five. “So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. . . . So the evening and the morning were the fifth day” (Genesis 1:21–23). The passage that Buddy references (Job 12:7–9) tells us that the beauty, features, and design of all of the animals show God’s wisdom, creativity, and love for His creation.

6. Dolphins don’t use their mouths to make sound. How do they communicate?

A dolphin breathes and makes sounds through its blowhole. Dolphins do not have vocal chords like humans to make sounds through their mouths.

7. We are told in Genesis 1:29 that God gave us every seed-bearing fruit for food (except the Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil). What changed so that now you should be very careful about what you eat out in the wild?

Sin first came into the world through the eating of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil. It was because of man's disobedience to God that He cursed the creation, which brought death into the world. Thorns, thistles, and even poisonous fruit came into the world because of man's sin. This is the reason the world is no longer perfect and why we need to be saved from our sin by believing and trusting in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

8. What are some of the many design features that God has given the alligator to survive in the world today?

Osteoderms are bones on the alligator's back that split as it grows; they also serve as protection. God gave the alligators channels that take water away from their eyes as they come up out of the water, and He gave them "goggles" (nictitating membranes) to protect their eyes underwater. The alligator's tail propels it to swim 30 mph in the water. Webbed feet help the alligator to swim faster. A special valve allows the alligator to open its mouth underwater without drowning. The alligator can also go through thousands of teeth in its lifetime as new teeth grow in when one is broken off.

ACTIVITIES

1. Buddy and his team used airboats, motorboats, kayaks, and mudboats to explore God's creation and His creatures. Many parks will have canoes or pedal boats that you can rent to travel on a lake or pond. See if you can identify the birds, turtles, and aquatic life you see as you enjoy time together as a family.
2. Buddy's friend, Rick Teepen, shared a little bit about snakes in this adventure. Discover more about these creatures in *Snakes Alive!* View this presentation for FREE at KidsAnswers.org/videos/snakes-alive, or experience it live at the Creation Museum in Greater Cincinnati!

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