

CREATION

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Standing ground

In the September 2009 issue of this journal we covered some of the extraordinary design features of the giraffe, which of course imply a Designer.

Along with numerous other scientific evidences throughout the natural world, they confirm our belief in the veracity of the Bible and strengthen our resolve to stand our ground in the face of the many attacks from evolutionists against Christianity and one of its central doctrines - that of Creation.

For if there was no Creation then there was no Fall and hence no need of a Redeemer. The eternal destiny of people is undermined therefore by the erroneous teaching of secular evolutionist dogma, which leads people to lose faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His saving grace.

Hence we would encourage all our readers to share these scientific facts with their colleagues, friends and neighbours - evidences that highlight just how scientifically bankrupt the theory of Evolution is, and how flimsy it looks when held up to question and to proper scrutiny. For the truth of the matter is that

questioning and examination of the evidence is the very essence of scientific investigation, so why should the fanciful notions of evolutionists be exempt from it?

Here, then, is yet another item of evidence for discussion, also from the anatomy of the giraffe. It concerns its ability to stand.



The limbs of a giraffe - yet more evidence that the theory of Evolution doesn't have a leg to stand on. Image: M. Nott, www.rgbstock.com.

The BBC News website reported recently on the work of a research team studying giraffes at the Royal Veterinary College of London (<http://goo.gl/BW9Guz>, accessed 03 July).

The researchers drew attention to the fact that, for such a tall creature, the legs of the giraffe seem unusually spindly. As Mr Christopher Basu, the PhD student who led the research, commented, "Giraffes are heavy animals (about 1,000kg), but have unusually skinny limb bones for an animal of this size. This means their leg bones are under high levels of mechanical stress." So how do they manage to stay up?

It turns out that the secret lies with the suspensory ligaments. In the giraffe they are inserted in unusually deep grooves in the lower leg bones. Experiments utilising hydraulic presses on the legs of giraffes that had died in captivity demonstrated that their limbs are able to remain upright and stable, with no additional support, even when under applied loads slightly greater than the giraffe's body weight.

Mr Basu explained that this specialized anatomy, "adds great stiffness to giraffe limbs". As a result giraffes are able to support their huge weight without actively engaging as much muscle, which reduces fatigue.

He went on to say, "... robotics often draws inspiration from animal movement... so studies of this long-legged long-necked animal could inspire such oddly proportioned robotic - or even prosthetic - designs."

These are interesting comments. Let's think them through a little, without the evolutionist blinkers in place. So the

giraffe's anatomy is "specialized". Who then was their Specialist? And the research team's findings could inspire the design of robotic or prosthetic machines. Design, eh? So Who designed the creature from which they draw their inspiration? The implications are clear to anyone with an open mind, anyone who can think for him/her self rather than being told what they are required to think.

Digging deep

Still on the subject of mimicking the amazing designs in the created world, the BBC News website also reported (<http://goo.gl/ok1kgV>, accessed 05 July) on the remarkable abilities of the Atlantic razor clam (*Ensis directus*), a close relative of species known in the UK as razor shells.

Razor clams hide from predators by burrowing in sand. Of course, any such defence is only as good as the speed with which the animal can burrow, but the razor clam is good at it. Very good. Although it should only be strong enough to penetrate 2cm into packed sand, it can burrow up to 70cm in just over a minute!

How does it manage this? A research team of engineers from MIT in Boston, USA, realized that the clam must be doing something additional to the sand itself to facilitate its burrowing. Careful study of clams in action showed that they repeatedly opened and closed their valves (the paired halves of their shells) during burrowing and that this action liquefied the sand, helping them to slide down to safety much more quickly. Accordingly, the Atlantic razor clam has been dubbed "the Ferrari of underwater diggers".



Paired halves of the shell of an Atlantic razor clam - an incredibly good sand burrower. Image: H. Hillewaert, Wikipedia, under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported licence.

defence from predation have evolved very gradually, over millions of years of evolution, without the poor creature being snatched up as a tasty snack by some quick predator in the meantime, and thereby failing to breed the next generation? Surely the more rational explanation is that the razor clam's nimble ability was designed right from the outset, by Someone who wanted it to be able to survive in a fallen

The report quoted Amos Winter, of MIT's Department of Mechanical Engineering, as saying, "The clam's trick is to move its shells in such a way as to liquefy the soil around its body, reducing the drag acting upon it". His colleague Dr Nordstrom added, "Pushing through sand costs a lot of energy. But if the sand is excited, it's actually very easy. That's the trick." With such actions, the clam would expend only about the same amount of energy as in an AA battery to dig for half a kilometre (in the unlikely event that it should choose to do so!).

Needless to say, the research team have applications of these "tricks" in mind. Compared to existing anchor technology the razor clam is about 10 times more efficient, so mimicking the clam's abilities in order to develop robotic devices with dramatically improved anchor-laying or cable-laying capabilities is an important commercial goal.

Development of new burrowing robots will take the time and ingenuity of a highly intelligent team of researchers - but the humble razor clam managed it just by chance! Or did it? How could such a

world and had the intelligence to enable it to do so.

Cuttings & Comments from New Scientist

by Dr David Rosevear

5 April p.15 – Shroud of Turin depicts Y-shaped crucifixion

Experimenting with a volunteer suspended as though crucified, and with donated blood made to trickle from his wrists, Matteo Borrini of Liverpool's John Moores University studied blood patterns on the arms. A close match with the image on the Shroud of Turin was achieved when the person was suspended with arms forming a Y rather than a T with the body.

“This would have been a very painful position and one which would have created difficulty breathing,” says Borrini.

It is claimed that a similar position was used on prisoners hanging from a beam in medieval torture. The Flemish painter Peter Paul Rubens, among others, depicted the Crucifixion with arms above the head.

New Scientist states that the Shroud is a medieval forgery rather than the grave cloth of the Lord Jesus as claimed by the church. **“Whoever made the Shroud must have been a skilled forger to create the correct blood splatter for a crucifixion.**

“Some people believe that it is the cloth in which Jesus’s body was wrapped after crucifixion. But reliable records of it only begin in the 14th century, and carbon dating suggests the Shroud is a medieval forgery.”

It is claimed that the C-14 test was carried out on a piece of the Shroud that had been repaired in the Middle Ages.

12 April p.11 – Missing link fossils may be a jumble of species

“One of our closest long-lost relatives may never have existed. The fossils of *Australopithecus sediba*, which promised to rewrite the story of human evolution, may actually be the remains of two species jumbled together.” (We reported



Cranium of Malapa hominid 1, constituting part of the type specimen of *Australopithecus sediba*, now of questionable status. Image: B. Eloff, Wikipedia, under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported licence.

on this find in our November 2013 issue under the *NS* date 13 July p.14.)

Found initially in 2008 and hailed as a missing link between extinct apes and humans, they are now thought to be the remains of four individuals, being part *Australopithecus* (extinct ape) and part *Homo erectus* (human). There are an adult and a juvenile of both kinds. This is concluded from a study of lower jawbones and vertebrae. *A. sediba* doesn’t exist. The missing link remains just that – missing.

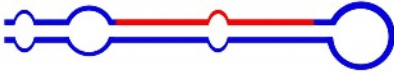
19 April p.14 – How gene tweaks reach descendants

“It has always been mysterious. How can the effects of the things we experience in our lifetimes be passed on to our children without any changes to the genetic code? The answer could lie in tiny fragments of RNA that are passed on in sperm cells.

“Such epigenetic [parts of the DNA that act as switches for the genes] inheritance has been implicated in many modern ills, from schizophrenia to bipolar disorder and obesity. For instance, children of women who were starving during pregnancy in the second world war grew up with an increased risk of developing cancer and diabetes. And in animal studies, the effects of stress seem to persist for three generations.”

The Bible speaks of visiting the iniquities of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation, as well as showing mercy, e.g. Ex. 20:5)

“When produced in excess during times of adversity, these particular miRNAs [microRNAs in mice] trigger epigenetic changes, which alter gene activity to cope with these environmental hardships. However, there are processes that should undo these changes before genes are passed to the next generation –



Schematic of a molecule of pre-miRNA with the characteristic shape reminiscent of a hairgrip: the sequence loops back on itself so that the bases come close together and attach to each other. Bulges along the length are areas where there is imperfect pairing of the bases. An enzyme called Dicer will snip the sequence, releasing the miRNA (shown in red). The miRNA is then available to be attached to an area on a molecule of messenger RNA (mRNA), preventing reading and transcription of that part of the latter. The more molecules of miRNA that are produced, the fewer molecules of mRNA are able to deliver their complete message successfully. Image: CSM.

for example, changes are purged during the formation of the sperm and egg and during development. But even though the changes are no longer in the sperm's genes in this case, the miRNAs remain in the cytoplasm of sperm cells. They get passed into the egg during fertilisation, and as the embryo grows in the womb, the miRNAs get to work, reinstating the same epigenetic changes in the embryo that were in its father."

Everyday experiences alter patterns of gene activity in DNA during life through a chemical process of gene tagging called methylation, which usually silences genes by switching off their function. **"... there is no reason to doubt that the same processes occur in humans... It shows how environmental factors can alter the genome without changing the sequences of genes, but by altering how the genome is regulated."** [Editor's note: a videoclip of miRNA production is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-9pROnSD-AJ>].

19 April p.17 – Flesh-eating bacterium is a child of the 80s

M1 Streptococcus A makes toxins that dissolve muscle and skin. **"Such flesh-eating bacteria attack their host rapidly, and can kill if the infection is not cut out. But it wasn't always so."**

Workers have traced four events that mutated a fairly benign bug into a pathogen by acquiring genes from a virus.

This shows that the genome becomes degraded over time. You may have picked up from the previous extract that there are **"modern ills"** brought about by changes in the epigenome. In his book *'Genetic Entropy and the Mystery of the Genome'*, Dr John Sanford shows that this continuing degradation makes evolution impossible (available from CSM – see our web site under Shop).

19 April p.36 – Home and Dry

By what alchemy might inorganic minerals and lifeless chemicals be transmuted into the first form of living organism? Scientists have been searching for planets that have liquid water, but here it is pointed out that water breaks up biomolecules. **"Water is probably the last thing the first life needed."**

"Hard and fast evidence of how and where on Earth inanimate matter became animate is hard to come by."

One might try the Maker's Handbook! Darwin's warm little pond or a submarine hydrothermal vent, plus a dash of radioactivity, maybe a lightning strike, might produce the imagined soup.

"Decades of research have shown that making nucleotides in water is a very tricky business. Individual steps can be made to work, but they don't all gel together." Evidently life-giving molecules require intelligence and skill that outstrips those of these researchers. Moreover,



Water is essential for life but would also break down the biomolecules supposedly responsible for initiating life - a quandary for evolutionists.
Image: CSM.

nothing works until every component works.

Some of the oldest rocks contain the crystalline mineral zircon, which only forms in cool soggy conditions. It is here suggested that life developed when Earth was wet; possibly when there was no dry land at all. But that leads to the conclusion that the first life could not have started on Earth. Perhaps life arrived on a meteorite from Mars. As G.K. Chesterton noted, men will believe anything as long as it isn't in the Bible.

26 April p.5 – Testing time for inflation

This editorial casts doubt on the recent 'finding' of gravitational waves in space that confirm that the universe underwent faster-than-light inflation in the first tiny

fraction of a second after the proposed big bang, and that this makes the idea of a multiverse probable.

“One stunning claim was that the BICEP2 telescope at the South Pole had seen evidence that the universe underwent a period of rapid inflation. Another was that it had detected the imprint of long-sought gravitational waves.

“Those claims have since come under intense scrutiny. Some physicists now say that the team didn't adequately exclude other processes that could have given rise to the data.

“So is what some commentators described as the ‘discovery of the century’ about to be brought crashing down? There is real room for doubt about the results. Confirmation bias is as much a danger in the physical sciences as elsewhere: by setting out with a clear theoretical prediction of what they should see, the BICEP2 team may have ended up seeing exactly what they wanted to.”

As with *A. sediba* (above), so now with inflation/multiverse, the desire not to allow a Divine foot in the door has left them with egg on their faces (to mix my metaphors).



The Dark Sector Laboratory at the South Pole with, right, the BICEP2 telescope. Image: Amble, Wikipedia, under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported licence.

3 May p.6 - Every cell, off the peg

Techniques for making stem cells from adult skin cells continue to be improved. These can then be converted into any kind of body tissue to rectify damaged or diseased organs.

One team turned **“skin cells from a woman with diabetes into insulin-producing beta cells that could replace those destroyed by the disease. The approach has the potential to replace many other types of tissue including heart cells, neurons and cartilage. This could spur on treatments for Parkinson’s disease, multiple sclerosis and liver disease, and repair damaged bones.”** The patient’s own cells, regressed into stem cells, are not rejected by the body’s immune system.

“To achieve the feat, the teams [one in South Korea, the other in New York] first removed the nucleus of a donated human egg and replaced it with the nucleus from an adult skin cell. Caffeine was added to stop the cell dividing too quickly, buying time for the genes in the egg’s new nucleus to revert to an embryonic state. Electrical pulses and chemicals fooled the cell into thinking it was fertilised, prompting it to divide and multiply. The result was a bundle of 60 to 200 cells- the first time an adult cell has been used to make a cloned human embryo. In the centre of the bundle were embryonic stem cells that can differentiate into any cell in the body, given the right environment.”

This personalised and time consuming method might in future be streamlined by using one of a limited number of proteins that are recognised by the immune system. Check which protein a particular patient needs and take the appropriate stem cells off the shelf.

All this shows how well-designed our bodies are.

3 May p.26 – It’s time to give up on dark matter

Physicist Mordehai Milgrom thinks that since we still have no direct evidence that dark matter exists, we should forget it. He has a better idea – modified Newtonian dynamics (MOND). This is a departure from the standard Newtonian theory of gravity.

He says: **“A host of experiments searching for dark matter, including the Large Hadron Collider, many underground experiments and several space missions, have failed to see anything convincing. This comes on top of increasing realisation that the leading dark matter model has its failings. Among other things, it predicts that we should see many more dwarf galaxies orbiting our Milky Way than we actually do.”**



NGC 1705, a nearby example of a blue compact dwarf galaxy. Image: Hubble Space Telescope, in the public domain.

Milgrom says that the main dark matter paradigm has no predictive power. Much money has been spent on the LHC and other equipment, and many scientists have devoted their careers to big bang theory. Milgrom concludes: **“To my mind it is already high time to give up on dark matter. So much time, money and effort can be saved.”**

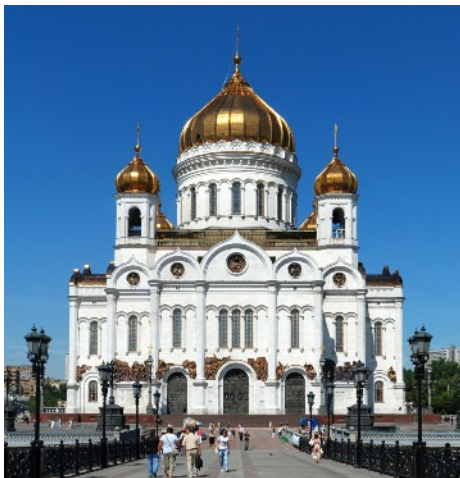
We creationists have been saying this for years.

3 May p.30 – Losing our religion

This cover story claims that more and more of the world’s population is turning its back on god, and wonders why, and what an atheist world would really look like. They should read Revelation. Apostasy in the last days is a theme of the New Testament.

“The UK is one of the least religious countries in the world, with around half of the population saying they don’t belong to any religion.” Yet, only 13 per cent of people around the world say they are ‘committed atheists’. They are outnumbered by Christians. **“A century ago, these trends would have seemed inevitable. The founders of sociology... expected scientific thinking to lead to the gradual erosion and eventual demise of religion... It didn’t quite work out that way. Although parts of western Europe, Australia, Canada and New Zealand did secularise after the second world war, the rest of the world remained resolutely god-fearing. Even the official atheism of the communist bloc didn’t really take hold at grass-roots level.**

When this reviewer went to Moscow in 2000 to lecture on creationism, he found that the beautiful basilica of Christ the Saviour which had been bulldozed to make room for a swimming pool had, with the fall of the soviet regime been lovingly reconstructed.



Resurgence of religion in a soviet state: the rebuilt basilica of Christ the Saviour, Moscow. Image: J. A. Gaspar, Wikipedia, under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported licence.

So why are folk so stubbornly religious?
“Like being able to breathe or learning one’s native language, faith in god is one of those things that comes naturally... Humans have evolved other quirks that encourage the spread of religious beliefs. Notions of a benevolent personal god, higher purpose and an afterlife, for example, help people to manage the existential dread and uncertainty that are part of being human.
“Finally, people who think they are being watched tend to behave themselves and cooperate more... Once humans stumbled on the idea of god, it spread like wildfire.”

Or maybe God has set eternity in man’s heart (Eccl. 3:11 NKJV).

Canadian psychologist Ara Norenzayan speaks of ‘apatheism’. **“This is not so much doubting or being sceptical, but more about not caring. They simply don’t think about religion.”**

However - “Almost 60 per cent of UK adults questioned said they believed in some form of higher power or spiritual being, a mere 13 per cent agreed with the line ‘humans are purely material beings with no spiritual element’.”

So what would a world without god be like? “It is hard to discuss mass atheism without invoking the spectre of the Soviet Union, the Khmer Rouge, North Korea and many other regimes that suppressed or banned religion. Is there a risk that a majority secular world will be more like Stalingrad than Stockholm?”

“Perhaps a more credible worry is what would happen to our physical and mental health. The past 20 years have seen a great deal of research into the benefits of being religious, and most studies claim to find a small association between religiosity, health and happiness.

“But if you think an atheist world would be a paradise of rationality and reason, think again. ‘When people no longer believe in god, it doesn’t mean they don’t have intuitions that are powerfully connected to the supernatural,’ says Norenzayan. ‘Even in societies that are majority atheist, you find a lot of paranormal belief – astrology, karma, extraterrestrial life, things that don’t have any scientific evidence but are intuitively obvious to people.’”

The Lord Jesus Christ, while on earth, said ‘Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way that leads to life, and few there be that find it.’ On His return, will He find faith on the earth?

If secular science encourages people to be apathetic towards their Creator, how vitally important is the work of CSM.



Polar bears: inbuilt design enables them to survive on a diet which may vary significantly according to changing environmental circumstances. Image: Marjan, www.rgbstock.com

17 May p.16 – Polar bears have genes to scoff blubber

They eat loads of seal blubber, yet their digestive system copes with the fat and shrugs off the cholesterol that should cause heart attacks. Brown bears could not cope with this polar bear diet.

“These abilities evolved fast. A new analysis suggests the species is less than 500,000 years old.

“A team... sequenced the genomes of 89 polar bears and 10 brown bears, their closest relative”

Of the 20 polar bear genes that differed most from brown bears, nine relate to the heart in humans; for instance, removing cholesterol from the blood.

Since they can interbreed, brown and polar are varieties of the same created kind. The gene differences may be due to switches in the epigenome. If so, the changes could be very rapid, not needing half a million years that never were. The changes enabled them to cope with a new environment during the ice age, by design.

24 May p.8 – Life’s lunar backup plan

Just as one might store information from a computer in a ‘cloud’, so one could transfer

copies of valuable items for storage on the moon. If earth were to suffer a global catastrophe, such items would perhaps still be available.

“The Torah on the Moon project, based in Tel Aviv, Israel, has been courting private firms to deliver a handwritten Jewish scroll, the Sefer Torah, to the lunar surface. If they succeed, later flights will carry Hindu scriptures called the Vedas and the ancient Chinese philosophical work, the I-Ching.

“The texts would join the Bible left on the moon in 1971 by Apollo 15 commander David Scott.”

At the time this enraged atheist activists, but the Christians were not staking a claim for the moon; just saving something precious for the future. Richard Dawkins says **“we should be using it to store the best humanity has ever had to offer, like the works of Michelangelo, Beethoven, Schubert and Shakespeare.”**

Maybe there is no need to store the Scriptures on the moon, since Psalm 119:89 tells us that ‘For ever, O Lord, Thy word is settled in heaven’.

You can’t get more secure than that.

24 May p.30 – Why we need to reconstruct the universe

Creationists have long argued that what is needed to create something is power and information. This includes the creation of the universe (see CSM pamphlet 276 *‘Information, the third fundamental quantity’* by Professor Werner Gitt.) Jeremiah 10:12 puts it like this: ‘He has made the earth by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom, and has stretched out the heavens by his discretion.’ But information is difficult to quantify, isn’t it?

“The problem with current theories of physics is that they don’t put

information centre stage... it’s time to rewrite the rules.

“Yet there have long been clues that information is a fundamental physical quantity, obeying exact rules. Consider statistical mechanics, pioneered by Ludwig Boltzmann at the end of the 19th century, which reformulates the laws of thermodynamics in information-like terms. For example, these laws define heat and entropy - loosely speaking, a measure of disorder in a system - in terms of the number of ways in which atoms of a given total energy could possibly be distributed, which is also the information content of the system....

“But unlike energy, the idea of information clashes with the prevailing conception of fundamental physics. Ever since Galileo and Newton, this has been that the physical world is explained in terms of its state (describing everything that is there) and deterministic laws of motion (describing how the state changes with time). Only one outcome can result from an initial given state, so there is no room for anything else to be possible. Information cannot be expressed that way, because of its counterfactual character.”

(For those who wish to follow this in detail, go to www.constructortheory.org.)

Information can only be made by thought processes, and random changes can only lose information (as with mutations of a genome). So creating the heavens and the earth, the sea and everything in it, requires a genius beyond conception. A big bang explosion would destroy order (increase entropy), and further developments would also compound the loss of order, if possible. Might Physics someday find God?

31 May p.8 Dark matter hunt at crisis point

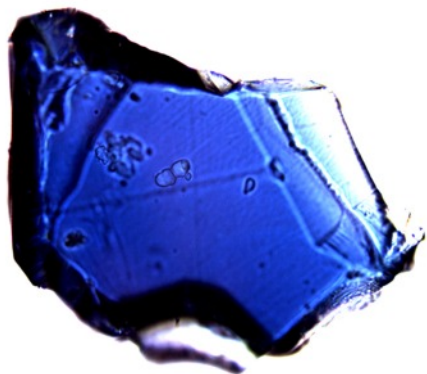
The search continues for dark matter and some **“say dark matter might not exist at all, and we just need to modify the laws of gravity.”**

Dark matter detectors are becoming more sensitive, but researchers are still detecting nothing. **“The trouble is that background noise can prevent us noticing the impact of a WIMP. Beyond a certain sensitivity limit, the signal would be swamped by neutrinos ... ‘It’s always possible WIMPs are just around the corner’ says Avi Loeb at Harvard University. ‘But when there is no evidence, you have to be careful. We are looking for a black cat in a dark room.’”**

During June there has not been much of relevance to these columns.

21 June p.17 Vast ‘ocean’ found deep inside Earth

“A reservoir of water three times the volume of the world’s oceans has been found towards Earth’s core. It could explain where the seas came from.



A minute crystal (~150 micrometres across) of Fo90 composition blue ringwoodite. Image: Jasperox, Wikipedia, under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported licence.

“The water is hidden in a blue rock called ringwoodite that lies 700 kilometres down in the mantle between Earth’s surface and core.”

Researchers in Illinois, USA have **“used seismometers to study the seismic waves from more than 500 earthquakes.”** The waves travel more slowly in soggy rock than dry.

Perhaps this is where the water from the worldwide flood went subsequently.

Sediments

We invite our readers to visit www.sedimentology.fr, which features the work of French scientist Dr Guy Berthault. Two short videos are particularly interesting as they give information and experimental evidence to show that sedimentary beds form in far less time than the supposed ‘geological time’ (see the web article) and hence there is no time for the evolution that secularists fondly imagine has occurred.

Quote

“Life’s a story, you can choose your story, a story with God is the better story.”

Yann Martell, author of Life of Pi

From the postbag

“Thank you again for all materials and such being sent! Is shared among the 1000+ on this yard! Surprising how many are interested in it...”

(From a man in a prison in California to whom we send a free mailing.)

Genesis Expo news

Recently we have acquired a number of new items for display at the Genesis Expo, our free exhibition at The Hard in the tourist area of Portsmouth. Splendid amongst these is a highly detailed one-metre-long model of a *Triceratops* dinosaur, here shown in a back garden where it might also double as an effective way of keeping out the neighbour's cat!



Far less three-dimensional but also of interest is a large slab containing fossils of a school of small fishes. The fishes were fossilised complete - they were not picked apart by scavengers - and some of them even overlap each other. This indicates they must have all been engulfed in sediment rapidly, in some catastrophic event. Therefore, the layers they are found in must have been deposited rapidly; they cannot possibly represent time periods of millions of years.



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