

Fossils

Topic: Fossils

Description/Defining the Terms:

By definition, a fossil is the impression, traces, or bones of a prior living thing preserved in the earth's crust from a prior geologic age. (i.e. a very old plant or animal encased in rock)

Discuss and Summarize the Secular Worldview:

Sample Summary: Fossilization happens in a very slow and gradual way, called Uniformitarianism. Fossils of plants and animals are millions of years old. This happens today as it always has.

Discuss and Summarize the Christian Worldview:

Sample Summary: A global flood destroyed all the air breathing land animals except for those on Noah's ark. This caused massive fossil formation all over the Earth in the mineral-rich sediment. What we observe in the strata of the Earth's crust is just what we'd expect after a global, catastrophic flood.

Why This is Important:

Fossils are often used as "proof" of a very old Earth, questioning the authority of scripture, which describes Creation happening about 6,000 years ago.

Scripture Says:

Genesis 6-9

Worth Considering:

- For fossils to be millions of years old, these animals would have had to have died before the fall.
- Synthetic or man-made "fossils" can be formed in about 24 hours with the right chemicals, heat, and pressure in a laboratory setting and are indistinguishable from naturally formed fossils.
- In nature, organic material can be transformed into a mineral "fossil" in a matter of a year or two, such as a bird's nest that is near a hot spring.

- Different materials fossilize at different rates. The "Limestone Cowboy" was found in a dry creek bed in Iraan, Texas about 1980. It is fossilized bone in a leather boot with a rubber sole. The boot was made in the early 1950's and had not fossilized.
- Creatures like jellyfish, that lack hard structures, decay within hours of death. Yet jellyfish fossils show great detail, requiring that they were buried rapidly before rot or scavengers could damage them. Fossils of fish show them in mid bite of another fish or in the process of giving birth.
- In 2005 Mary Schweitzer's team found soft tissue in a T.rex femur bone believed to be 68 million years old.
- There are enormous fossil beds throughout the world displaying massive animal graveyards. One layer of the Grand Canyon contains squid-like fossils and covers 10,000 square miles. Nautiloid Canyon is named after the abundance of these fossils.
- The Cretaceous Chalk Beds of southern England form spectacular white cliffs known around the world. These same chalk beds extend across Europe to France, Poland, Southern Scandinavia, to Turkey, Israel, and Egypt in the Middle East, to Nebraska, Texas, Alabama, and Colorado in North America and even appear in the Perth Basin of Western Australia. They have the same distinctive strata above and below them. These contain untold numbers of tiny marine creatures fossilized into chalk.
- In the sea cliffs near Joggins, Nova Scotia, "polystrate fossils" of vertical tree stumps extend through many layers of rock. They show no signs of decomposition while normally a dead tree would begin to lose its bark and topple over in a few years. Similar tree fossils are found around the world in coal seams.
- At the 1980 Mount St. Helens eruption, 25' of stratified rock layers were deposited and hardened in a few hours.
- Geologists have recognized for 60 years that three of the six mega sequences of distinctive sedimentary rock layers can be traced across North America to Greenland as well as North Africa, Israel, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia.

Questions to Consider:

- Which viewpoint has the strongest physical evidence?
- Why do you think a global flood is ruled out by secular scientists?
- Has today's discussion made you reconsider any of your views?

For Further Investigation on This Topic:

<https://www.bible.ca/tracks/rapid-fossils.htm>