

Why evolution is not the answer

Jon Roberts
Feature Editor

Is it evolution or creationism? This is a question that has been fiercely debated over the last decade. The answer to this question is more a statement of what a person believes rather than what they can prove.

The theory of evolution is just that, a theory. It is not a scientific law. Which means that evolution can not be reproduced in labs and can not be seen in everyday life. When I speak of evolution, I mean evolution of species. Evolution is the "best answer" with our current knowledge as to how life came to be on earth. At least, that is what the great minds of the twentieth century say. A scientific theory can be disproved and be tossed out at any time, but why is it that evolution is being taught as a fact in schools all across America and the world?

There are two types of evolution: one can be observed and the other has never happened. The first is evolution or adaptation. One example is insects developing a resistance to pesticides over a period of a few years. The second type of evolution is the theory that if you consider any two

animals, you could trace them to the same ancestor.

Mark Isaac, the writer and editor of the evolution home page on the Internet, defines evolution as a change in the gene pool of a population over time. If this were true, there should be proof in the fossil record that evolution exists. If evolution exists, there should be transitional fossils in the fossil record. A transitional fossil is a fossil that would show a change between two different classes of animals, i.e. a bird with teeth in its beak, a reptile with feathers, etc.

One animal that evolutionists point to as a good transitional fossil is an animal called Archaeopteryx, which is a bird's body and the head of a reptile. According to Isaac, "this is clearly a mix of bird and reptile." If this animal were a transitional fossil, it should have transitional features. A transitional feature is a feature that shows characteristics of both animals, not just separate parts of both like Archaeopteryx does.

According to the creationism home page on the Internet, when fossils are examined, they form records of existing and extinct organisms with clearly defined

gaps, or missing transitional forms.

Following are some problems with the theory of transitional fossils existing, according to the creationists home page:

The first problem is the Cambrian explosion. At the bottom of the geological column in the so-called Cambrian rocks are found highly complex creatures such as trilobites, worms, sponges, jelly fish, etc., all without ancestors. These are highly complex life forms appearing on the scene without forerunners.

The second problem is insects; when found in the fossil record, they are already developed without ancestors. Dragonflies are dragonflies; cockroaches are cockroaches.

A third problem is invertebrates and vertebrates; transitional forms leading to vertebrates are absent even though the transition supposedly took millions of years. It is theorized that life passed through a stage where a creature possessed a simple rod-like notochord. Proof of this has not been found.

The fourth problem is mammals; mammals just appear in the fossil record, again without tran-

sitional forms (in his book notes, Gish 32 such orders of mammals). Marine mammals like whales, dolphins and sea cows also appear abruptly. It has been suggested that the ancestors of the dolphins are cattle, pigs or buffaloes. This has been clearly proven wrong.

The fifth problem is the enigma of flight; supposedly, insects, birds, mammals (bats) and reptiles each evolved the ability to fly separately. In each of the four cases, there are no series of transitional forms to support this assertion.

The sixth problem is primates; lemurs, monkeys, apes and man appear fully formed in the fossil record. The proverbial "missing link" between man and ape remains elusive.

Finally, the last problem is dinosaurs; again there is the absence of transitional series leading to these giants.

Mark Isaac, an evolutionist,



painting by Alex Ebel
Evolutionists claim the Archaeopteryx is the "missing link" between lizard and bird when it appears not to be.

states "that transitions may occur in small population, in a small area and/or a relatively short amount of time." He also states that "the fossil record is still spotty and always will be."

Since the time of Darwin; the amount of fossils unearthed has increased a hundred-fold.

Evolution is clearly false, yet it is still being taught as a fact in schools. Since this is true, why are schools so afraid of teaching creationism? Could it be there is as much, or more, proof for creationism as evolutionism? Or is it that creationism is the one true answer to the origin of life?

Dissension creates chaos in Capitol

Ryan Humphris
Staff Writer

The recent shutdown of our Government has shown us that Congress needs to get their priorities in order. Our country has become a country that can't even decide whether or not to be unified in a decision. The Democrats, headed by Bill Clinton, want to make radical changes in government spending and hopefully reduce the deficit over a 10-year period.

The Republicans, headed by Newt Gingrich and Bob Dole, think Clinton is nuts. They want major reductions in spending,

making most of their cuts in Medicare and Medicaid; these programs subsidize nursing homes for Americans and health care for the poor. The Republicans would also reduce spending for programs like student loans and environmental protection.

Granted, these programs themselves may be misused and poorly directed, but that doesn't mean money should be taken away from these programs. They should just be reorganized, making it harder for them to be misused.

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Would companies have made the money if there weren't pirates? Should pirating be illegal?

Brad Zimmerman
Staff Writer

Pirating, the illegal copying of software, has resulted in over seven billion dollars in lost revenues to software companies in the U.S. alone. However, most of the money that software, phone and modem companies receive wouldn't have been obtained in the first place, if it weren't for pirating.

It is a fact that software companies overcharge 65-85 percent for software, to compensate for alleged lost revenues, due to pirating. However, most pirates after receiving an illegal copy of software will quickly delete it -- because the software usually doesn't live up to its expectations, or it's too big and does too little. So, it stands to reason that the software companies wouldn't have gotten those revenues in the first place, because the pirates would not have bought the product due to the product's inferiority.

Another little known fact is

how much the software companies make from legally obtained software that is never used. Because of most store and software manufacturing policies, if a piece of software is physically okay, it can't be returned. I.e. if you buy some software that doesn't live up to its expectations, you can't return it for that sole fact. Therefore, the software companies have made money on an inferior product, on which the software company in question has massively overcharged. U.S. Robotics, the world leader in modem manufacturing, has made millions by producing the preferred modem of the pirate. Pirates, not big business, asked for faster, more reliable modems and USR delivered (and been regally compensated for that delivery). USR knows this, and that's why it won't give out lists (to the FBI and police) of people it's sold modems to.

The phone companies have also (indirectly) profited from pirating, because most pirates trans-

fer files at night, by phone lines. Therefore, the phone companies make money on calls that would have otherwise never been placed (who do you know that makes long distance phone calls to New York at 2 a.m.?). The phone companies also overcharge in order to compensate for lost revenues (a few pirates illegally use business' "internal switchboards" to place long distance calls).

Even though some pirates eventually buy legal copies of software that were previously pirated, there are numerous instances where software is illegally copied, and the originating company is never compensated. Software companies could easily compensate by increasing their prices 20 or 25 percent. However, the reality is that software companies (and phone companies) overcharge by much more. The reality is, that until a testing method (for software) is found, piracy is the only viable option to avoid buying bad software.

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