

# WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

## The Salmon

**S**ALMON are some of nature's most amazing travellers. Some swim 16,000 km. (10,000 miles) in their 4-year life. This amazing journey begins in a small stream, where the baby salmon have hatched from eggs. The tiny salmon swim from the small stream where they were born to a larger stream, and eventually into the sea, growing all the time.



A Salmon

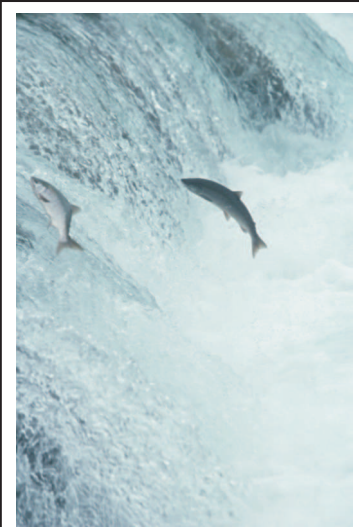
They are now about 22cm. (9 ins.) long, and are able to cope with changing from fresh to salt water. Feeding on tiny sea creatures called plankton and shrimps, the salmon grow to about 50 cm. (20 ins.) long. Some species spend four years in the sea. Then, they get the urge to go back home!

Although the salmon have travelled thousands of miles from where they were born, they now swim back to where they came from. They find the river where they first entered the sea, swim up this river, and eventually reach the tiny stream where they were born! There may be many obstacles in the way, such as waterfalls, but the salmon are able to jump as high as 3.3 meters (10 feet), so determined are they to get home. During this amazing journey, the salmon eat nothing, living off the fat in their bodies. When they finally reach their home stream, the females lay

their eggs, and very soon die. The next generation to hatch from the eggs will soon take that same journey.

Scientists have tried to understand how the salmon find their way home again. They think the fish use the sun to find the river that led them to the sea. Then, it seems that they find their home stream by smell. After four years in the wide ocean, they remember the smell of the water they were born in, using special smell detectors in their nostrils that can pick out one smell out of a billion others!

**Do you think the salmon could have gradually evolved their special smell detectors and the ability to find their way back to the stream where they were born? Surely God must have given them these senses when He created them.**



Salmon leaping a waterfall

## A NEW LIFE!

People sometimes ask "Which came first, the chicken or the egg?" If you think about it, it had to be the chicken! We believe that God created the first chicken, which laid the first egg. In the beginning, all the new life on earth came from God. When a chicken, or any other animal, hatches from an egg, it begins a completely new life. Of course, it was alive when it was inside the shell, but life outside is very different. There is a whole new world to explore. No chicken would want to go back to its old life inside the shell after seeing the world outside.



God wants to give us a new life, too. Our lives have been spoiled because we have done wrong things. God's Son, Jesus Christ, came to earth to die so that we could be forgiven, and start again. The Bible tells us "If anyone belongs to Christ, then he is made new. The old things have gone; everything is made new!" (1 Corinthians 5: 17). The new life Jesus gives us will last for ever. Jesus rose again from the dead, and has a place in heaven for all who love Him. All of us can have this new life, just by putting our faith in Jesus. Have you accepted God's gift of new life?



A whole new world to explore

## Puzzle answers

- HIDDEN ANIMALS:**
1. Newt. 2. Owl. 3. Lion.
  4. Sloth. 5. Bison.
  6. Panda. 7. Seal.
  8. Beaver. 9. Donkey.
  10. Heron.
- EGGS:**
1. Butterfly. 2. Snail.
  3. Frog. 4. Spider.
  5. Salmon.

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This issue includes photos and graphics from clipart.com and Corel Photo-CD

Our World is published quarterly by the Creation Resources Trust. Editing, design and layout by Geoff Chapman. Unless otherwise stated, articles are written by the editor. For subscription details and information about other resources, please contact CRT at P O Box 3237, Yeovil, BA22 7WD, UK. Phone/fax: 01935 850569. E-mail: Geoff@c-r-t.fsnet.co.uk Web site: www.c-r-t.co.uk ©2002 CRT Reg. Charity Number 1016666

Printed by CPO Design & Print, Worthing



## HOW DO THEY KNOW?

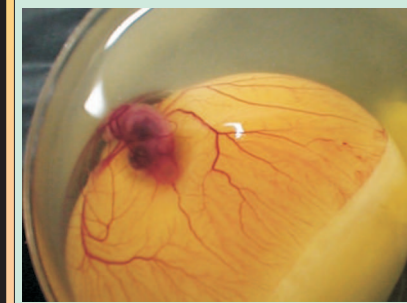
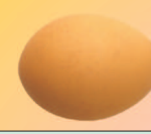


Most birds build a nest of some kind, and most birds incubate their eggs by sitting on them to keep them warm until they hatch. Eggs need to be kept safe so that more young birds will be born. How do birds know that their eggs are important? They must have had this instinct planted in them by God, so that "each bird produces more of its own kind." (Genesis 1: 21)



Never take eggs from birds' nests. Firstly, it is against the law, and it could land you in serious trouble. Secondly, if birds' eggs are taken, there will be less baby birds, and some species may die out altogether.

## The CHICKEN and EGG story



The chick embryo after seven days. Note the blood vessels spreading into the yolk, which feeds the chick. (Photo courtesy of Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, 47906.)

If you looked inside a fertile chicken's egg you would see a tiny speck. If you then incubated the egg (in an incubator or under a hen) you would see some wonderful changes. On the first day the head and eyes begin to form, and by the end of the second day the heart is beating. On the third day legs and wings begin to form, and by the eighth day feathers start to grow. All this time, the chick embryo is feeding from the yolk.

By the 20th day the chick fills the whole shell of the egg. It then needs more air, so it pecks into the tiny air sac at the end of the egg. Then, on the 21st day — no later, or it would die — the chick breaks out to begin life in the outside world.

The instructions to make all this happen are in that tiny speck — instructions to design a chicken that will eventually lay eggs itself. Instructions always come from someone's mind; they cannot come by accident. In the beginning, the instructions in a chicken's egg came from God's mind!

For more chick embryo pictures, see <http://ag.ansc.purdue.edu/poultry/clipart.htm>



## Ants, too!

Insects lay eggs, too. Some insects just leave their eggs to hatch, others, such as ants, take great care of them. Ants live together in nests, and if their nest is disturbed they carry their eggs away to safety.



Ants carrying eggs, which are much larger than themselves

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