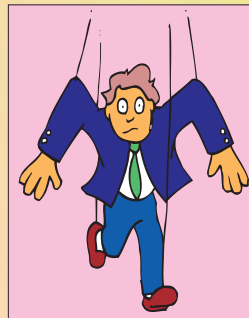


The World is not a PUPPET SHOW

Have you ever watched a puppet show—Punch and Judy maybe? You may have made puppets of your own. We know that puppets can do nothing by themselves, and only move when they are made to by the person who is working them (the puppeteer). When Mr Punch attacks his wife Judy, or the policeman, it's because the puppeteer makes him do it. The puppeteer could just as easily make Mr Punch behave in a kind and loving way.

WE CAN CHOOSE

When God created the first people, He could have made them like puppets, and forced them to obey Him. But God gave to Adam and Eve (and all of us) the freedom to choose how we will live. We have to decide whether we will live the way God wants us to, or whether we will go our own way.



God didn't make us like puppets

If we were like puppets, we could not choose to disobey God, but we couldn't choose to love Him either. God loves us all, and He wants our love. But He can't make us love Him. The reason why there are so many bad things in our world is because ever since Adam and Eve first decided to sin against God, all people (including us) have done the same. Is there a way out of this problem? Yes — God Himself has made a way! (see our back page to find out).



ROBOTS CAN'T CHOOSE



Humans have invented robots which can do many things. But they will only do what their makers have designed them to do. And although robots may sometimes break down, they can't decide for themselves to refuse to do what they are made for. But we are different. We can decide whether we will live God's way or go our own way. Sadly, because people have gone their own way, rather than God's way, many bad things happen in our world.

Nature Notes by the Editor

In the spring, it is wonderful to see the trees grow their green leaves again. Those of us who live where there are lots of trees may not always realise how important trees are to life on earth. But without trees we would not be able to breathe, because through their leaves trees take in a poisonous gas called carbon dioxide, use it to make food for themselves, and at the same time put oxygen into the air, which we need to breathe.

Trees also affect the weather by bringing down rain, and help prevent soil being washed away in heavy rain. In some countries, there are huge rain forests, which stretch for thousands of miles. They are home to many wonderful animals and birds. Sadly, people are cutting down and burning large parts of these forests. This means that less rain falls in these areas, and it also destroys the homes of many rain forest creatures. In the beginning, God said "Let the earth produce plants". (Genesis 1: 11), and trees are a very important part of God's creation. Without them there would be no other life. So we ought to look after the rain forests and other areas of trees. Next time you see some green leaves, remember how important trees are to us all!



Rain forest being cut down and burned



A tropical rain forest



—Geoff Chapman

WHAT BIG TEETH YOU HAVE!

All the better to eat PLANTS with!

Many animals have big, sharp teeth, which are often used for eating meat. Fossils also show that many animals that have died out had similar teeth. But having big, sharp teeth doesn't always mean that an animal ate other animals. Some living animals use teeth like these for eating plants. In the beginning, before animals began to kill and eat one another, those which now eat meat would have used their teeth to chew up plant material.



Like lions and tigers, pandas are classed as *carnivores*. But pandas are vegetarians, and use their big, sharp teeth to chew bamboo shoots, which are their main diet.



Photo courtesy of Paul Abramson www.creationism.org

Fossils show that many animals that lived in the past had teeth which looked as though they were designed for eating meat. But before sin came into God's world, there was no killing or suffering. So these teeth would have been used only for eating plants—just as some living animals do.



A fruit bat

There are about 166 species of fruit bats — sometimes called "flying foxes". They live in the forests of Africa, Europe, Australia, and Asia. Their large teeth make them look very fierce, yet they eat nothing except fruit.

PUZZLE CORNER

ODD ONE OUT

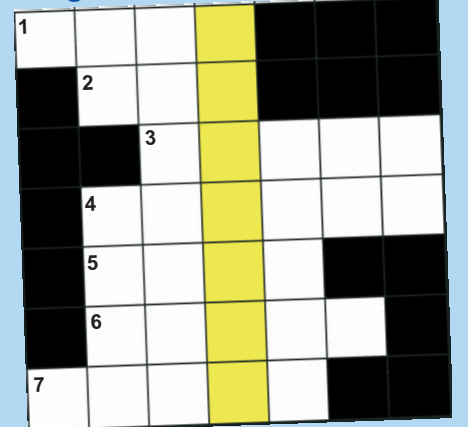
Which creature in each group does not belong — and why?



Answers on back page

ACROSTIC

Fill in the words (all from this magazine) to find the keyword.



- Cuddly pets
 - Opposite of truth
 - What Adam and Eve ate.
 - God did not make us one of these
 - The first garden
 - Animal that eats bamboo
 - Animals used these to eat plants
- Keyword: devil's disguise