

# WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

## Spiders

**WE** often think spiders are a nuisance and sweep down their webs. Many people are scared of spiders, yet they are really wonderful creatures. Spiders are *arachnids*, not insects — insects have six legs. Spiders can make at least 7 different kinds of silk, which for its weight is several times stronger than steel. Scientists are even trying to copy it.

When a spider spins a web, it makes some of the threads non-sticky so that it can walk on the web without getting caught itself. If you look closely at a spider's web you will see that it is beautifully designed, and may wonder how web-making began. If young spiders are kept away from other spiders until they are fully grown, they will spin perfect webs, even though they have never seen other spiders do it. This means that they don't learn how to do it, but work by instinct.

Although evolutionists believe spiders evolved from some other kind of creature, fossil spiders trapped in hardened tree resin, known as amber (left), show that spiders have always been spiders, and also that they had



© Planet-Medien-AG

silk-making organs, just like modern spiders. The idea that they gradually discovered how to make silk, and then complicated webs doesn't make sense, for they would also have had to evolve the equipment to make and spin the silk before they could even begin to make webs. And if spiders were once able to get their food without webs, why would they need to evolve web-making anyway?

**There is no evidence that spiders evolved, so it makes sense to believe that they were created by God in the beginning.**



Courtesy U.S. National Museum of Natural History

## GOD - THE PERFECT DESIGNER!

Isn't it amazing that human designers are continually copying nature? At least they say they are copying nature, but really they are copying God's designs. What is more, they often admit that God's designs are much better than the best they can do. This applies to birds, flying reptiles, spiders and thousands of other things.



Birds are better designed than aircraft

God's designs are best because He is a perfect Designer. 3,000 years ago the Psalmist wrote: "O Lord, what variety you have made! And in wisdom you have made them all!" (Psalm 104:24). But the world we live in is not like it was when God made it. The Bible tells us that things began to go wrong when the first people on earth, Adam and Eve, disobeyed God (Genesis chapter 3). The whole of creation was spoilt, and death, pain and suffering became part of life. But in spite of this we can still see God's wonders in the world.

God has promised to restore creation in the future: "For on that day thorns and thistles, sin, death and decay... will all disappear... For we know that even the things of nature, like animals and plants, suffer in sickness and death as they await this great event." (Romans 8: 20-22). If we want to be part of that, and see everything as God designed it to be in the beginning, we must ask God to forgive us and believe that His Son, Jesus died for us. "If anyone belongs to Christ, then he is made new." (1 Corinthians 5: 17). **Only new people can share in that new creation!**



No more thorns and thistles!

## PUZZLE CORNER ANSWERS

- JUMBLED BIRDS:**
1. Swallow. 2. Thrush. 3. Starling.
  4. Magpie. 5. Vulture. 6. Pelican.
  7. Flamingo. 8. Sparrow. 9. Penguin.
  10. Ostrich.

- SPOT THE CHANGES:**
- (Small dinosaur) 1. Extra spikes on back. 2. Spikes changed colour. 3. Teeth changed colour. 4. Tongue poking out.
- (Large dinosaur) 5. Body colour changed. 6. Tail missing. 7. Eye colour changed. 8. Toe colour changed. 9. Bush in mouth changed colour. 10. Tree leaves changed colour. 11. Tree trunk changed colour. 12. Bird missing from tree. 13. Extra bunch of grass by tree.

Bible references from the Living Bible © copyright 1971 by Tyndale House Publishers.

Includes graphics from Clipart.com and Planet-Medien AG.

*Our World* is published quarterly by the Creation Resources Trust (Reg. Charity No.1016666). Editing, design and layout by Geoff Chapman. Unless otherwise stated, articles are written by the editor. There is no subscription charge, but donations towards costs are invited. For more information about this, and 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.crt.org.uk © 2005 CRT

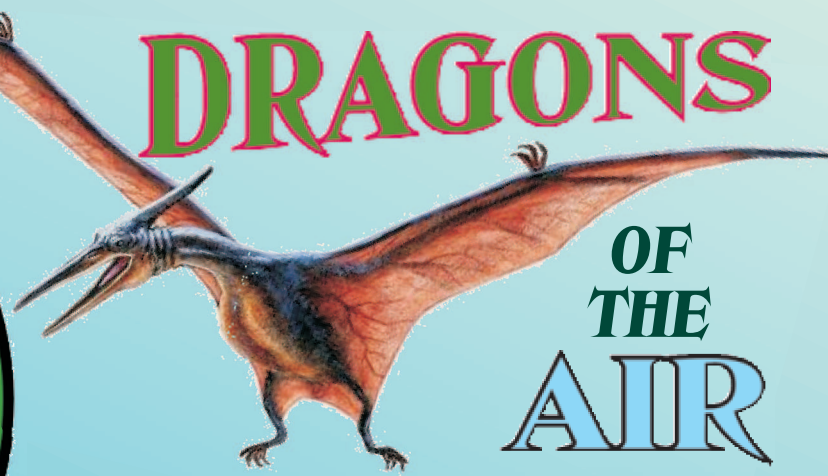
Printed by CPO Design & Print, Worthing



# DRAGONS

## OF THE AIR

**GIANT FLYING REPTILES THAT MEASURED 18 METRES (60 FEET) FROM WING-TIP TO WING-TIP ONCE SOARED IN THE SKY!**



## Built like a plane!

Although flying reptiles — called *pterosaurs* — now seem to be extinct, scientists can learn a lot about them by studying their fossils. They have found that pterosaurs were perfectly designed for flying. They had hollow wings with



bars inside them for strength, which is just the same as the design used in jumbo-jets. If you have ever watched an air show you may have seen planes doing "aerobatics". Scientists have recently discovered that pterosaurs could perform the kind of flying "tricks" used by modern planes. They didn't need to jump off cliffs, but were able to take off and land from a standing position, just like "jump-jets". Planes were designed and built by clever engineers who understood the laws of aerodynamics. The pterosaurs, some of which measured 18 meters (60 feet) from wing-tip to wing-tip, must have been created by God, the Master Designer!

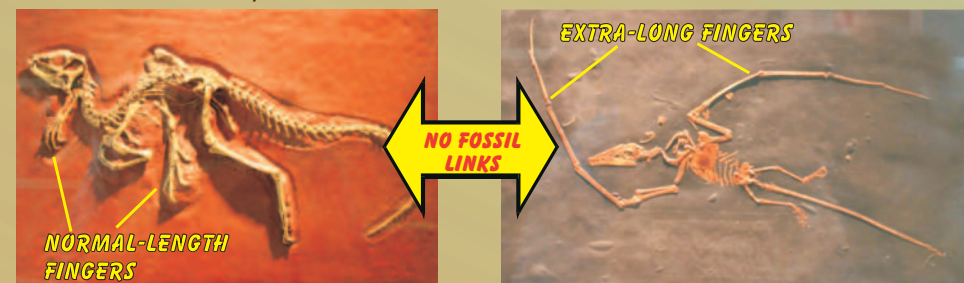


Pterosaur fossil at the Smithsonian Museum, USA. Photo © Paul Abramson www.creationism.org

## NO EVIDENCE OF EVOLUTION!

The evolution theory says that flying reptiles evolved from ancestors which lived on the ground and had no wings. If this were true, we would expect to find fossils of reptiles with partly-developed wings, which were on the way to becoming flying reptiles.

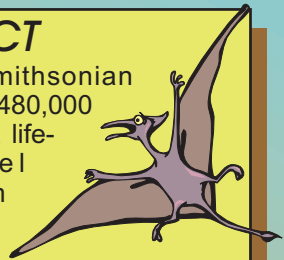
Flying reptiles had an extra-long fourth finger on their claws to hold their bat-like wings. If these "dragons of the air" really evolved we would expect to find fossils showing these fingers gradually getting longer. There are lots of fossils of land reptiles and flying reptiles, but no fossils of any "in-between" creatures. The evidence doesn't



Photos © Paul Abramson www.creationism.org

## MODEL PROJECT

In America, the Smithsonian Institution is spending \$480,000 on a project to make a life-size flying model pterosaur, using a team of 20 technicians. If this project succeeds it will be the result of people using their intelligence. So isn't it strange that so many people believe that the real flying reptiles that once soared in the skies just evolved by accident?



also in this issue:  
flying dragons a fairy tale?  
NATURE NOTES:  
MADE to fly!  
Puzzle Corner.  
Weird and Wonderful: spiders

Visit our website: www.c-r-t.co.uk



## FLYING DRAGONS A FAIRY TALE?

Most people believe that flying dragons belong to fairy tales. It's true that pictures of such creatures (left) may be a bit fanciful, but they could be based on fact — a memory of a time when people actually saw flying reptiles. There is no proof that they lived millions of years ago. In fact, there are historical records and stories of people seeing similar creatures, especially in parts of Africa. And since similar stories come from many parts of the world, there may well have been a time — possibly soon after the great flood — when flying reptiles were quite common, before changes in the world's climate made it difficult for them to survive.



A Pterosaur

Herodotus, a Greek historian, visited Egypt about 450 B.C and wrote that in that country there were “winged serpents” with “bat-like wings”. The Jewish historian Josephus reported that there were “flying serpents” in

Egypt during the time of Moses. Both these historians were well-known for writing reliable reports. Stories of similar creatures were still being told in Europe as late as the 15th century. The picture on the left is of a wood-carving from France. It shows a flying reptile with wings made of scales, just like that of pterosaurs. In North America, the Sioux Indians tell a story about some of their warriors who saw a “thunderbird” that perfectly fits the description of the pteranodon, a type of flying reptile. There are so many reports of people seeing similar creatures that we believe the theory that flying reptiles died out millions of years ago is simply wrong.

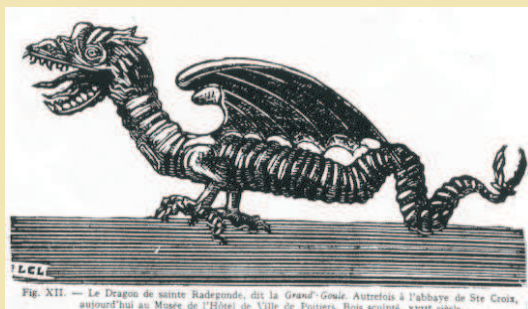


Fig. XII. — Le Dragon de sainte Radegonde, dit la Grand'-Goule. Antérieur à l'abbaye de Ste Croix, aujourd'hui au Musée de l'Hôtel de Ville de Poitiers. Bois sculpté, XVII<sup>e</sup> siècle.

## Nature Notes by the Editor

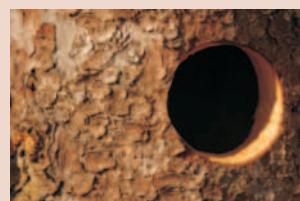
The old ash tree in our field seemed to be a meeting-place for crows. Every morning there were several of them in its branches. We could see them easily because the tree was dead. Now the crows' meeting-place has gone, because the old ash tree blew down in an autumn storm (photo, left). It does mean, though, that we shall have plenty of firewood to keep us warm during the winter.



A closer look at the fallen tree revealed that insects had made a home in its dead branches. There were also signs that woodpeckers had been busy, no doubt looking for insects. Lots of insects live in dead wood, and many are helpful to gardeners. So it's good to leave a few dead logs in a corner of the garden, as many insects

like a “rotten place” to live. Lots of animals make use of dead trees, too, taking shelter or building nests in hollow trunks (right).

In some ways we are like that old ash tree. We may live a long time on earth, but one day our life here will end. But for those who put their faith in God's Son, Jesus, who came back to life after He died, there is a new life waiting in heaven when this life is over, where we can live with Him for ever.



—Geoff Chapman



www.crt.org.uk

## MADE to Fly!

Many people believe that the Wright brothers of America were the first to fly a powered aeroplane. Recently, though, it has been discovered that Richard Pearse, a New Zealand farmer, beat the Wright brothers by a few months when he flew a short distance in a plane he had built in 1903. In 2003 special stamps (left) were minted in New Zealand to commemorate this achievement.



However, in each case many years of thought and planning were necessary before these men were able to get their flying machines off the ground.



Modern aircraft, which carry millions of people around the world every year, are designed and built by experts. It would be no use just adding wings to a motor-car and expecting it to fly. Planes are *built* to fly. Their framework is made of light yet strong material, and the wings have moveable flaps (above). If you have been on a plane you may have noticed these flaps moving during take-off and landing. Studies of the fossils of flying reptiles show that they

could change the shape of their wings while they were flying — something aircraft don't do. So they were much better designed than planes. Pterosaurs also had hollow bones, with cross-struts inside, just like modern aircraft.

Although flying reptiles seem to be extinct, they must have been quite impressive as they soared into the sky. No one who saw them would ever have believed that they had just evolved.

**If aircraft need designers, so did the flying reptiles. We believe that in the beginning God, the Creator, made them to fly!**



Cross-section of hollow bone



The Wright brothers aeroplane



## PUZZLE CORNER

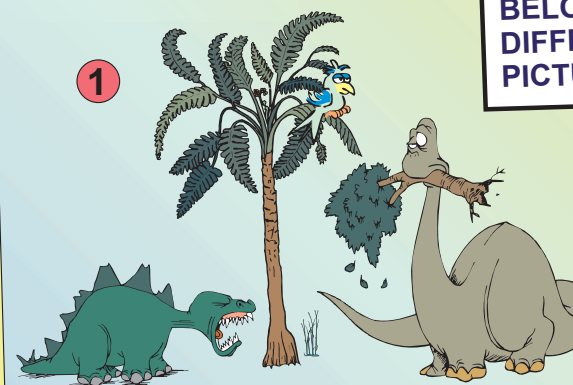


### JUMBLLED BIRDS

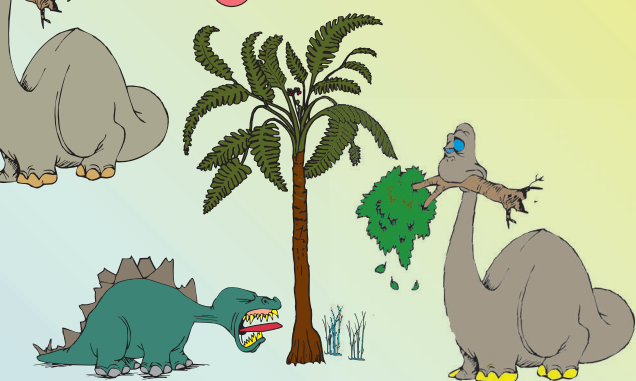
Can you unjumble the names of the birds below?

1. WALLSOW.
2. SHURTH.
3. GLINRATS.
4. PIGAME.
5. RUVELUT.
6. CLIPANE.
7. GLAMFION.
8. WORPRAS.
9. NUGENIP.
10. CHORTIS.

1



2



STUDY THE TWO PICTURES BELOW. THERE ARE 13 DIFFERENCES IN THE SECOND PICTURE. CAN YOU SPOT THEM?

(ANSWERS ON NEXT PAGE)