# WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

#### The Toucan

he Toucan is a very unusual bird which lives in the tropical rainforests of South America. There are a number of different species, ranging in size from the Aracar Toucanet at around 36 cm. (14 ins.) long, to the Toco Toucan which is 63cm. (25 ins.) long. The largest toucans live in the lower rainforests. The most noticeable thing about them is their large, brightly-coloured beak, which is sometimes as long as their body and four times as large as their heads.

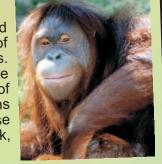
Although the toucan's beak may look large and clumsy, it is not at all heavy, but wonderfully designed for lightness and strength. Inside the outer shell the beak is like a honey-comb, with lots of air spaces. There are saw-like teeth along the edge to help the toucan tear fruit from trees. When they sleep they turn their head around, rest their beak along their back, then fold their tail over it!



Evolutionists can't explain why toucans have such a large beak, and there is no evidence that toucans evolved from ancestors with smaller beaks. If the honeycomb pattern had changed gradually from a solid beak, then the birds would have found it difficult to fly because their beaks would have been too heavy. We believe God created toucans with their special, colourful beaks.

## YOU ARE NOT AN APE!

Although many people believe that we evolved from ape-like ancestors, there are no fossils of "ape-men" or anything between apes and humans. We may be like apes in some ways. After all we live on the same planet. But there are lots and lots of differences that can't be seen in fossils. Humans are very creative; they write books and compose music. Apes are very clever, but they can't speak, read or write.



Humans have designed machines and computers, and even travelled into space. But although some apes use tools, such as sticks and stones, they have never designed anything — not even a wheel. Humans appreciate beauty, but no one has ever seen an ape admire a sunset or a pretty flower. Humans think about the world and how it came to be, but apes don't wonder about such things. All groups of people in the world have a religion of some kind, but apes never pray or worship God. These differences are there because God created humans alone to be His special friends.

are there because

The Bible tells us that God created the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, who were the ancestors of all the people who have ever lived. In the beginning, they were close to God, but when they disobeyed Him that friendship was broken. We have all disobeyed God in lots of ways, but "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. God gave his Son so that anyone who believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life." (John 3: 16). You are not an ape, neither did you descend from an ape. God created you to be His friend, and through faith in Jesus you can be!

#### **PUZZLE CORNER ANSWERS**

**QUICK QUIZ:**1. Neanderthal Man. 2. Zinjanthropus. 3. Four.

HIDDEN ANIMALS:
1. Lion. 2. Seal. 3. Panther. 4. Panda.
5. Beaver. 6. Bear. 7. Otter. 8. Camel.
9. Zebra. 10. Horse.

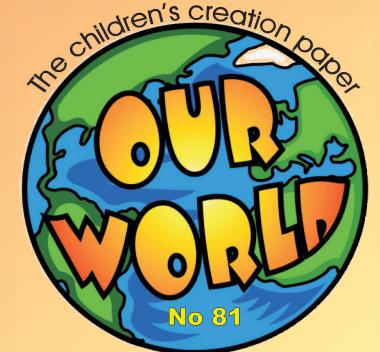
"So God created human beings in his image. In the image of God He created them male and them. He created them male and female." (Genesis 1: 27).

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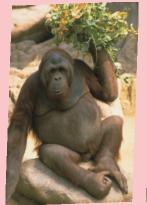


# The Story of MUII

Many people like trying to trace their family history, but what about the history of us all? Where did humans come from?

# Are apes and monkeys our cousins?

E are often told in magazines and TV programmes that apes and monkeys are our close relatives —they are often called our "cousins." This is because many people believe in evolution — the idea that all living things, including ourselves, have evolved from "simpler" ancestors. Life is supposed to have started in the sea, but over millions of years fish grew legs and became amphibians, amphibians became reptiles, and reptiles evolved into birds and mammals. Eventually an ape-like creature appeared which was the ancestor of apes, monkeys and humans. This creature is sometimes called "the missing link" because no fossils have ever been found to prove it existed! We are similar to apes and monkeys in some ways, because we're created to live in the same world, but there is no real evidence that we are related to them.





Cute — but no relation to us!

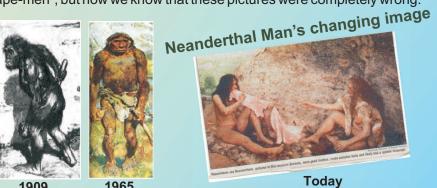
#### **How the brute became human**

150 years ago a skeleton was found in a cave in Germany. It looked quite human-like, but the skeleton seemed rather bent, so scientists said it was not fully human. They named it Neanderthal Man after the Neander Valley where it was found. However, we now know that this skeleton had been deformed by disease. Other skeletons of Neanderthals have shown that they were just as human as us, and part of the human family. They



Neanderthal skull

could speak, make tools, play music, and even had larger brains than modern humans. Artists used to draw the Neanderthals as hairy, brutish "ape-men", but now we know that these pictures were completely wrong.



#### SPOT THE DIFFERENCE!

In some ways humans and apes are similar, But there are some important differences.

Apes are designed to walk on all fours, with long arms that hang below their knees. We are designed to walk upright so have shorter arms, a unique knee joint to help us stay upright, and feet with a special arch to help us balance. Our brains are also much larger.



v tree

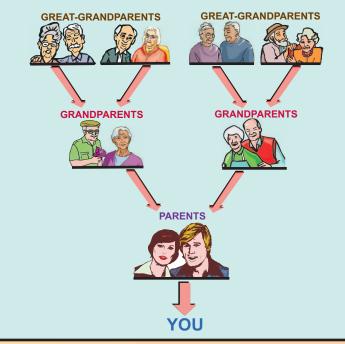
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Pressing up old bones
Nature Notes
All people are Equal!
Weird and Wonderful: The Toucan
You are not an ape!

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## Your family tree

Lots of people like tracing their family tree, and it can be fun. Going back further than your greatgrandparents could be quite difficult, but however far you went back you can be sure that all your ancestors would be just as human as you are. The Bible tells us that Adam and Eve, who were created by God in the beginning, were the ancestors of us all, and there is no evidence that proves the Bible is wrong. There are no "ape-men" in your family tree!



### Dressing up old bones

We often see pictures of ape-like creatures that are supposed to be our ancestors. These pictures have persuaded many people that evolution is true. However, we need to understand that these pictures are often based on just a few bits of fossil bone, or bits of a skull. The missing parts are filled with plaster — or



the artist's imagination. Sometimes, several different artists will draw quite different pictures from the same fossil! On the left is the skull of a creature called Zinjanthropus, found in Africa in 1959. It had been broken into about 100 pieces, which were stuck

together with plaster. No one knew what the creature looked like when it was alive, so how can we be sure it was put together correctly? And when some artists were asked to draw what it originally looked like, they came up with four different pictures! Zinjanthropus was only an ape anyway, with a brain less than half the size of humans. He was certainly no ancestor of ours.







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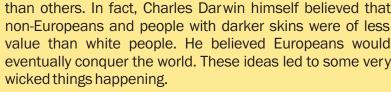
Take your pick: 3 pictures of the same skull!

# **ALL PEOPLE ARE**

The Bible tells us that all the people on earth have descended from the first man, Adam, who was made in God's own image. "God began by creating one man. From him came all the different people who live



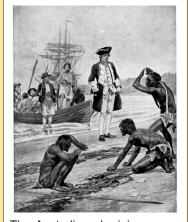
everywhere in the world." (Acts 17: 26). That's what most people believed until the late 19th century, when Charles Darwin (left) wrote a book in which he said that all living things on earth had evolved from lower creatures. This suggested that some human beings were more "primitive"



When people from Europe went to Australia, they often treated the native Aborigines very badly, because they thought they were less human than themselves. Adolf Hitler (lower left), once leader of Germany, believed that German

people were the "master race". He killed 6 million Jewish people because he believed they were less human. Today, most evolutionists don't think like that, but in the past belief in evolution did encourage the idea that some people were less "evolved" than others, and therefore less important. This is just the opposite of what God has told us in the Bible: there is only one race the human race — and all humans are equal and of special value to Him.





The Australian aborigines were often treated badly by Europeans, because they believed they were less human than white people.

# Nature Notes by the Editor

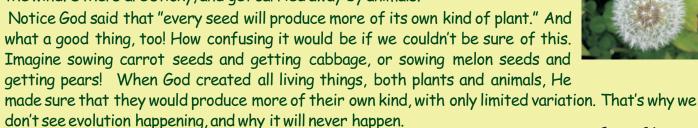


In the beginning when God created plants He said: "Let the earth produce plants. Some plants will make grain for seeds. Others will make fruit with seeds in it. Every seed will produce more of its own kind of plant." (Genesis 1: 11). Although many plants reproduce without true seeds, most plants do have seeds, and we can often



see them inside the fruit and vegetables we eat — take a look next time you eat a melon, orange, cucumber or tomato. Sometimes the seeds are all that we eat; for example bread is made from flour, which is ground-up seeds (grain). God designed plants so that their seeds get a good chance to grow. Some, like dandelions (right), have seeds with tiny "parachutes" that drift away in

the wind. Others are sticky, and get carried away by animals.





—Geoff Chapman

# PUZZZLE GORNER

#### CRACK THE CODE!

Use the code below to read the Bible verse

ABCDEFGHIJ KLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

#### Hidden animals

Find the animals "hidden" in the sentences below:

- 1. Well, I only asked a question.
- 2. Please allow me to speak.
- 3. This is the pan the raspberries were in.
- 4. Just stop and ask someone
- 5. You must be a very good girl.
- 6. The babe arrived on time.
- 7. He did not terrify everyone.
- 8. They came looking for me.
- 9. In the strong breeze branches were bending.
- 10. It's called a beach or seashore.

**QUICK QUIZ: (from this magazine)** 

- 1. Name the "brute" that became human? 2. Which "ape-man" skull was broken into 100 pieces?
- 3. How many different pictures were drawn from it? (answers on back page)