

# WEIRD AND WONDERFUL SHARKS

**A**LTHOUGH most people think of sharks as being giants, they are not all large. The smallest is only 15cm (6 inches) long, while the Whale Shark can be as long as 15 metres (48 feet)! Not all sharks are dangerous to humans, but the Great White Shark is a swimmer's nightmare in some parts of the world.



A Great White Shark

Photo by Mila Zinkova from wikipedia.com

Evolutionists sometimes call sharks "primitive" because they have no bones, and believe that all fish, including sharks, evolved from the same ancestor. However, in 2003, a fossil shark was discovered in Canada. It was claimed to be "409 million years old", yet is very much like the sharks that swim in the oceans now. We don't believe the fossil is as old as that, but it does show that sharks haven't evolved, and have always been sharks since they were created by God in the beginning.

To see hundreds of shark photos, go to [www.shark-pictures.com](http://www.shark-pictures.com)

Sharks have no bones, but instead have a skeleton of a rubbery substance called cartilage. They have hundreds of teeth in rows along the edges of their upper and lower jaws. These are on a kind of "conveyor belt", and new teeth keep growing and moving forward to replace those which are loose or worn out, sometimes as often as every 10 days.

Sharks have senses that are well designed for life in the water. Their eyes are ten times better than ours for seeing in dim light, and they can hear sounds more than a mile away. They also have an electrical sensing system, using special receptors in their snout to detect movements.



Above: a living shark's teeth and, below, some fossil teeth.



Photos from Wikipedia

## WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

There is lots of evidence that tells us there is a God. The whole creation points to a Creator. "For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God." (*The Bible, Romans 1: 20 New Living Translation*).

The creation shows that God is powerful and wise. But what else do we know about Him? Some people have invented their own ideas about God, and have even made images which they worship (right). In India, some people worship lots of "gods" (below). But there is only one true God, and He has revealed Himself to us in the Bible, where we read how He made the world, and how human beings sinned against Him and spoilt His creation. The Bible tells us that God loves us, and that He has shown Himself to us in the coming of Jesus to the earth. "No one has ever seen God, but Jesus is exactly like him." (*The Bible, Colossians 1: 15*). Jesus died on the cross for the wrong things we have done, and through Him we can have God's forgiveness. False gods are not alive, and can help no one, but Jesus is alive, and will be with us for ever if we trust Him.



## PUZZLE ANSWERS

Spot the difference: 1. Missing window, 2. Windows lit, 3. Extra snowflakes, 4. Door handle moved, 5. Trousers colour changed, 6. Hat changed, 8. Extra hand, 9. Added chimney-pot, 10. Missing tree.  
Bible verse: "Remember your Creator while you are young."  
(Ecclesiastes 12: 1).

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# IS THERE A GOD? ARE THERE ANY CLUES?



Imagine you are a detective trying to discover whether there is a God. You first look for evidence, then see where the evidence is leading you.

## THE HEAVENS TELL IT!



In The Bible we read that "the heavens tell the glory of God. And the skies announce what his hands have done." (*Psalms 19: 1*). Even without a telescope, David, who wrote those words, realised there must be a Creator. Famous astronomer William Herschel (above), who was born in 1707, said that any astronomer who didn't believe in God must be mad!

Take a look at these pictures. How many of these objects were designed or created by someone?



Now please turn to the next page

## Spot the difference in the rocks

Below are two photographs of rocks. Can you tell the difference between the one carved by a human sculptor and the one shaped by many years of wind, rain and frost? Think about the reason why you can tell the difference, then see the next page.



## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

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## We all know design when we see it!

The pictures on the front page are a mixture of natural objects and objects created by humans. Even simple things like paper clips had to be designed. Common-sense tells us that living things like butterflies and hummingbirds – which are more wonderful than anything humans have made – also had to be designed, and their Designer must be God.

### CRANES AND GIRAFFES

Every day, thousands of cranes are used around the world, on building sites, docks and other places. Most have a long jib (arm), to lift and move heavy things. They are all specially designed for the job they do.



But even the most modern crane is not as well designed as the giraffe! At 5.5 metres (18 feet), it is the tallest animal on earth.

Giraffes have an extra large heart to pump blood up that long neck to keep their brain supplied with blood. This could cause problems when they stoop for a drink, with blood rushing to their head. But giraffes have special valves in the blood vessels of their neck to stop the blood flowing

when they drink, and special spongy tissue next to their brain to soak up any extra blood. The giraffe's special design is evidence of a wise Creator-God.



### Who built Stonehenge?



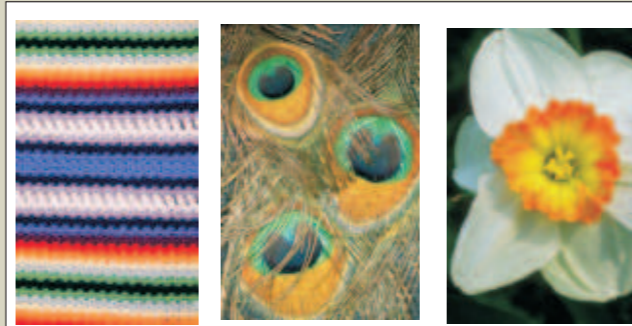
You could call Stonehenge in England just a pile of rocks, but the way they are arranged proves that intelligent people built this ancient stone circle thousands of years ago. We may not know who they were, but we do know that those huge stones could never have ended up like this by accident.

Now take a look at the pictures below. Can you tell which of these rocks was shaped by the weather, and which one was carved by humans? It's really quite easy, isn't it? The figure on the right — known as the Egyptian Sphinx — could never have formed by accident, unlike the rock arch on the left.



## DESIGNS THAT SHOW THERE IS A DESIGNER!

There are all kinds of designs in the world. You may have designed something yourself — maybe a model, a pattern, or a piece of artwork. When you do, you usually do your best to make a good job of it, so that you will be pleased with it when it is finished. Humans are very good at designing things, but even their best designs are not as good as those we see in nature. Look at the beautiful pattern on a peacock's tail, or the beauty of a flower. The Bible tells us that when He finished creating the world, "God looked at everything he had made, and it was very good." (Genesis 1: 31). Some people say there is no God, and that all the beautiful things in the world came through evolution, but how can they look at a peacock's feather or a flower and say that?



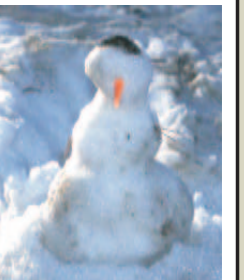
It is certain that the knitted pattern on the left was designed. The pattern on the peacock's feather (centre) and the flower (right) must have been designed too!

### Snow shapes tell their own story

If you live in a part of the world where there is snow in the winter you will know that snow is very light, and can be moulded into shapes. If you went for a walk after a heavy snowstorm, you might see snowdrifts (below, left), which had been shaped by the wind. But if



you came across the snowman on the right, you would know at once that someone had built it. Even without the carrot nose you would understand that the wind could never have piled the snow into that shape. The snowman had to be created; it was not an accident.

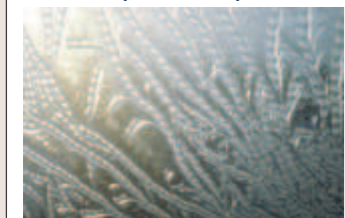


## Nature Notes by the Editor

In the colder parts of the world the temperature often falls below the freezing point in winter. Water freezes and snow may cover the ground. Snow can look pretty, and sometimes frost makes beautiful patterns on window-panes. Did you know that some



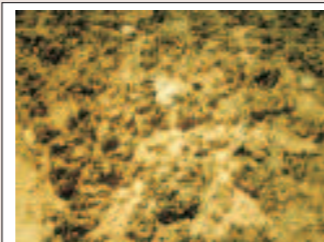
Snow protects plants



Frost sometimes makes beautiful patterns on window panes.

things are kept warm by snow and ice? A layer of snow acts like a blanket, protecting plants from the worst of the cold. Unlike most liquids, water expands when it cools to near freezing-point. This means that the cold water rises, and ice forms on the surface, which protects fish and other creatures that live in the water. Think what would happen if ice formed at the bottom of rivers and ponds.

In very cold weather the ground often becomes hard and frozen, but this has benefits, too. When the water in the ground freezes it expands, and this helps to break up lumpy, heavy soil like clay. After a spell of very cold, frosty weather, the soil in fields and gardens will be fine and crumbly, and ready for seeds to be sown. Let's be thankful that God designed water to behave in this special way!



Frost helps to break up lumpy, heavy soil.

—Geoff Chapman

www.crt.org.uk

## PUZZLE CORNER

### SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Study the pictures below. The second picture has 10 differences. Can you spot them?



Use the code below to read some good advice from the Bible.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
C	E	R	M	B	O	A	Y

9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
U	H	I	W	G	T	L	N

3	2	4	2	4	5	2	3	8	6	9	3
1	3	2	7	1	4	6	3				
12	10	11	15	2	8	6	9				
7	3	2	8	6	9	16	13				

(answers on next page)