

# WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

## Komodo Dragons

**U**NTIL the year 1912, people in the west thought that reports of giant lizards living in Indonesia were just a myth. Then some Dutch soldiers found that Komodo Dragons, as they are called, were actually alive on four Indonesian islands, proving that stories about these creatures were true. The largest living lizards, Komodo dragons can grow to a length of 4 metres (13 feet), and live as long as 30 years. They have scaly skin, bowed legs, and huge, muscular tails, and can run as fast as a human. They could easily be mistaken for small dinosaurs.



Two Komodo Dragons in an Indonesian forest

© Image Focus : Dreamstime.com

They have a dangerous bite, and although they feed mainly on dead animals, they will also eat deer, pigs and birds, and will even attack humans. Their mouths are full of poisonous bacteria, and one bite will kill an animal. Yet this poison doesn't harm komodos, even if they bite one another. They see as far as 300 metres (980 ft) and smell food 5 miles

away. They eat as much as 80% of their body weight in a single meal. A female lays as many as 30 eggs, but never returns to check them. After they hatch, baby komodos climb trees for protection.

**Fossils of similar, but larger, creatures have been found in Australia, which show that these lizards have not evolved; the only change is that they have become smaller. We believe komodo dragons were created by God in the beginning. Before the world was spoilt by sin, they and all other animals would have been vegetarian and would not have harmed other animals or humans.**



Close-up of a Komodo Dragon's foot and tail

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## DINOSAURS AND CREATION

We wouldn't expect to find the word "dinosaur" in the Bible, because this word (which means terrible lizard) wasn't invented until 1841 – long after the first English Bibles appeared. However, the Hebrew word "tannin" – which means serpent, dragon, or sea monster – appeared many times in the Hebrew Bible. Modern versions often translate this as "jackals." Is this because the translators believe the theory that humans never met giant reptiles? We have seen that there are lots of facts which suggest that dinosaurs and humans once lived together on earth, just as the Bible teaches us.



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The Bible records the world's true history

There is another good reason why we don't accept the idea that dinosaurs died out millions of years ago. The Bible, which records the true history of the world, tells us that God created all living things, and when He finished, "God looked at everything he had made, and it was very good." (*Genesis 1: 31*). The first people, Adam and Eve, lived in a world where animals lived peacefully with humans and each other. This means that dinosaurs could not have been killing, dying and becoming fossils for millions of years before humans appeared. The whole creation was spoiled when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. "Everything God made was changed." (*Romans 8: 20*). God's Son, Jesus, came to earth to save it from the effects of sin. "Christ died for our sins... and was raised to life." (*1 Corinthians 15: 3-4*). Through faith in Him, we receive God's forgiveness, and the promise of eternal life in a new creation, where there will be no more evil, death or pain.

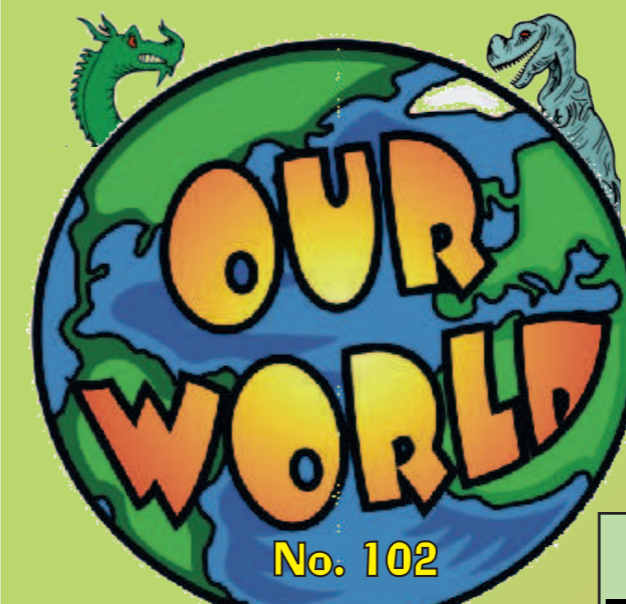
**PUZZLE ANSWERS**  
 Hidden animals  
 1. Bear, 2. Panther, 3. Beaver, 4. Panda.  
 Keyword: Created  
**DINOSAUR GRID**

Find out more about dinosaurs at [www.christiananswers.net/dinosaurs](http://www.christiananswers.net/dinosaurs)

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## British dragons

There are dozens of dragon stories from British towns and villages. The highest number comes from Yorkshire, but the county of Somerset (where *Our World* is published) comes close second. There are carvings of dragons on church pews and the walls of churches and castles, and lots of accounts of people meeting, and sometimes killing, dragon-like creatures. The *World Book Encyclopedia* says: "The dragons of legend are strangely like actual creatures that have lived in the past. They are much like the great reptiles which inhabited the earth long before man is supposed to have appeared on earth.", (vol. 5 (1996), pp. 265-266.) But why would people invent stories about creatures they had never seen?

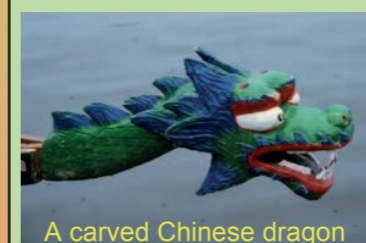
# DRAGONS ALIVE!

All over the world there are stories about dragons. Are these stories just legends, or did people really meet dragon-like creatures in the past? And could they have been dinosaurs?

## Did people walk with dinosaurs?



*Jurassic Park*, released in 1993, was one of the most popular films ever made. It was the story of some scientists who brought dinosaurs back to life. They escaped and began to terrorise people. This was only a story, and according to the evolution theory, dinosaurs died out more than 60 million years before humans appeared on earth. However, there is lots of evidence that this idea is wrong. In China, dragons are part of the national culture, and thousands of dinosaur fossils – sometimes called "dragon bones" – have been discovered. Famous explorer Marco Polo visited China around 1270 AD, and reported seeing "huge serpents," about 10 meters (32 feet) long in the Province of Karazan. "The jaws are wide enough to swallow a man, the teeth are large and sharp, and their whole appearance is so formidable, that neither man, nor any kind of animal, can approach them without terror."\*  
 \*From *The Travels of Marco Polo*.



A carved Chinese dragon



Reconstruction of a Baryonyx dinosaur at the Natural History Museum, London. If you met one of these, wouldn't it remind you of a dragon?

## TERRIBLE LIZARDS!

Most people believe that no human being ever saw live dinosaurs, because that is what they have been taught. But there is lots of evidence that dinosaur-like reptiles and people did live together on earth in the past. They wouldn't have been called dinosaurs, because the word (which means "terrible lizards") wasn't invented until 1841. There are stories of people meeting dragons in almost every country of the world. These stories may have become exaggerated after being told many times, but do they come from a time when people actually saw living dinosaurs?

## A French dinosaur?

The French city of Nerluc, was renamed Tarascon in honour of the "dragon" known as tarasque that was killed there. It was described as being bigger than an ox and having long, sharp, pointed horns on its head. Was it a Triceratops?



Triceratops

**ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:**  
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# DINO ART!

Would ancient people make pictures and carvings of creatures they had never seen?

**P**EOPL**E** have been painting pictures and making carvings of different animals for centuries, and these include dinosaur-like animals. They appear on pottery, ornaments, and the inside and outside of buildings. It seems unlikely that people would make so many pictures of creatures they had never seen. Reliable historical records tell of many sightings of large reptiles in Europe and around the world, even within the last 400 years. Although dinosaurs now appear to be extinct, it seems that some survived until a few hundred years ago.



Above left: Slate carving of two large reptiles from Egypt around 3000 BC. Right: This dragon figure was found in the walls of ancient Babylon, alongside lions and bulls.

## EVIDENCE OF GOD'S POWER!

If you visit a natural history museum, take a look at the giant dinosaur fossils, especially their strong bones. Evolution can't explain their amazing design. In the Bible, we read about a man called Job. God spoke to him, and asked him to look at the world around him. God mentioned several creatures, including one called 'Behemoth.' "Look at the strength he has in his body... His tail extends like a cedar tree.. His bones are like tubes of metal. His legs are like bars of iron.. He is one of the first of God's works." (Job 40: 15-19). There is no animal like this on earth today, but it sounds just like some kind of dinosaur. Job must have seen it, otherwise God wouldn't have asked Him admire it!



What is the animal these men are hunting in this 100 AD mosaic from Ethiopia?

## NATURE NOTES by the editor



Cat lying on silk

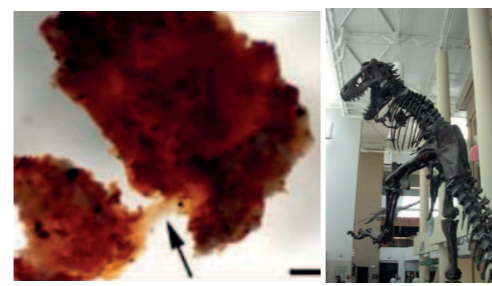
Silk is a very fine, soft type of cloth. Did you know that it is made by insects called silkworms? Silkworms are the caterpillars of silk moths, and they make silk when they begin to spin a cocoon. The Chinese first used silkworms several thousand years ago. Today silkworms (right) are used to produce silk in many parts of the world. Each silkworm can spin a thread up to 900 metres (½ mile) long. Four or more of these threads are then spun together to make one strand of silk. Some silk moths lay 500 eggs, and when the silkworms hatch they are fed on chopped mulberry leaves every half an hour. People have made artificial silk, but it is not as good as the silk made by silkworms.



Spiders, also produce silk. Spider silk has been described as "one of the seven wonders of the animal kingdom." It is stronger than steel of the same weight, even though it is stretchy. Some people claim that a strand of spider silk the size of a pencil could stop a jumbo-jet. Spiders make several different kind of silk, and use it to make webs, to line nests, to wrap their eggs in, and even to use as "balloons" to float in the air.

There is no evidence that moths or spiders, with their silk-making ability, evolved from anything else. Next time you see a piece of silk cloth, or a spider's web, just think how wonderfully God designed these creatures with their special abilities to do what humans can't do. —*Geoff Chapman*

www.crt.org.uk



Left: photo of blood cells found inside the bone of a T. rex. Right: T. rex fossil in a museum.

## THESE DINOS DID NOT DIE MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO!

In 2005, in the USA, Dr Mary Schweitzer broke open a fossil *Tyrannosaurus rex* leg-bone, and was shocked to find blood cells inside. They were still red, soft and stretchy. She was shocked because the fossil was supposed to be 68 million years old. Several years later, Dr Schweitzer found similar cells inside the bone of a duck-billed dinosaur (*hadrosaur*), said to be 80 million years old! How long could blood cells survive? Hundreds, or a few thousand years maybe, but not millions of years! However, evolutionists like Dr Schweitzer are determined to stick to their belief that dinosaurs died out over 60 million years ago, so they have to believe that, somehow, these blood cells remained soft and stretchy for all that time, even though this is impossible. No one has ever proved that dinosaurs died out millions of years ago. The Bible tells us that God created land animals — which must have included dinosaurs — just a few thousand years ago. The discovery of blood cells in dinosaur bones is strong evidence that the evolution theory is wrong and that the Bible true.

## DINOSAUR GRAVEYARDS

Massive "graveyards" of dinosaur fossils have been found in many different parts of the world. One of the first was in Bernissart, Belgium, in 1878, where dozens of *Iguanodon* skeletons were discovered in a coal mine, 322 m (1,050 ft) below the ground. In 1997



Iguanodon

scientists discovered what may be the world's largest dinosaur graveyard in Alberta, Canada. A whole herd of *centrosaurs* (horned dinosaurs) had been buried by a "monster storm." There were also fossils of other reptiles, fish and birds. In 2006 in Mongolia, 187 parrot-beaked dinosaurs were found buried together. Scientists were puzzled about how this happened, but some suggested it was due to a "natural disaster."

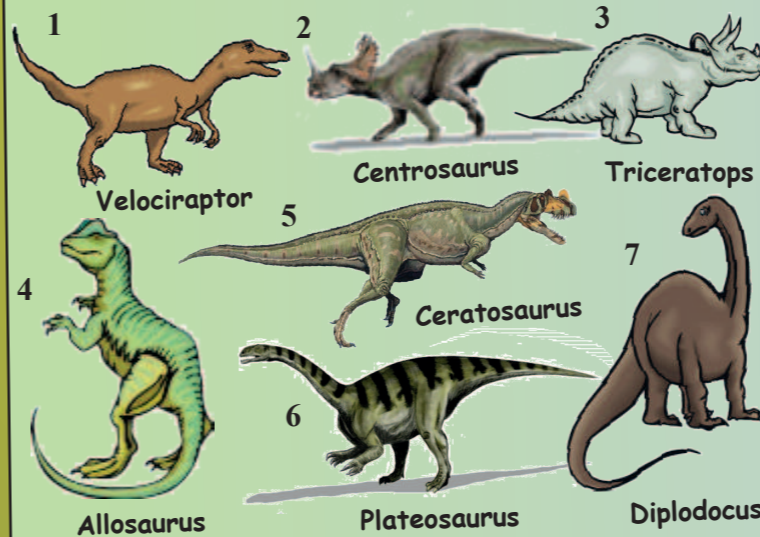


Dinosaur graveyard at Bighorn, Wyoming, USA

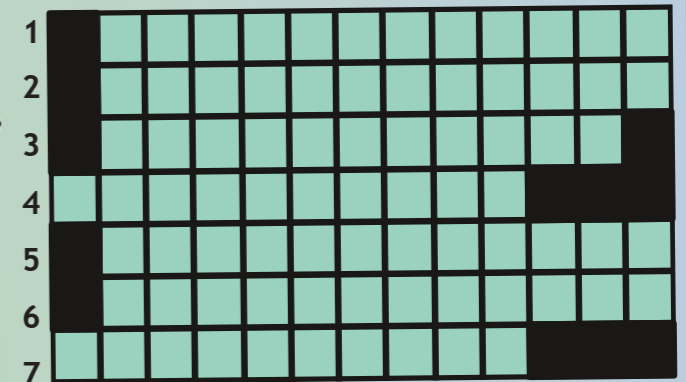
In 2007 a "spectacular" graveyard containing more than 8,000 fossils was discovered in Spain. Eight different kinds of dinosaur, as well as turtles and crocodiles, had been buried together in clay and silt. Scientists believe a flood was responsible. Other dinosaur graveyards have been found in Niger (Africa), USA, Australia, South America and China.

The Bible tells us that about 4,400 years ago a great flood covered the whole world. God told Noah to build an Ark, and take pairs of air-breathing animals on board. This must have included dinosaurs — maybe small, young ones. Those not on the Ark would have drowned, and many would have been buried in layers of mud. To become a fossil, a creature must be buried quickly. We believe most of the fossil graveyards where the remains of dinosaurs and other animals are found, are evidence of that flood.

Write the dinosaurs' names in the grid. Then, reading downwards, find a word that describes them all.



## PUZZLE CORNER



Find the name of an animal hidden in each sentence

1. Will there be a rainbow today?
2. Please put the saucepan there.
3. It could be a very long day.
4. Let's go to the shop and ask them.

(Answers on the next page)