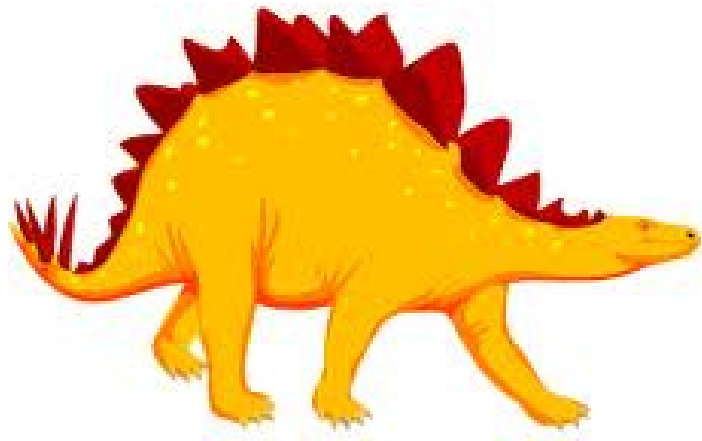


Dinosaurs

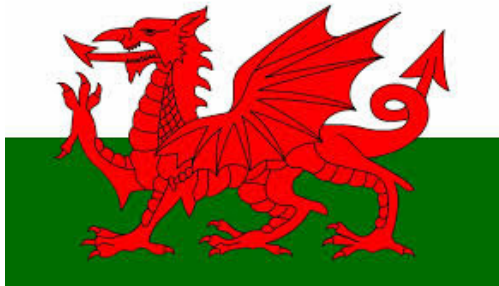
those terrible lizards



Dinosaurs

Did dinosaurs and people live at the same time?

What must the handsome prince fight in his effort to save the princess? A dragon! Have you ever seen people dressed up as dragons at a Chinese festival parade? What animal do you find pictured in every Chinese food restaurant? A dragon!



Flag of Wales



The first dinosaur fossils were found in the 19th century. An Englishman, Richard Owen invented the name “dinosaur” in 1842. Dinosaur means “terrible lizard.” Before this time these creatures were referred to in many cultures as “dragons”.

Most people think that dragons are just for fairy stories, and never really lived. But in fact, dragons were dinosaurs, and are just another extinct animal.

It would be very hard to believe that so many people from so many different places could have come up with such similar stories and similar descriptions of dragons if they never existed. According to ancient stories, dragons came in many shapes and sizes. Some could fly, some could swim and they even laid eggs just like dinosaurs!



Evidence from the Bible

The Bible mentions two dinosaurs by name and describes them in great detail: "Behemoth" (Job 40:15-24) and "Leviathan" (Job 41:1-34).

From the description found in Job, scientists have attempted to identify these animals. Some have suggested that "Behemoth" could be a hippopotamus and "Leviathan" could be a crocodile. But these scientists did not consider the possibility of Behemoth and Leviathan being dinosaurs. That's because they believed that people and dinosaurs never lived at the same time.

Why would they think this? Because they believe in evolution, which tells us that certain species of animals changed and developed over time into new species. This is not what the Bible teaches. The Bible teaches that all the different kinds of animals group was created by God during the 6-day creation, at the beginning of the world 6000 years ago, and each animal produced babies that were the same kind as themselves. Cats produced cats and dogs produced dogs, dinosaurs produced dinosaurs. The Bible also tells us that people were created in this week of creation.

Scientists who believe in evolution believe that dinosaur lived millions of years ago, and over the millions of years the dinosaur changed into another animal and that animal changed into another animal. According to the evolutionists dinosaurs died out millions of years ago. They believe that humans came into the world many more millions of years down the track and came from apes. So they don't believe that dinosaurs and people could ever have lived together.

However we find many stories and drawings of dinosaurs throughout history. What do the evolutionists say about these? In order to hold on to their theory, they must say that these stories are myths or fairy stories.

Let's look at the Bible again. There are some obvious reasons why Behemoth couldn't have been a hippo and Leviathan couldn't have been a crocodile.

Behemoth cannot be a Hippo because Job 40:17 says, "He bends his tail like a cedar". A hippo has a short tail like a pig. Behemoth had a large tail shaped like a cedar tree, (large and tapered to a point at the end). Behemoth was probably a Brachiosaurus, a type of large land dwelling dinosaur. It fits the description perfectly.

Leviathan cannot be a Crocodile but is probably an Elasmosaurus, a type of large water-dwelling dinosaur. Let's look at the verses that tell us that Leviathan is not a crocodile but a dinosaur:

- Verse 15 says, "His back is made of rows of shields, fastened together and hard as stone." (This sounds like an animal with scales much stronger than crocodile skin!)
- Verses 18-21 tell us that Leviathan breathes out fire and smoke. (Crocodiles do not do this, but there are stories of dragons that did.)

- Verse 22 tells us that he has a powerful neck. (Crocodiles don't really have an obvious neck.)
- Verse 25 says, "When he rises up, even the strongest are frightened." (Crocs don't rise up at all but always lay low.)
- Verse 26 says "There is no sword that can wound him." (Crocs are quite easy to kill with a good spear.)
- Verse 30 says, "The scales on his belly are like jagged pieces of pottery. They tear up the muddy ground like a threshing-sledge." (Crocodiles have smooth skin on their belly.)
- Verse 31 says, "He churns up the sea like boiling water." (This was a very large animal.)
- Verse 32 says, "He leaves a shining path behind him and turns the sea to white foam." (Crocs do not churn up the sea. They cause little movement to the water as they swim.)
- Verse 34 says, "He looks down on eave the proudest animals; he is the king of the wild beasts." (This sounds like he is a tall animal with a long neck).

It is clear that Behemoth and Leviathan are dinosaurs, and therefore Job had either seen them personally, or heard from someone else who had seen them. It is clear from the Bible that people and dinosaurs lived together at the same time.

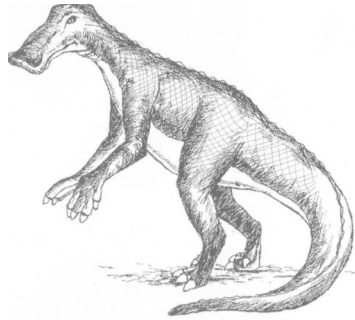
Other evidence for people and dinosaurs living together



There are cave and rock drawings around the world of creatures that look very much like dinosaurs. There is a rock drawing by the American Indians of a winged creature they called a 'Thunderbird'. This looks just like the fossil of a pterosaur Rhamphorynchus, which had bat-like wings and a head crest.

There are brass engravings in an English church dating from 1496. These engravings look very much like dinosaurs.

The Australian Aboriginal people gave the name 'bunyip' to a fierce reptilian creature they feared. An early Australian newspaper published a report on a bunyip as seen and described by Australian Aborigines. It walked upright on two legs and fits the description of a dinosaur better than any other animal. Other stories come from many different parts of the world.



Australian duck-billed dinosaur recreated from fossils

Even today there are some who believe that deep in the remote jungles of Africa, a creature known as Mokele Mbenbe might be a living dinosaur. No one has yet discovered if any dinosaurs still exist today. But the evidence is there that man and dinosaurs have lived together at one time.



Asian temple carving

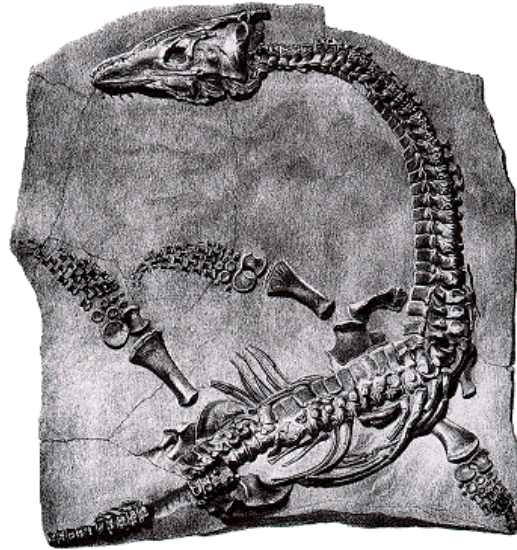
When dinosaur bones are found it is not easy to know how to put them together. It has taken modern scientists many years to work out how to put these bones together. The people in ancient history could not have the knowledge of how to put dinosaur bones together, so we can conclude that the people who drew these creatures could only know what dinosaurs really looked like if they actually saw them.

Dinosaur fossils

The Bible tells us of a massive Great Flood, which happened about 4000 years ago. The Flood killed every land-dwelling, air breathing creature except

for those which were kept alive in a huge ship built by Noah. Almost all the world's fossils are preserved in sediments laid down by water.

There are huge fossil graveyards with millions of well-preserved fish fossils and many dinosaur fossils as well, with their bones in correct position. This indicates that they were buried rapidly in some great catastrophic event.



Plesiosaur fossil, USA

If all the massive layers containing fossils formed slowly and gradually over millions of years, as the evolutionists tell us, then we would not expect to find as many fossils.

There are some fossils found that died in the middle of every day activities such as eating or even giving birth. For example, there are fossils of fish with fish in their mouths. There is a fossil of an ichthyosaurus giving birth to its young. These fossils show us that the creatures were buried quickly while still alive.

The Bible is a reliable guide to history because its words came from the Creator of the universe. Despite the wonderful findings of science, no one is alive today who can tell us what happened in the distant past. But the One who made it all has given us a record of what has taken place.

Activities

1. Find a fairy story or folk legend that tells us about a dragon. Draw this story in cartoon form with captions. Make sure you draw the dragon. Write the country of origin next to the title of the story.
2. Why do you think Richard Owen chose the name 'dinosaur'?
3. Why do evolutionists say that humans and dinosaurs could not have lived together at the same time?
4. What did dinosaurs eat when they were first created? (Genesis 1:29)
5. Why did dinosaurs later in history kill for food?
6. How do you think Noah got the dinosaurs aboard the ark?
7. Draw a picture of Leviathan from your reading of Job 41:1-34. Write labels to describe body parts. Write a short description of this dinosaur.
8. Do the same for Behemoth (Job 40:17).
9. Draw a cave painting of a dinosaur. Think about the materials you might use to draw it.
10. Why couldn't people who lived before the 1800s have created their drawings by looking at fossils?
11. How do we know that most fossils we see today were laid down quickly by a catastrophic event?

References

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