

YOUTH INSTRUCTION CLASS

LESSON 3: OUR CREATOR FATHER

Opening

- What is a *creed*?
- How many *articles* are there in the Apostles' Creed?
- What does it mean that God is *triune*?
- What special work of God the Father is confessed in the first article?

Bible History

The Bible is God's word (2 Peter 1:21) → The Bible is completely true → The Bible is true in all matters of history and geography → **The Bible is true and correct about the origins of the world and the way mankind came to be on the earth.**

Exodus 20:11a



Genesis 1-2

Listen to the creation account in Genesis 1-2.
Follow along in your Bibles.

How long did it take for God to create the world and everything in it?

Did it take millions and billions of years?

By what method did God create the universe (see Genesis 1)?

Did He "create" by having one creature change into another (evolution)?

Review the history of Genesis 1-11 (see handout).

Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps & Charts, pp. 5-6.

God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth

In the Apostles' Creed, we say that we believe God is the Maker of heaven and earth. This is based on the account of the creation of the world in Genesis 1. Jesus too indicated that the world was created by God when He made reference to the creation of human beings in Matthew 19:4. There are many other places in the Bible where God is referred to as the creator.

Many times, it is God the Father who is mentioned in the Bible as the creator, yet we know that since God is *one*, the Son and the Spirit must have had a hand in creation as well. See Genesis 1:2 and Colossians 1:13-16.

- Those who do not believe God's word try to come up with other theories about how the world was created. One of the most popular is the *big bang* theory. The *big bang* says that the universe came into existence by means of a huge explosion. This, of course, is not what the Bible teaches at all. For non-Christians, the big bang is the most popular explanation for the way the world was created.
- At first, the earth God had created was "formless and empty" (יְבֵרֶה וְתוֹהוּ), but it did not stay that way.
- **God Created a Working World.** There were plants and animals that were created to reproduce *after their own kinds*. When God created the world, the birds were immediately flying and the fish were immediately swimming. The chicken came first, not the egg (Gen 1:20-25). It did not take millions of years for the light from the stars to reach the earth, for the light from them was immediately visible (Gen 1:17-18).

Some believe that God did not create a working world, but that He created a bunch of matter which then had to evolve (change) over millions of years until it formed itself into the working world we have today. People who believe this are called *theistic evolutionists*. They want to believe evolution and the Bible at the same time, but the two do not fit together.

- **The Creation of People.** When God created people on the sixth day, it was obvious that this creation was special.

In what ways are human beings *similar* to other created beings?

In what ways are human beings *different* from other created beings?

_____	Genesis 2:7, 21-22	(489)
_____	Genesis 1:27	(492)
_____	Ephesians 4:24	(493)
_____	Genesis 1:28	(488)

- There is no death and no prospect of death mentioned in connection with the original creation. It was all created perfectly. Man was designed and intended to live forever.
- God's creation includes visible and *invisible* things. See Exodus 20:11 (480). What are some of the invisible things? What invisible *creatures* did God make? Psalm 103:20-21 (485)

The Days of Creation

Day 1

Day 2

Day 3

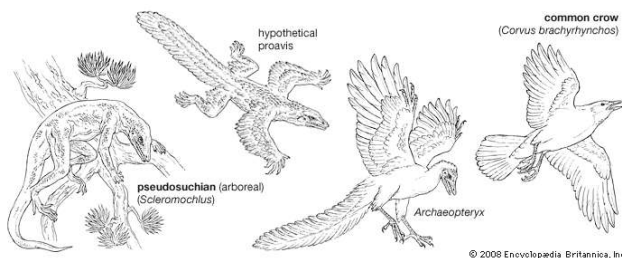
Day 4

Day 5

Day 6

- What would you say to the following statements?
 1. The first people on the earth were primitive cavemen?
 2. The first humans were not very intelligent. Intelligence evolved over time.
 3. The first humans were perfect when they were created.
 4. Early human beings were "advanced" and even able to build great cities.
- What does God's creation tell us about God?

Evolution and Creation



Evolutionary science says that God did not create the animals and man, but rather one creature changed into another. The picture on the left is from the 2008 Britannica encyclopedia. Notice how a lizard is supposed to have changed into a bird. Humans are said to have come from the apes. Pictures like the one here are a part of student textbooks in public schools and are taught as

scientific fact. People believe evolution not because the science behind it is so good, but because they do not want to believe what God says. When one looks at how the evolutionist tries to prove that evolution is true, it actually seems that it takes more faith to believe evolution.

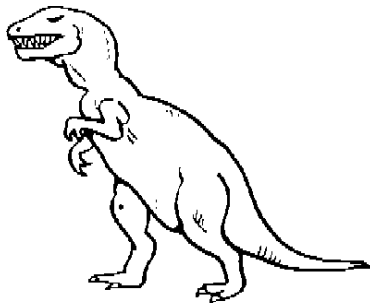
Charles Darwin (1809-1882) is the man who popularized evolution. Before Darwin, evolutionary science was far less accepted in academic circles. This quotation explains what many non-Christian scientists believe today about Darwinian evolution:

The main tenet of Darwinian evolution is that change occurs in species gradually with the eventual result being the appearance of new species. This tenet rests on the fact that within a given population there will be inherent genetic variability. Some individuals within a population will possess favourable characteristics that make them 'fitter' in a given environment, and as a result produce more offspring, which will most likely carry those favourable variations. This process is natural selection, or 'survival of the fittest'.
(http://www.onset.unsw.edu.au/issue6/darwin_pt2/darwin_pt2.html)

- **Variation Within a Kind.** All Darwin actually observed was genetic variation within a kind. To say that these genetic variations can actually produce new species is a leap of faith.
- **Evolution and Creation Are Both Matters Of Faith.** None of us were there when the world was created. Therefore nothing about the origins of the earth and first life can actually be proved by the *direct* observation of science. It takes faith to believe evolution (faith in man). It takes faith to believe creation (faith in God). We believe that the creation account is true because we trust in God who tells us about it. The Creation vs. Evolution debate is not really about science, it is about God.

- **The "Science" of Evolution.** Unbelievers will often say that evolution is the only "scientific" way for people to have come into existence. What they do not tell you is that evolution is full of scientific problems that they cannot explain.

Evolution is said to work because of genetic mutations but scientific observation shows that mutations are harmful, not helpful.
Evolution cannot explain how the plant world was able to get along without the animal world for billions of years before the animals evolved. (Plants need the carbon dioxide produced by people and animals to survive.)
Evolution cannot explain the <i>reason</i> for the change from animal to man. That is, the beginning of thinking, speech, morals, the hope of immortality, etc. Why would an ape <i>need</i> to change into a human? Obviously not to survive, since apes still exist today! Evolutionists cannot adequately explain why the change took place at all.
Evolution contradicts the second law of thermodynamics. In physics, this observable principle says that all matter goes from states of organization to states of chaos, not the other way around.
Evolution has no fossil evidence that shows any gradual evolutionary process. There are no bird/lizard fossils. There are no man/ape fossils. There are no fossils <i>whatever</i> that show any transitional forms. The evolutionist will search forever for the "missing link" that does not exist.



- In order for evolution to be true, the evolutionist must have time —*lots* of it! Because he cannot actually observe evolution scientifically, he has no other option than to claim that it happens too slowly for anyone to see. He says that change happens over millions and billions of years. Whenever you see "millions and billions" in textbooks, magazines, etc. you know immediately that the author is an evolutionist and not a believer in the account of the Bible. *The exact age of the earth is not given in Scripture, but it is hardly possible to reconcile the Bible with a date of creation earlier than about 6,000 BC.*
- See more information on Creation vs. Evolution on pp. 105-106 of your catechism.

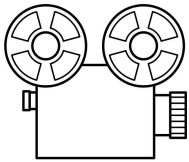
Conclusion

Why does it matter that we defend Biblical creation? Can't evolution and God be true at the same time? Certainly not!

- If evolution were true, then God would be a liar and we could not trust anything He said in the Bible—including what He says about Jesus Christ and our salvation.
- If evolution were true, then sin would not matter. If there is no Creator to set divine law, then it is up to man to decide and to do what he pleases.
- If there is no such thing as sin, there is no need for Jesus Christ.
- Evolution undermines the very work of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Video Presentation

The matter of the dinosaurs has long been a playground for evolutionary theory. Evolutionists claim dinosaurs lived millions of years ago before people were ever on the earth. Evolutionists use dinosaurs to showcase evolution, especially to young people.



Dr. David Menton presents the overwhelming evidence that these "terrible lizards" were not the products of millions of years of evolution, but were the special creation of a Master Designer—and just a few thousand years ago. Dr. Menton is retired from teaching anatomy at Washington University in St. Louis (one of the most prestigious medical schools in the country). *Dinosaurs by Design* (DVD Video).

CREATION	Differences Between	EVOLUTION
God's eyewitness account	Genesis 1:1-2:3	Man's theory
In six days	Exodus 20:11	Millions of years
Out of Nothing	Hebrews 11:3	Primordial cells
By God's word	Psalms 33:6	An uninterrupted chance process
Man a special creature	Genesis 2:7	Man a highly developed animal
Man is responsible to God	Isaiah 45:9 Psalms 100:3	Man is master of his own fate

Assignment

- Memorize the books of the New Testament in order (Catechism, p. 31)