



EVIDENCE FROM FOSSILS

Number 2 in the Creation Evidence series.



**WHAT IS THE FOSSIL RECORD?
DO FOSSILS SHOW EVOLUTION?**

**COULD FOSSILS SUPPORT CREATION?
WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE?**

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FOSSILS AND EVOLUTION

A 1998 Australian biology text published by Oxford University Press makes the following claims about the significance of fossils to the theory of evolution. "*Fossils are an important source of evidence for evolution... The fossil record supports a theory of progressive increase in the complexity of organisms and denies the fixity of species.*"¹ Evolution is the theory that claims living organisms have changed through time from ancestral single cells into the different life forms in the world today, including human beings. Any record of this process preserved as fossils, should show only very simple organisms in the oldest rocks. Progressively younger rocks should show fossils becoming more varied and complex.

WHAT IS THE FOSSIL RECORD?

The fossil record consists of the preserved remains of creatures buried in sedimentary rock layers throughout the world. Fossils may be animals or plants but can also be impressions, such as footprints in sediment that turned into rock. Durable parts of creatures such as bones, shells, teeth or woody stems are the most common fossils. Surprisingly, there are also many examples of soft tissues so well preserved that individual cells and other microscopic structures can be seen.

DO FOSSILS SHOW EVOLUTION?

The ideal fossil evidence for a theory that living things have changed since they first appeared on earth would be a progression of preserved remains that mostly differ from today's creatures, yet are linked by intermediate fossil forms from the beginnings of life to present day multicellular organisms and man. Such an intact family tree of fossils would be found only if sufficient creatures had:

- a) been buried,
- b) then fossilised,
- c) and the fossils preserved.

GAPS in the fossil record would result from processes such as erosion, or failure to fossilise.

BEST EVIDENCE

The best fossil record for the theory of evolution, would occur only if the complete record of all rock layers formed through their believed billions of years of earth's history was preserved in order, as shown in the "Ideal Geologic Column". (over) The names of rock layers in this column originally came from descriptions or locations the rocks were first studied e.g. Devonian from Devon UK, Carboniferous, has carbon. The names at first had no connection to evolution or millions of years.

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