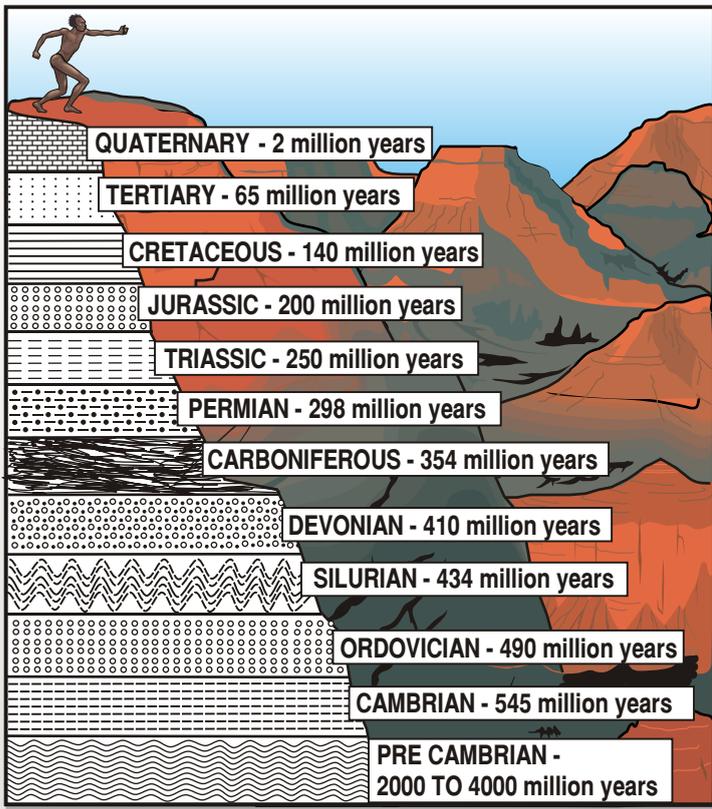


THE IDEAL GEOLOGIC COLUMN



COULD FOSSILS SUPPORT CREATION?

To answer this question we must first ask what type of fossil record would result from living things having been created "to produce their own kind", as the Biblical book of Genesis says?² The following list will give you a place to start thinking. Such a fossil record would show one or more of six trends:

- 1) Since major life forms were separately created, they had no evolutionary ancestors so any fossil record will result in organisms appearing suddenly and fully formed.
- 2) Creatures have remained basically the same kind down to the present day; or
- 3) They may have degenerated, i.e. diminished in size or complexity; or
- 4) They may have become extinct, i.e. died out and
- 5) **GAPS** in the fossil record would result primarily from the existence of genetic differences between created kinds. Such gaps would not be random, but would show an underlying pattern of order. Regardless of how creatures became fossils, such gaps would be real and not merely the result of statistical analysis due to the current classification schemes.

WHAT IS THE FOSSIL EVIDENCE?

Fossils have traditionally been classified using the same criteria of structural similarities and differences which are also used to separate living creatures. The significant

difference being we can rarely study the "life" features of fossils, i.e. reproduction, digestion, behaviour, etc. Examples of recent (at date of publication) fossil research follow, presented in "newsbit" format, plus source references. Fossil items are arranged in normal evolutionary sequences from oldest to youngest according to believed geologic ages. Each "newsbit" is followed by editorial comments (*ED. COM.*), to help you consider whether the evidence supports evolution or creation.

OLDEST FOSSIL AUSSIE found as evolutionist Birger Rasmussen (University of Western Australia) claims discovery of sulphur deposits containing fossil micro organisms (*Nature* Vol 405, p676, 8 June 2000). The fossils consist of microscopic filament layers within the rocks, similar in size and structure to living filament forming bacteria. The filaments were embedded deep in rocks near Sulphur Springs in northwest Western Australia. The rocks are believed to have originally formed around geothermal vents (underwater volcanic sources) and are claimed to be 3,235 million years old, i.e. 2,700 million years older than previously claimed "oldest" bacteria.

*ED. COM. Today's underwater volcanic vents host many bacteria which extract chemical energy needed to sustain life from sulphurous inorganic matter. They live in harsh environments only by carrying out complex chemical processes that modern industrial chemists envy. If the Western Australian fossils have been correctly identified, this discovery does verify that from the time Sulphur Spring rocks formed up to the present, filament forming bacteria have not evolved into anything else, and that complex, fully functioning bacteria have been on earth from the beginning, and have reproduced their own kind ever since. The Biblical record in Genesis says this is how life was created to function.*³

CAMBRIAN EXPLOSION PUZZLE, according to *Science*, 20 July, 2001, p438. The discovery of a fully formed Ostracod (a crustacean), in early Cambrian rocks has led evolutionist Richard Fortey to question whether there was a rapid evolution from an undifferentiated multi-cellular creature into the many different animal phyla at the beginning of the Cambrian period. The problem for the evolutionist is that there are too many fully formed distinct types of animals at the beginning of the Cambrian with no obvious predecessors in Pre-Cambrian rocks. Some palaeontologists have suggested the "phylogenetic fuse" theory, i.e. a long period of hidden