



Greetings from a very wet east Australia as yet another 200 – 400 mm (8 – 16 inches) of rain pours in south east Queensland, but the good news is that all our hard and expensive work on new culverts and new drains and new roadworks after the devastation of the 2011 floods has held at our Jurassic Ark Outdoor Creation Museum. All our dams and tanks are full and the gardens are flourishing ready for a huge school group in a few weeks time so we are grateful. Don't miss the dinosaurs that are now installed, [CLICK](#), and plan on joining some of our guided tours to the site.

It also seems we've opened up a can of worms (blood worms that is) with our Q and A on "Should we eat blood?" Don't miss the new questions being asked about this as we report the latest evidence that human IQ is not evolving but de-evolving, and is man getting dumber? All this and more in this week's Evidence News 03/13 with EDitorial COMment from John Mackay and the Creation Research Team worldwide.

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1. NEW QUESTIONS: "Since snails live both in water and on land, when did God make snails?" "As some land snails seem to go underwater, are snails at the sea side and the snails in my garden the same sort of thing or can all snails do that?" [ANSWER](#) by Simon Terry

"You have an article on why Christians shouldn't eat blood pudding, but wouldn't this issue be considered a 'meat sacrificed to idols' type of liberty as in 1 Corinthians 8 and Romans 14? Is Paul saying that nothing in itself is unclean unless it is unclean to the person who is eating it? So is Paul trying to make sure we are sensitive to other believers who may be defiling their consciences if they do eat blood or meat sacrificed to idols? I'm asking because we eat blood in lots of our foods, such as a nice medium rare steak. Also, there is a rich Filipino dish in my family called "chocolate meat" made from entrails with cooked blood in the sauce. [ANSWER](#) by Diane Eager

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2. “HUMAN BEINGS ARE GETTING DUMBER” proclaims an article in news.com 19 February 2013. This blunt unflattering assessment of humanity is based on articles by Gerald Crabtree of Stanford University entitled “Our Fragile Intellect” published in *Trends in Genetics* January 2013. Crabtree lists two reasons: genetic mutations have damaged genes involved in human intellect, and evolution no longer selects for intellect. Crabtree reminds readers: “Recent human genome studies revealed that there are, per generation, about 60 new mutations per genome and about 100 heterozygous mutations per genome that are predicted to produce a loss of function, some of which are likely to affect genes involved in human intellect”. He estimates that between 2,000 and 5,000 genes contribute to human intellect, and therefore, over thousands of years, genetic mutations must have damaged some of them. Because all human races have the same intellectual capacity he surmises that the genes for human intellect were “optimised for abstract thought” during the time when the common ancestors of all human races were hunter/gatherers in Africa.

Crabtree believes the human brain, with its capacity for complex abstract thought, evolved “in our prehistoric African ancestors, well before written language and before we had the modern voice-box to produce sophisticated verbal language but after the first tools”. He writes: “Somehow the selective pressures on these ancestors led to the evolution of a brain capable of writing symphonies and performing higher mathematics, indicating that life as a hunter–gatherer was more intellectually demanding than we might think”. During this time natural selection worked in favour of intellect and emotional stability, but modern civilisation no longer exerts this evolutionary pressure. Crabtree explains with the following example: “A hunter–gatherer who did not correctly conceive a solution to providing food or shelter probably died, along with his/her progeny, whereas a modern Wall Street executive that made a similar conceptual mistake would receive a substantial bonus and be a more attractive mate. Clearly, extreme selection is a thing of the past”. He also suggests that if people from ancient civilisations, e.g. Ancient Greece, came back to earth today they “would be among the brightest and most intellectually alive of our colleagues and companions, with a good memory, a broad range of ideas, and a clear-sighted view of important issues”. In spite of this Crabtree claims: “The sciences have come so far in the past 100 years that we can safely predict that the accelerating rate of knowledge accumulation within our intellectually robust society will lead to the solution of this potentially very difficult problem by socially and morally acceptable means”.

Links: news.com.au, [Trends in Genetics](#).

ED. COM. Crabtree is correct about mutations degrading the human genome, and therefore it is inevitable that some mutations would damage human brain function. Recent genome studies such as the 1000 Genome Project have shown that genes are being rendered useless (and therefore effectively lost) or less functional with every generation. However, no-one has reported a newly formed gene that improves human intellect (or any other human function). There is, therefore, no evidence mutations created and “optimised” these genes in any human ancestor, and caused them to evolve a large complex brain, especially as they are observed to be doing the opposite! Instead, degeneracy caused by genetic collapse (mutations) is the predictable result of taking Biblical history as reliable. Genesis tells us God created all things “very good” but the world was later ruined by human sin and God’s judgement. This means the most optimal brains ever made were the ones God created in Adam and Eve, and any mutations affecting the human brain have degraded it, not improved it.

Crabtree’s description of how natural selection could act on hunter/gatherers is also correct, but irrelevant since man started as a farmer in a prepared Garden, and faced his first survival selection pressure when he was subject to dealing with weeds and thorns after expulsion from Eden. Either way, survival pressures only serve to remind us that natural selection can only remove individuals who are less fit because they possess already less-optimal genes, and thus leave the ones who already had the optimal genes. Natural selection is never observed to create or improve any genes.

Crabtree’s assessment that human beings were smarter in the past is certainly supported by recorded human history when we look at the achievements and writings of ancient civilisations, especially when we ask: “how much could you learn, even from your mistakes, if your lifespan was 930 years, as Adam’s was?” Historical smartness and present decline is, again, exactly what would result from the Biblical history of the human race. Since Adam and Eve rebelled against God the human race has been going downhill, so it should be no surprise that the closer people were to the beginning, as in ancient civilisations, the fewer genetic mutations they would have. However, there is more to human beings than

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just their bodies and their genes. Genesis tells us that man was created in the image of God, and consists of body, soul and spirit. Any intellectual achievements by humans are not the results of random activity in the brain. Our minds are influenced by our relationship with our Creator, and our first parents ruined that when they disobeyed God in the beginning. Therefore, Crabtree's optimism about us saving ourselves with science and education is wishful, but fallacious thinking. The only way we can be restored in body and mind is by the work of the Creator who made us in the first place, and came to earth as Jesus Christ, who died and rose again to restore our relationship with God. Our current earthly bodies are doomed, like this world, to continue to degenerate, but all those who put their trust in Jesus will receive a new body, including a new brain, in the new heaven and earth that God will create when this world is destroyed. Renewal of the mind can start right now for all who are transformed by faith in Christ, but will not be complete until the resurrection to eternal life with Christ. It won't make you smarter now, but it can help you to live better in this world if you use your mind to know God's Word and seek to live by it. (Ref. anthropology, genetics)

3. HOMESCHOOLERS Joe Stephens and family have put up two interesting websites for homeschooling families to take advantage of. One deals with history [CLICK](#) and the other is a museum which he and his students have put together [CLICK](#). I am sure he will appreciate your comments.

4. CANADA: Creation Weekend event coming in Spring with some local speakers, a fossil hunt and new this year "THE ROCK PILE". The museum is open the whole weekend free of charge. Planning on coming [CLICK](#).

5. U.N. HEARD ATHEIST plea on Monday that Atheists, humanists and freethinkers around the globe face widespread discrimination, with expression of their views criminalized and in some countries subject to capital punishment, the United Nations was told via a document for consideration by the world body's Human Rights Council. A global organization linking people who reject religion said atheism was banned by law in a number of states where people were forced to officially adopt a faith. "Extensive discrimination by governments against atheists, humanists and the non-religious occurs worldwide", declared the International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU) which has some 120 member bodies in 45 countries. <http://ca.news.yahoo.com/u-n-told-atheists-face-discrimination-around-globe-184534163.html>

ED.COM. Aren't they just reaping what they have sowed? After all they must feel safe when they are in Nth Korea, China etc. All those communist nations including the old Communist Russia, have killed hundreds of millions of people just in the last 80 years or so because they didn't accept the atheism of the countries' founders. After all most places that violate human rights seem to be quite comfortable with atheism.... but then atheists believe in natural selection through death of the unfit, so what are they complaining about? (Ref. Socialism, Philosophy, Religion)

6. FROM THE ARCHIVES: previous items relevant to this topic: [Defunct Genes](#), [We've All Lost 20 Genes](#), [Human Brain Downsized](#)

SLIDE SHOW fossil evidence of decreasing Human Brain Size [here](#).

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