

Origins...

A STUDY OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY SUPPORT
FOR THE CREATION STORY



“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

- *Genesis 1:1*

Goals for the next month

Evaluate nature through the eyes of Scripture, and also through the eyes of nature itself to determine if there is any evidence for God.

Evaluate the first few chapters of Genesis – specifically the creation and flood stories – to determine if they originated by God.

Pursuing these goals means there may be large stretches in which we will not be studying a significant amount of Scripture.

Purpose

“Why spend an entire month talking about a short section of the Bible which contains little to no information regarding our salvation?”

- How we interpret the first eight chapters of Genesis directly impacts how we interpret the rest of Scriptures
- Our beliefs regarding the origin of the earth, and the universe, have a direct impact upon how we view the world
- The first eight chapters of Genesis are those which are most contested by the academic world and our atheistic friends
- We need to convince ourselves with sound reasoning before we will be able to answer those who ask us a reason for our convictions

Three founding principles

- The Bible is a message directly given to humans from God
 - **2 Timothy 3:15-16**
 - **2 Peter 1:19-21**
 - **1 Peter 1:25**
- When God speaks, he speaks the truth – even when we do not fully understand the matter
 - **Romans 3:4**
 - “Truth agrees with truth”
- Each person is responsible for evaluating all matters of faith, responsible for making up their own mind, and responsible for taking ownership of these decisions
 - **Acts 17:11**
 - **Philippians 2:12**

Creation originated with God

The Bible has been consistent from the Old Testament through the New Testament regarding how the world came to exist

- **Genesis 1:1** – “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”
- **Exodus 20:11** – “For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them”
- **Job 38:4** – “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. ”
- **Psalms 33:6** – “By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.”
- **Hebrews 11:3** – “By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.”
- **II Peter 3:5** – “For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God”

A matter of faith

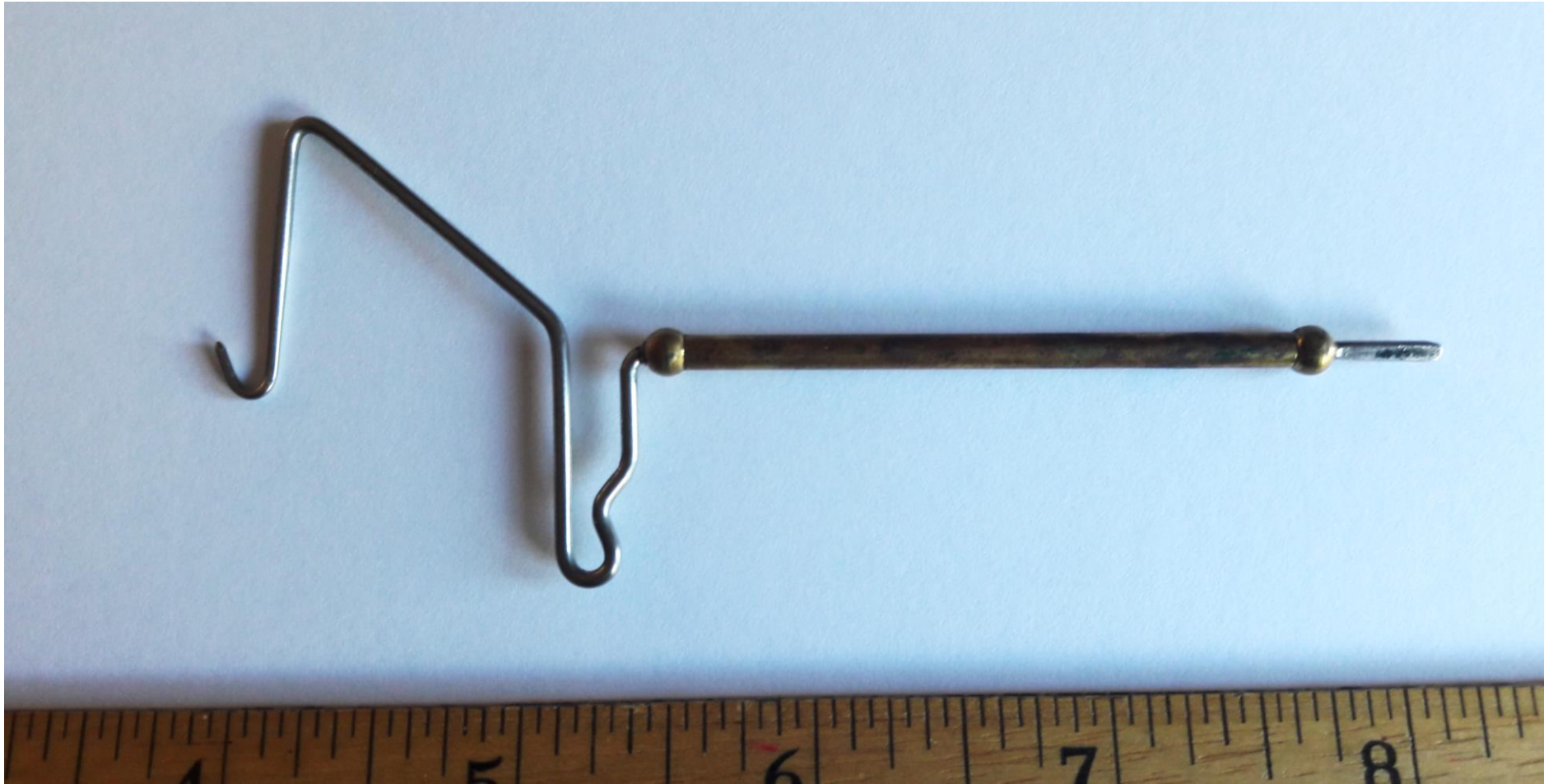
Believing in God as the Creator of this universe is a matter of faith and as a matter of faith, we should caution against attempts to “prove” creation through science.

Hebrews 11:1, 3 – “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen...By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.”

- “substance” – essence, confidence, assurance
- “evidence” – conviction

Is there anything which helps guide our faith? Is there any evidence?

What does this mean? Let's start here...



A creation and the creator

- When something is created, the “creator” always has a purpose behind what is created and why it is created
- If there is a creator and a purpose behind the creation, it seems reasonable for us to be able to “find” the creator and the purpose of the creation

A story about a watch



A watchmaker...a Creator

For William Paley, when he saw a watch he knew there had to be a watchmaker as its originator. When he saw the world with its complexity which exceeded that of a watch a thousand times over, he knew there had to be a creator as its originator.

The “design argument” – Paley’s “watchmaker” argument – is not only a logically sound argument for the existence of a Creator, but it also a biblical argument for a Creator.

Biblical purpose of nature

When it comes to nature – the world below, around, and above us – the Scriptures have maintained a consistent message as to the purpose of nature:

- **Psalm 19:1-6** and **Psalm 148**
- **Acts 14:17** – “Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.”
- **Romans 1:20** – “For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ”

God's handiwork

The Bible contains God's confession – a confession that God created the earth in a specified time period and in a specific means.

Nature is the evidence to support God's confession. Nature serves as a resounding and irrefutable witness to the existence of a mighty Creator of the universe.

An interesting find

- Romans 2:14-15 – “For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them.”

An interesting find

- Scientists have found that children are “intuitive theists” regardless of their religious upbringing
 - “By elementary-school age, children start to invoke an ultimate God-like designer to explain the complexity of the world around them – even children brought up by atheists.” (Dr. Alison Gopnik, *Wall Street Journal* column)
 - “Even though advanced scientific training can reduce acceptance of scientifically inaccurate [purposed-based] explanations, it cannot erase a tenacious early-emerging human tendency to find purpose in nature.” (Dr. Deborah Kelemen)

Biologists (kind of) acknowledge design

“Biology is the study of complicated things that give the appearance of having been designed for a purpose.”

- *Richard Dawkins (present day neo-Darwinist)*

“Biologists must constantly keep in mind that what they see what not designed, but rather evolved.”

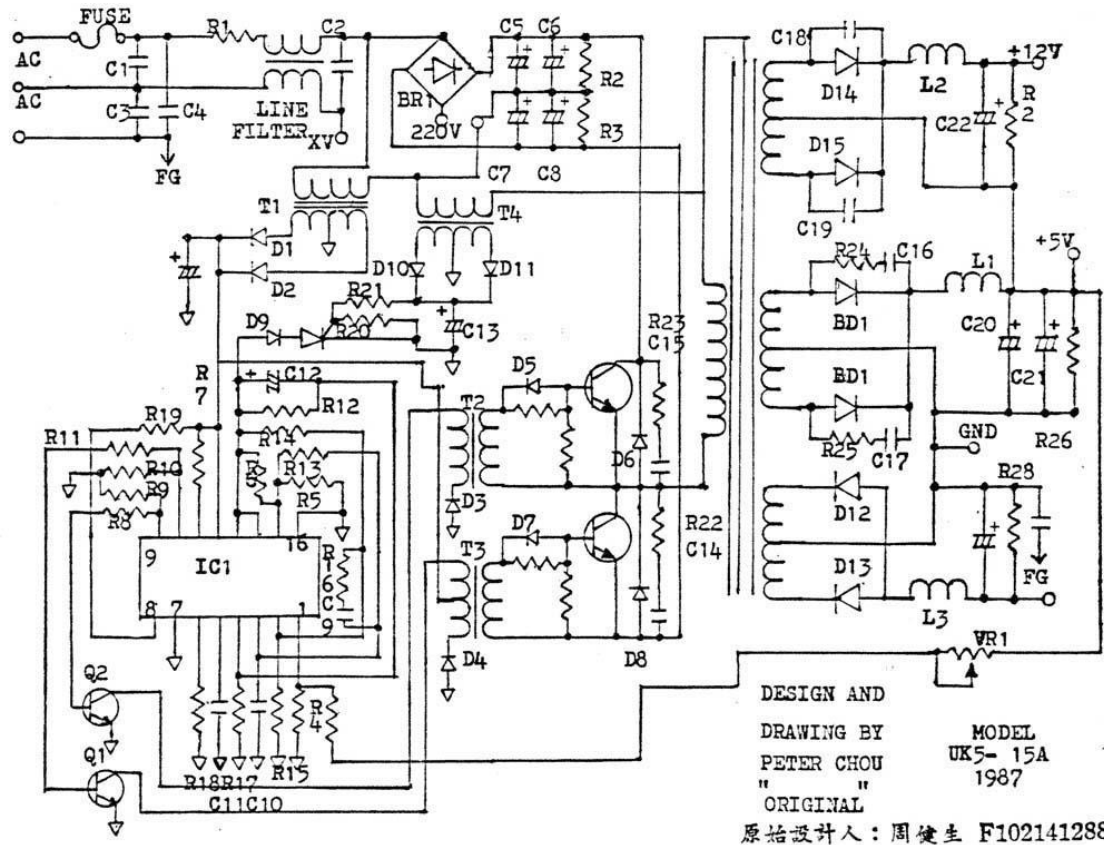
- *Sir Francis Crick (co-discoverer of the DNA structure)*

Recognizing when something is designed

People have said you can't define art. You'll know it when you see it. Design is the same way. We know when something has been designed.



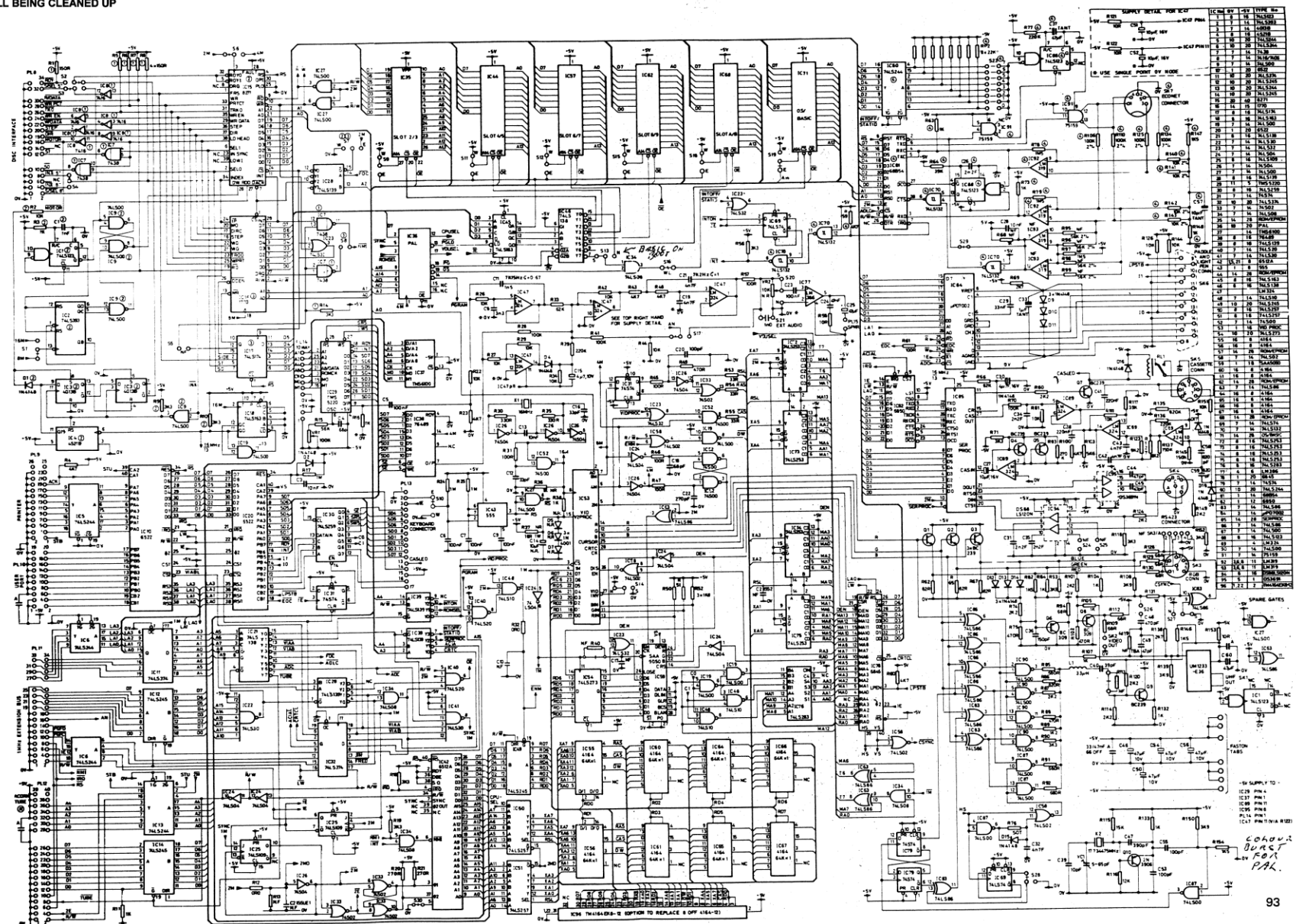
More than just complexity



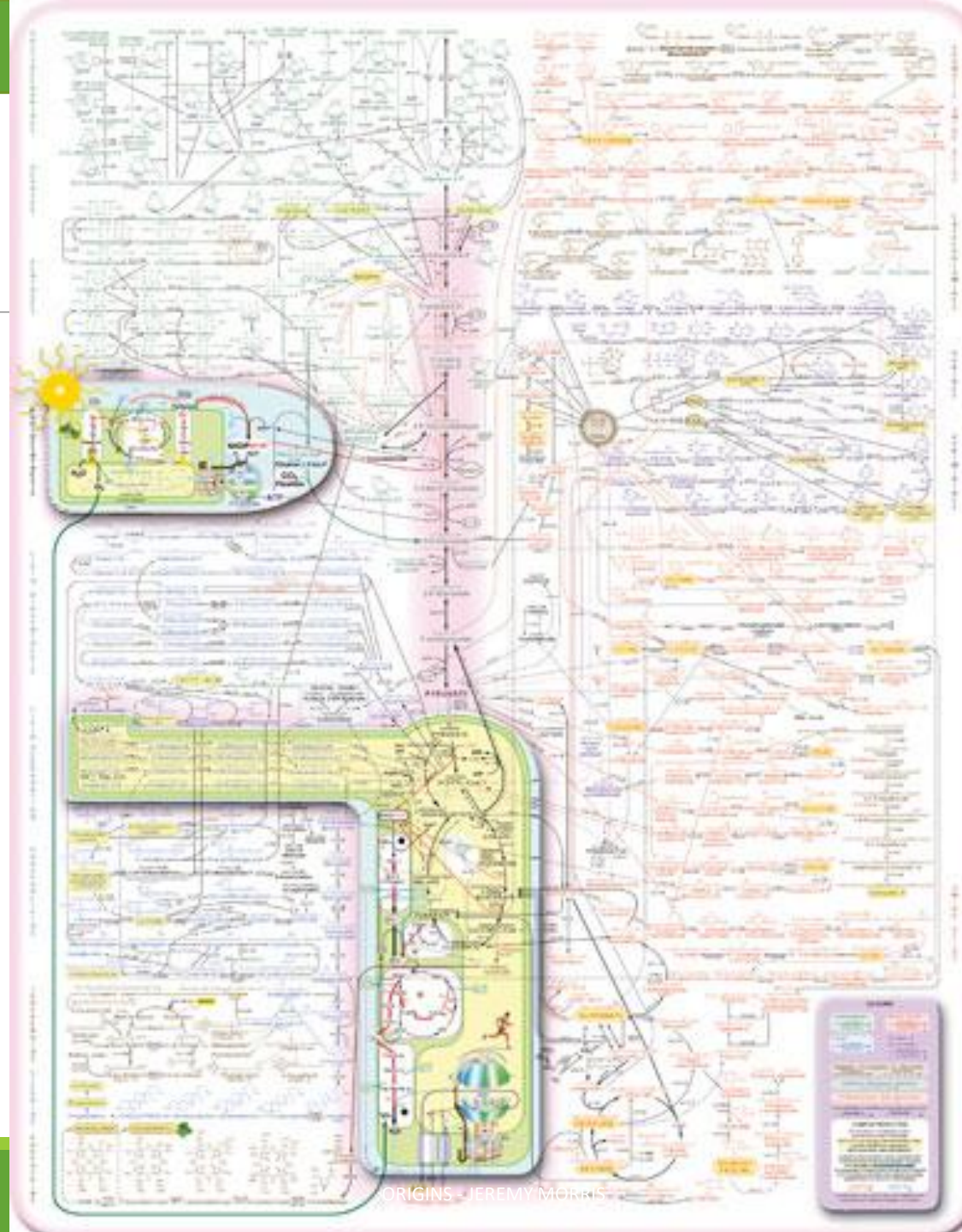
More than just complexity

Specified – complexity which conforms to a repeatable pattern

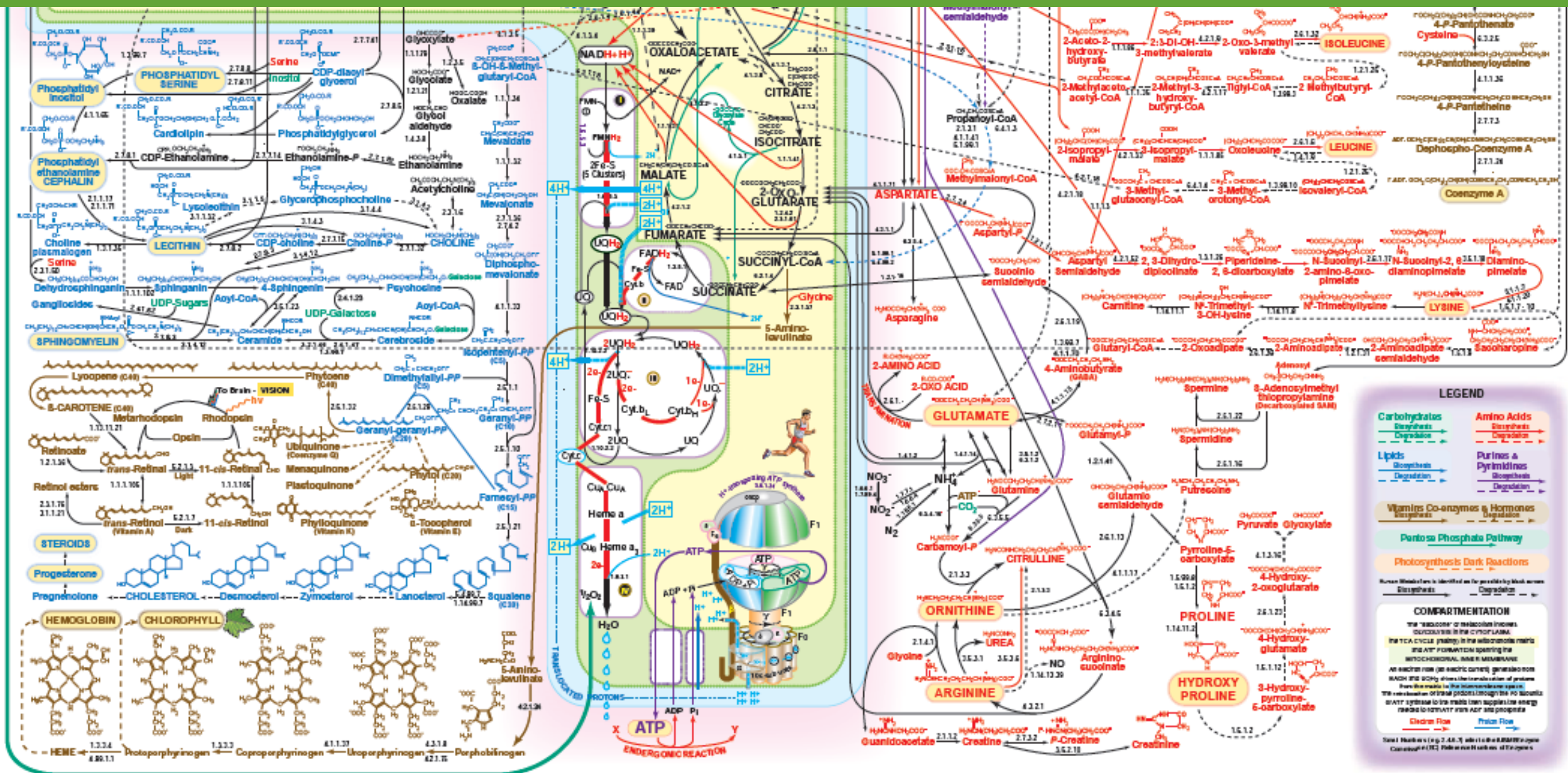
Functional – complexity which has a purpose and performs a function



Human
metabolic
pathway



And this is
just the
beginning



Another way

There's also another way of recognizing design – when humans create something and then later on find something in nature which looks and acts just like it.

- We know the first was designed – it originated in the mind of someone for a specific purpose.
- An idea became reality.
- When we see the same “design” in nature we should come to the same conclusion.

Brief review

- “How did we get here?” is the most important question we need to address in our lives.
- The message of the Bible is consistent – God spoke the world and all that is in it into existence.
- Nature is meant to magnify God and act as a witness to His existence and characteristics.
- Our intuition from our youth is the world was designed for a purpose
- We can see evidence of God’s design when nature mimics something humans made

Recognizing when something is designed



Oh no. Anything but science!



Exhibit 1A – the rotary motor

The first real electric motor was designed by Prussian von Jacobi in 1832.

An arrangement of wires and magnets can rotate a drive shaft.

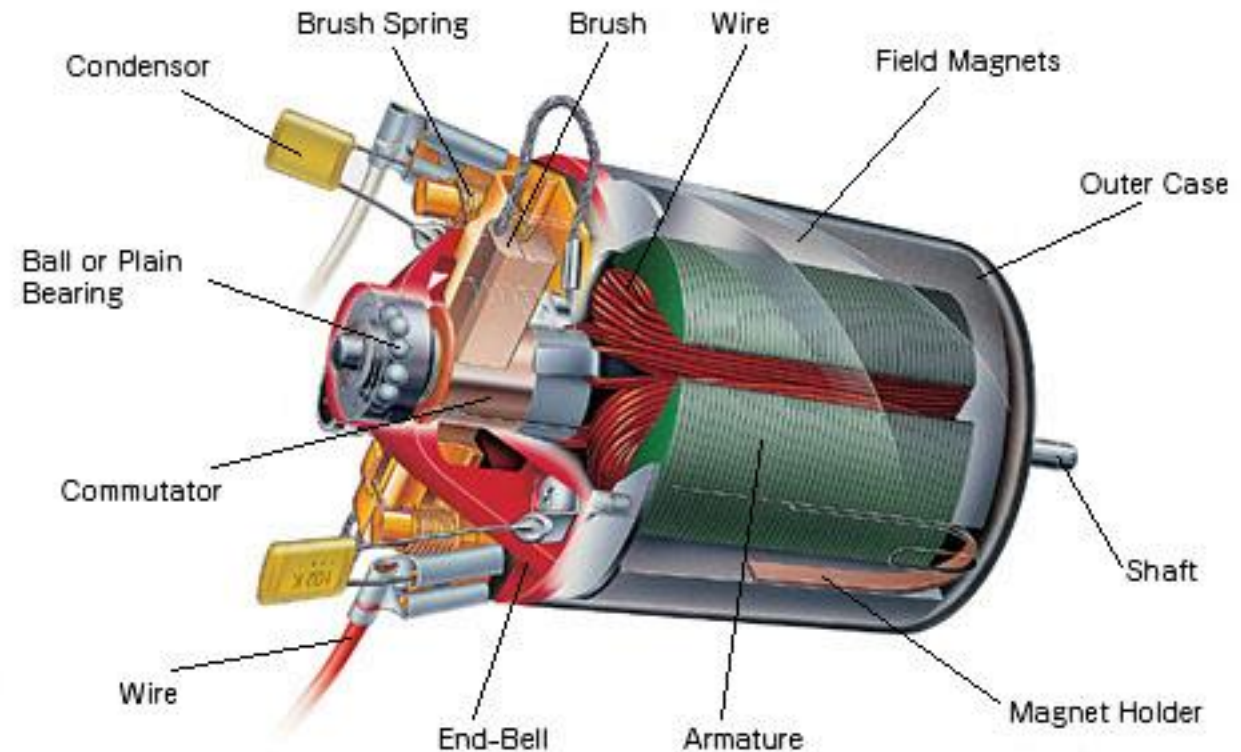


Exhibit 1B – Bacteria flagella (what?)

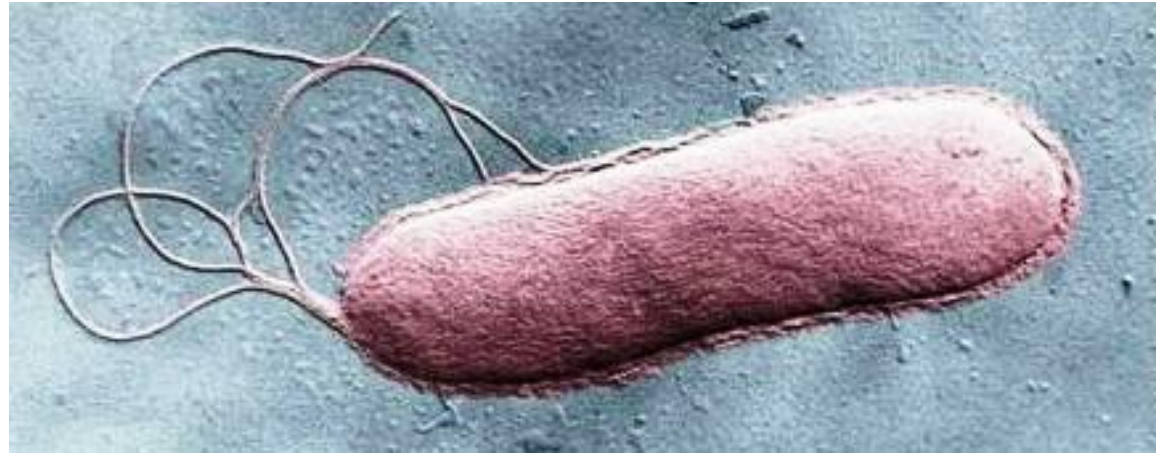
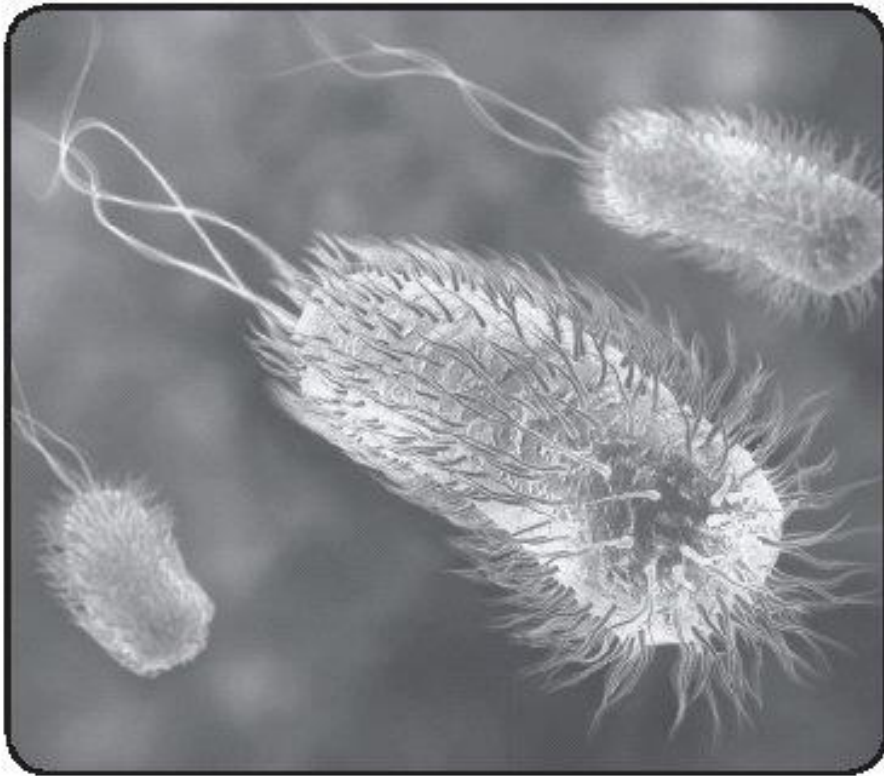


Exhibit 1B – Flagella motor

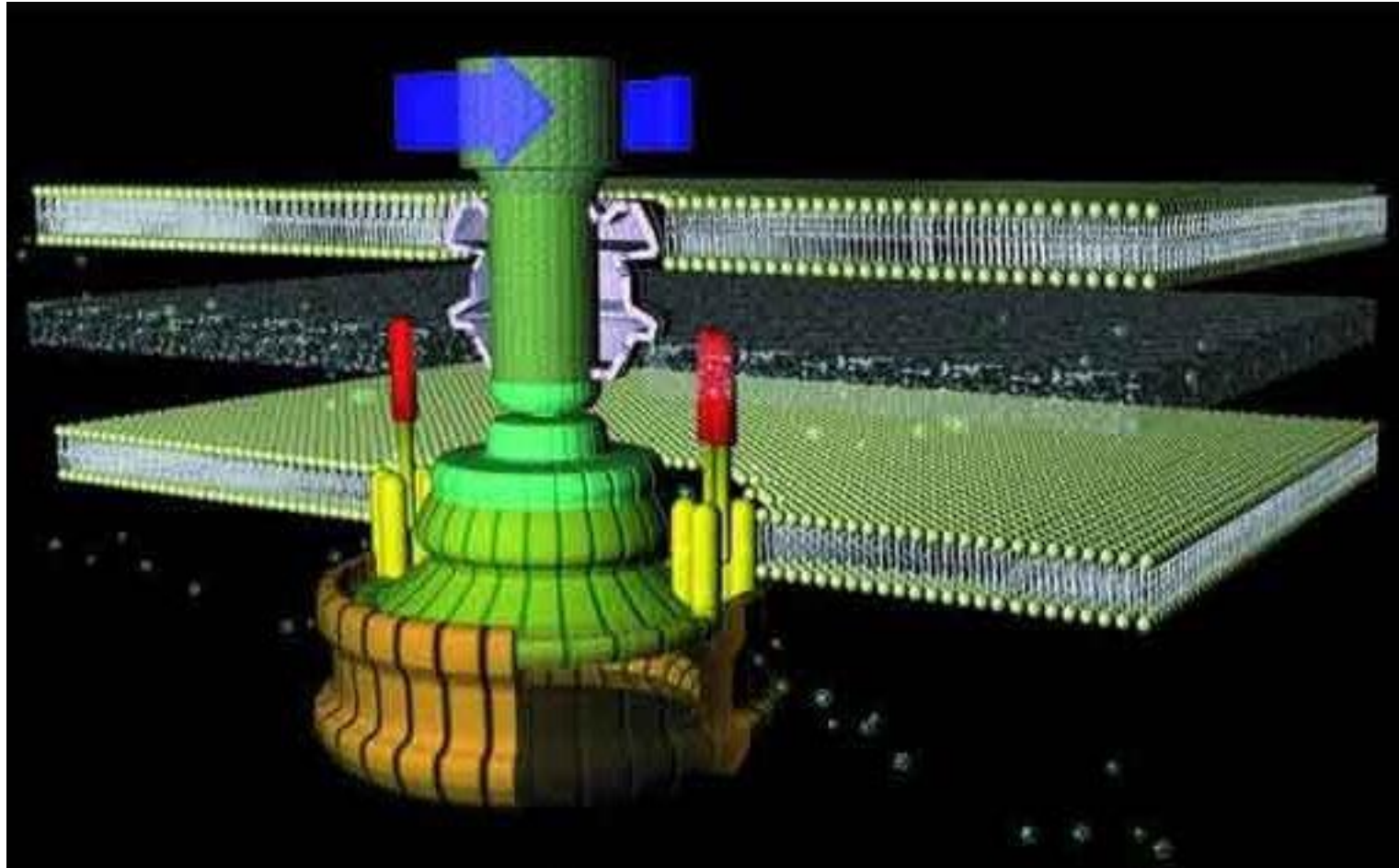


Exhibit 2A – multi-ply rope

~~Z~~
~~S~~

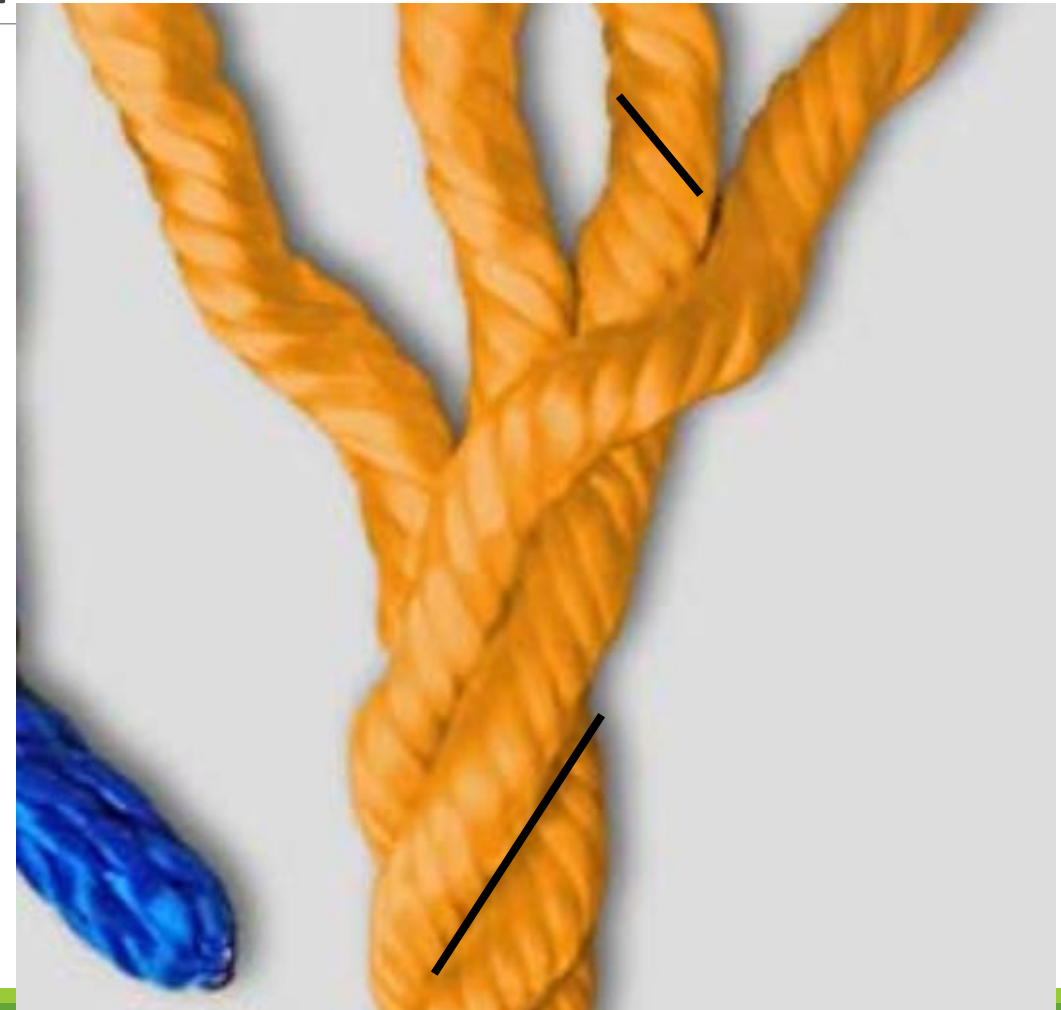


Exhibit 2B – Hair (e.g., keratin)

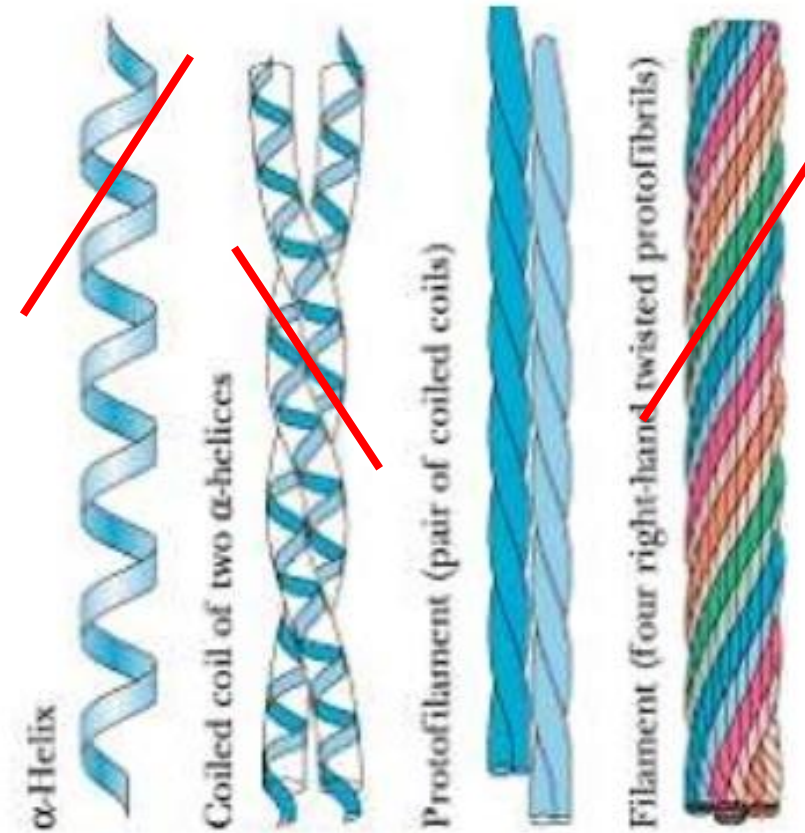
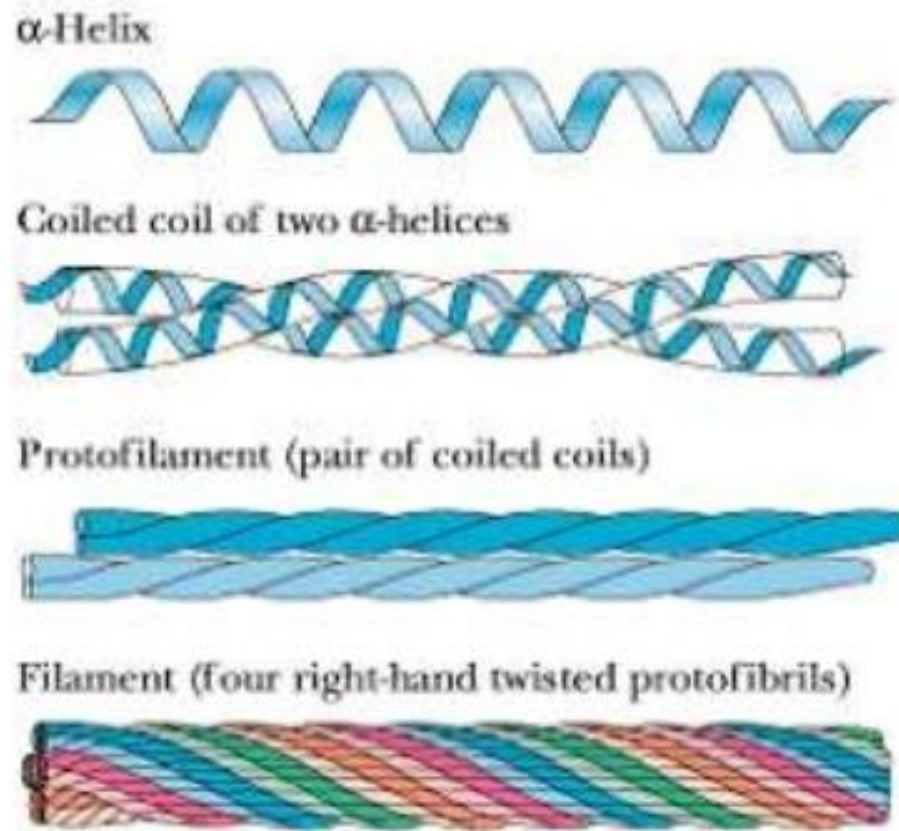


Exhibit 3A – hydraulic crane arms

Hydraulics – using pressurized liquids in a sealed system to do work

Has been used since late 1700's

First applied to cranes in late 1880's

First true hydraulic crane manufactured in 1948 but the technology of hydraulics was being used elsewhere



Exhibit 3B – spider legs

A hydraulic system was proposed in 1944 for how spider legs work. This was confirmed in 1959. Muscles contract the legs, hydraulics extend the legs.



Exhibit 4A – Sonar to locate submarines

Sonar is the use of sound waves in water to locate an object's position

First sonar developed in 1906 to detect ice-bergs

First sonar to detect submarines invented in 1915

Extensively used in WWII

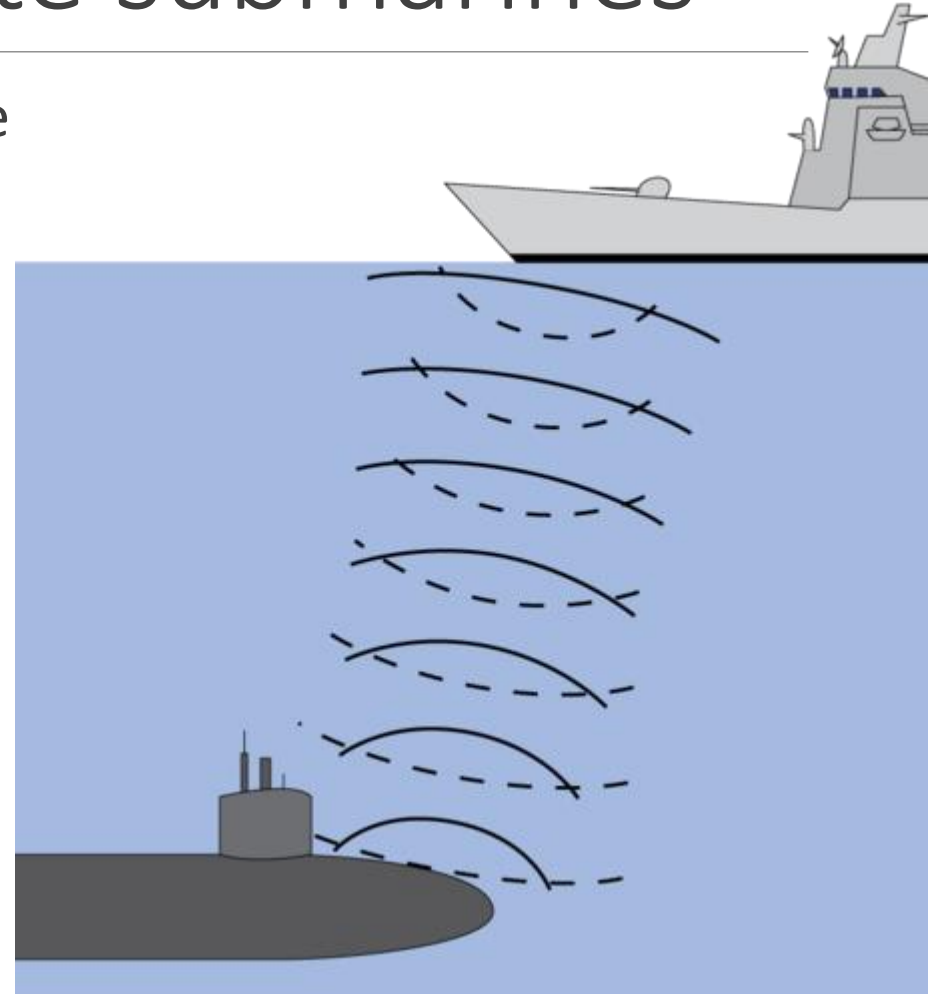


Exhibit 4B – dolphins and echolocation

Although proposed in 1947, it wasn't until 1960 that it was confirmed dolphins and other related whales use a bio-form of sonar for ecolocation of prey and terrain.

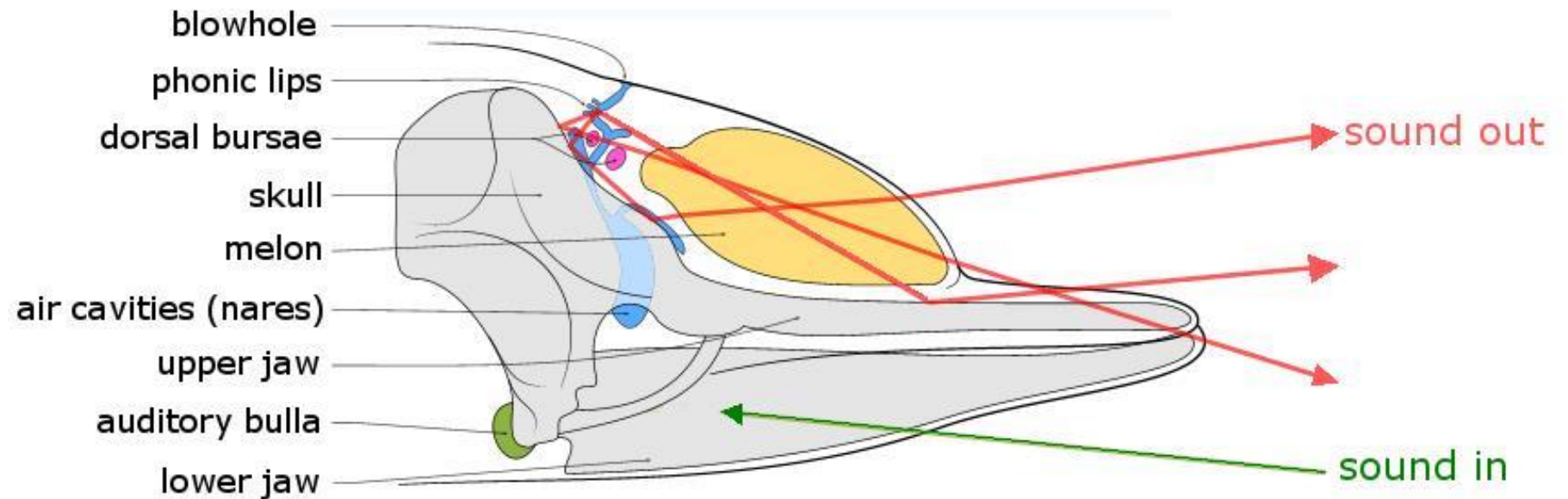


Exhibit 4C – bats and echolocation

In 1938 it was discovered that bats use ultrasound (sound outside the range of human hearing) to detect prey and other objects in total darkness.

Doppler shift effect of sound waves and moving objects

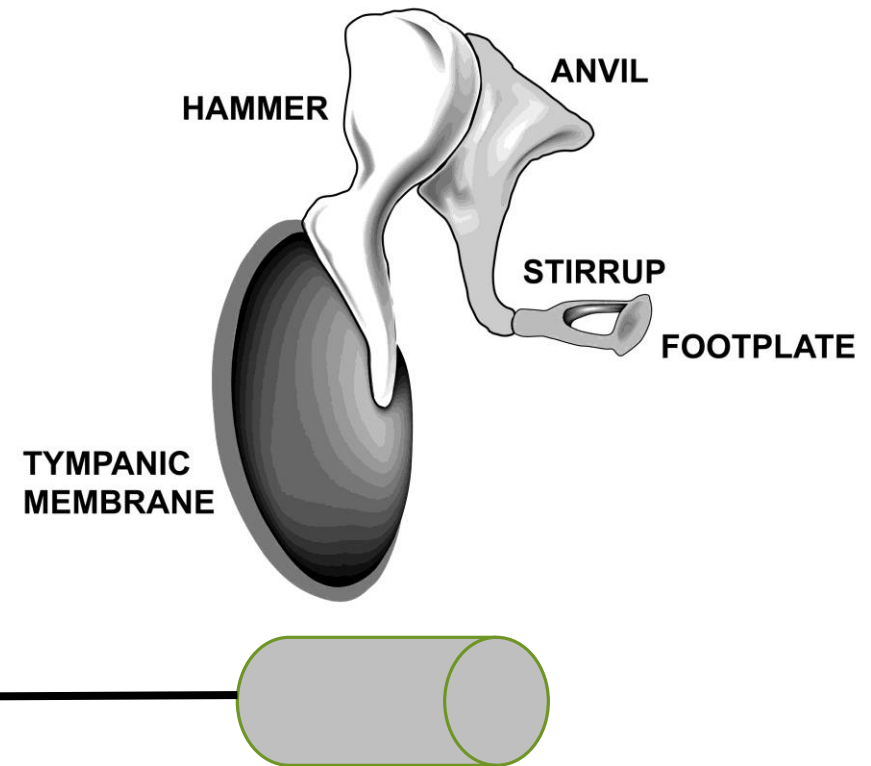


Exhibit 4C – bats and echolocation

Sound can come out of the mouth – or the nose

Bats can interpret the echoes to determine location, directionality, and shape of objects

Ears have a special protective feature



1st century Greek historian Plutarch

“But can it be that those things which are most important and most essential for happiness do not call for intelligence, nor have any part in the processes of reason and forethought? Nobody wets clay with water and leaves it, assuming that by chance and accidentally there will be bricks, nor after providing himself with wool and leather does he sit down with a prayer to Chance that they turn into a cloak and shoes for him.”

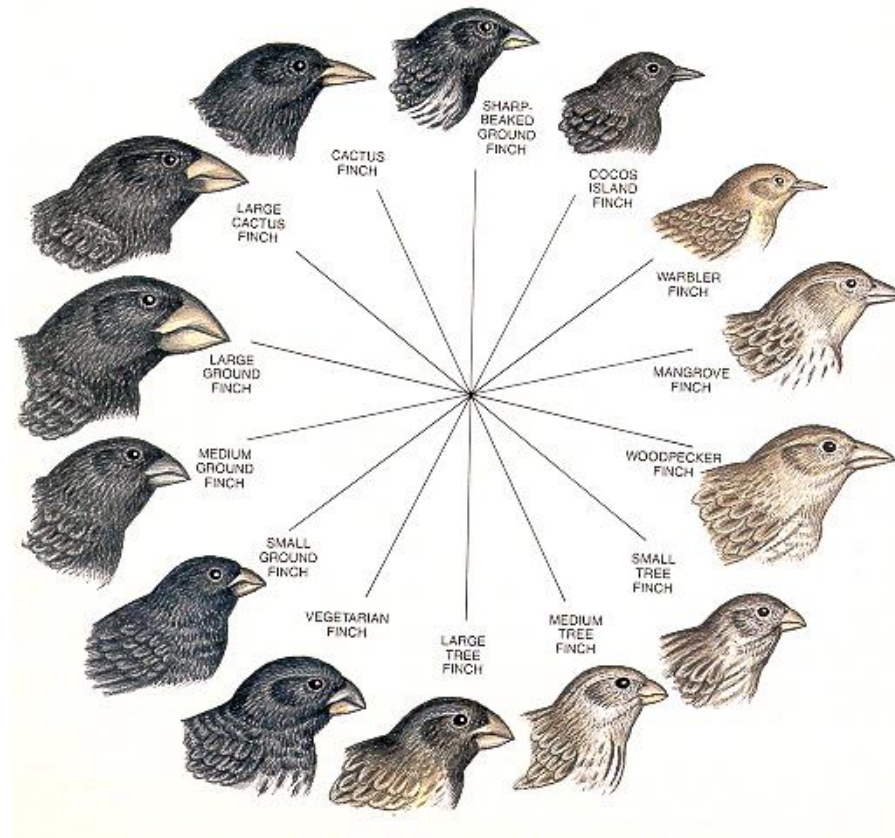
Intro to evolutionary theory

Began in 1859 when Charles Darwin of England published *On the Origin of Species*. Followed by *Of the Descent of Man* which was published in 1871.

Evolution, referred to as “neo-Darwinism” today, has its roots in these two books.

The general theory is all living organisms today – regardless of current complexity or appearance – can be traced back to a single common ancestor

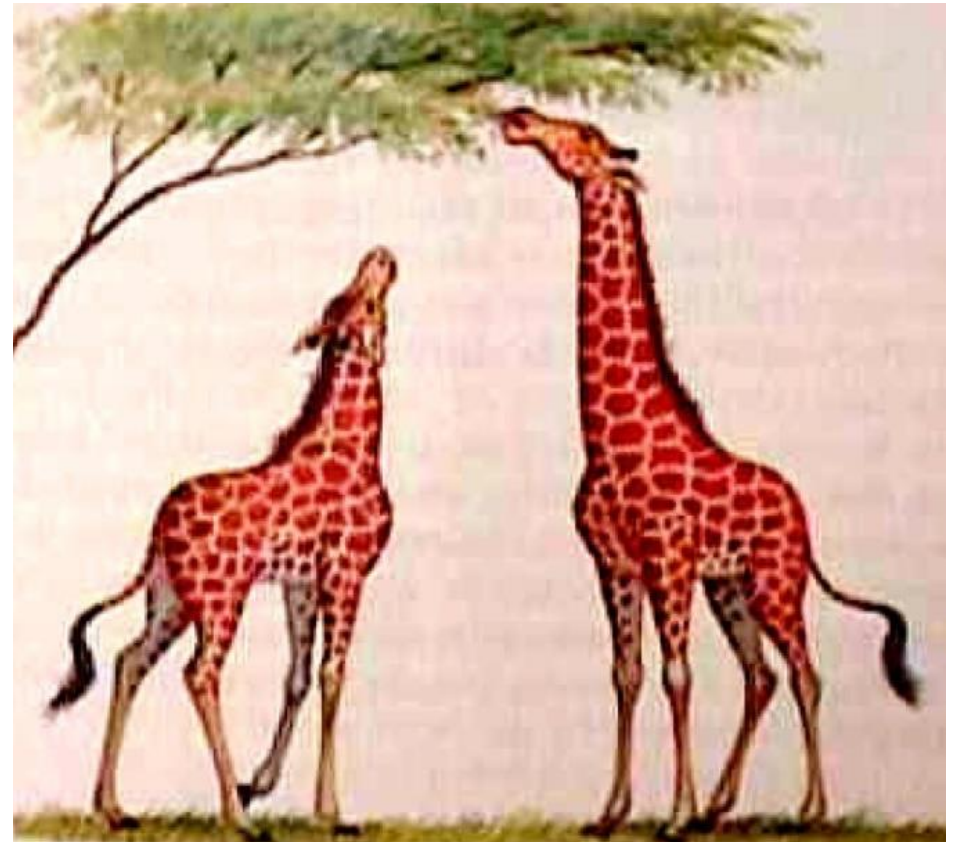
Began with some birds



Adaptation

Two central principles

- Descent with modification
- Survival of the fittest (“natural selection”)



Some important points

All living organisms today are simply links in a chain of creatures constantly morphing from one from into another.

The changes must be gradual

Only features which are passed on to off-spring factor in to evolution

The entire process is random and completely unguided (*The Blind Watchmaker*)

No room for God

Modern science follows the path of Darwin to seek explanations for the world around us, including our origins, in completely “naturalistic” means

- Only explanations which can be explained using natural laws and processes of science are allowed
- Explanations which do not follow natural laws are not allowed – “supernatural”
- “God” is not even allowed into the discussion



Why is this so popular?

- The vast majority of scientists feel evolution is beyond dispute?
- A large percentage of non-scientists freely accept this belief. Why?
 - Frees the conscience
 - Feel “unqualified” to reason about science.
- Remember, false teaching can be presented in a very persuasive manner if we have no love for the truth.
 - “The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. **Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false**, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

- II Thessalonians 2:9-12

Going back to children

Previously discussed how children have been found to be “intuitive theists” when it comes to nature and a Creator.

“But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.”

- 1 Corinthians 1:27-29

Quick thoughts

If only looking at physical features seen with unaided eye, this approach *could* make sense.

- Our own selective breeding of animals targets desirable features
 - Animals *could* be arranged in a way which *appears* to show a progression of forms
-
- But even then, this idea is completely contrary to our own intuition and how people have naturally viewed the world for millennia.

The problem of looking too close

As our knowledge base increases, this theory becomes more challenging

- Complexity dramatically increases as we look closer and closer
 - We now understand, at least partially, the specific mechanisms which are behind all physical features of any living creature whether plant, animal, bacteria, or virus.
-
- Darwin could only see so far. He didn't know what he didn't know.

What

Frontier Fields
“footprints”:
Galaxy Cluster



**Also contains some archival ACS imagery.*



Before we start

Use your intuition as we take closer and closer looks at the human body

- Does it make intuitive sense for these features to be the results of natural, unguided processes?
- Does it pass the smell test?
- Do these features leave us “without excuse” there is a Creator?



Bear with me a bit

This next section is going to get a bit technical

- The purpose is to see marvelous the works of God within our body
- The various terms aren't important
- Just focus on the complexity of the various layers

Science is fun, right? 😊



David saw God in the human body

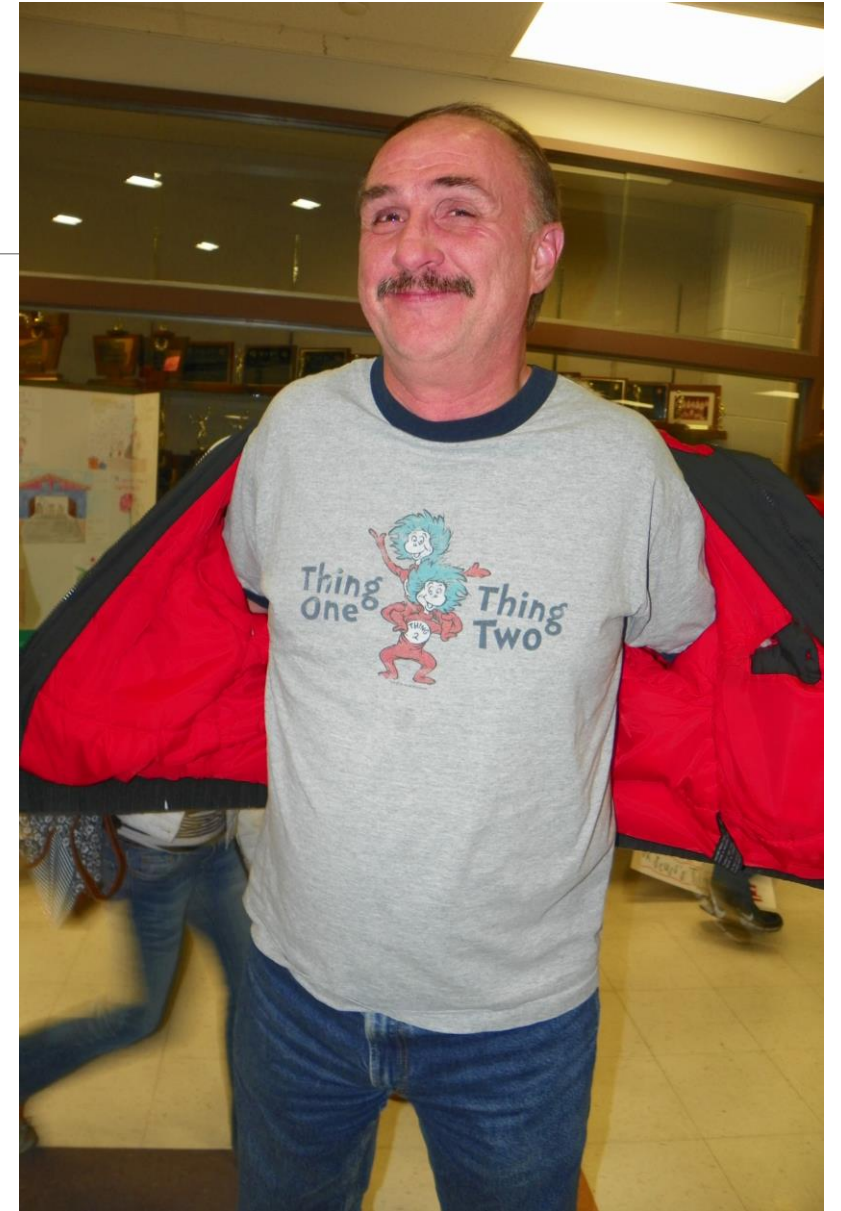
“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well”

-Psalm 139:13-14

But we know more than David today about how we are “fearfully and wonderfully made” by God.

The human body

- About 78 different organs comprising 11 different major systems
 - Skeletal system typically has 206 bones
 - Muscular system has about 640 named muscles
 - Estimated to have 37 trillion different cells
- Current life expectancy is 79 years
 - Heart would beat over 3.3 billion times
 - Take over 660 million breaths



The human body

- Amazing facts about the human body:
 - Human brain runs on just 20 watts of power (dim light bulb), similar to power in typical laptops; however...
 - It took 82,000 processors in a supercomputer to mimic what the brain can do in just 1 second
 - Bone is five times stronger than a steel bar of the same width
 - The body cools itself through the evaporation of sweat to avoid overheating
 - An infant lives surrounded by water without taking a breath to instantly breathing at birth
 - Bones in an infant's head are not connected, allowing them to overlap during birth before fusing together into a protective skull after birth



The human body

The amazing facts about the human body are virtually endless.

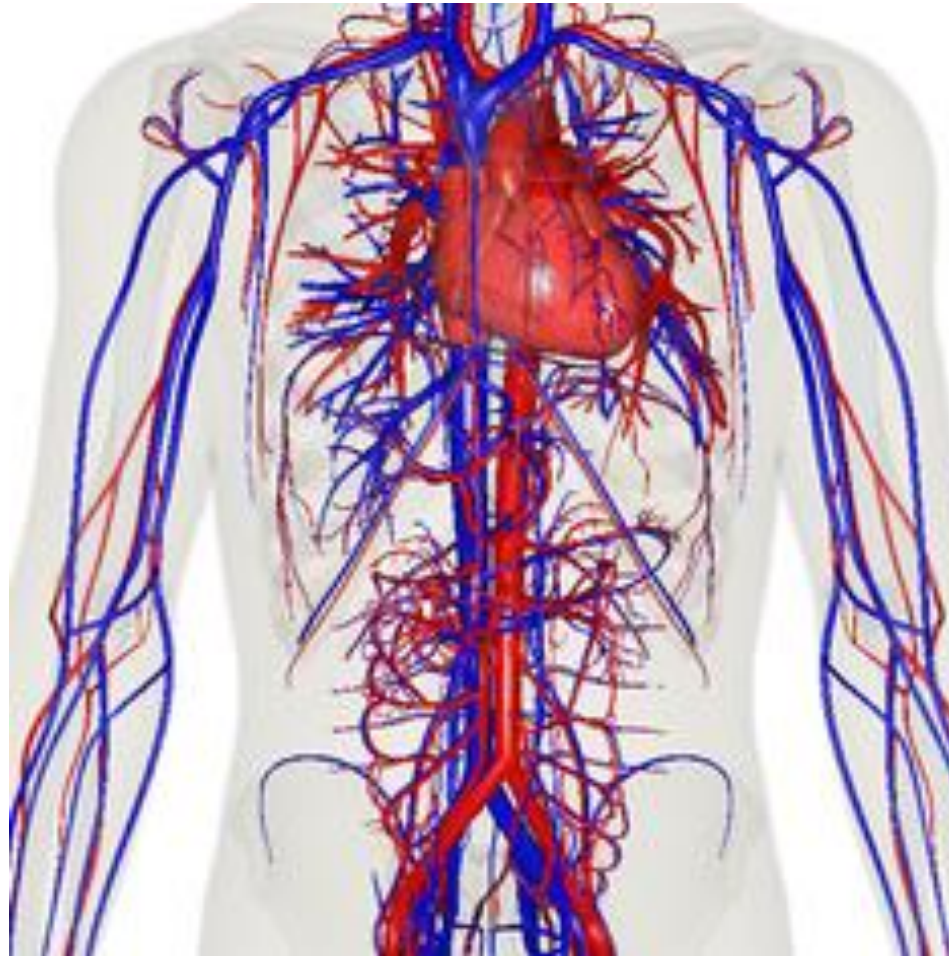
Even a basic understanding of the human body creates a convincing argument for design

As we dive deeper and deeper into the human body, specifically, the workings of the human cell, we find some of the most powerful evidence for a Creator behind it all.

Looking closer – circulatory system

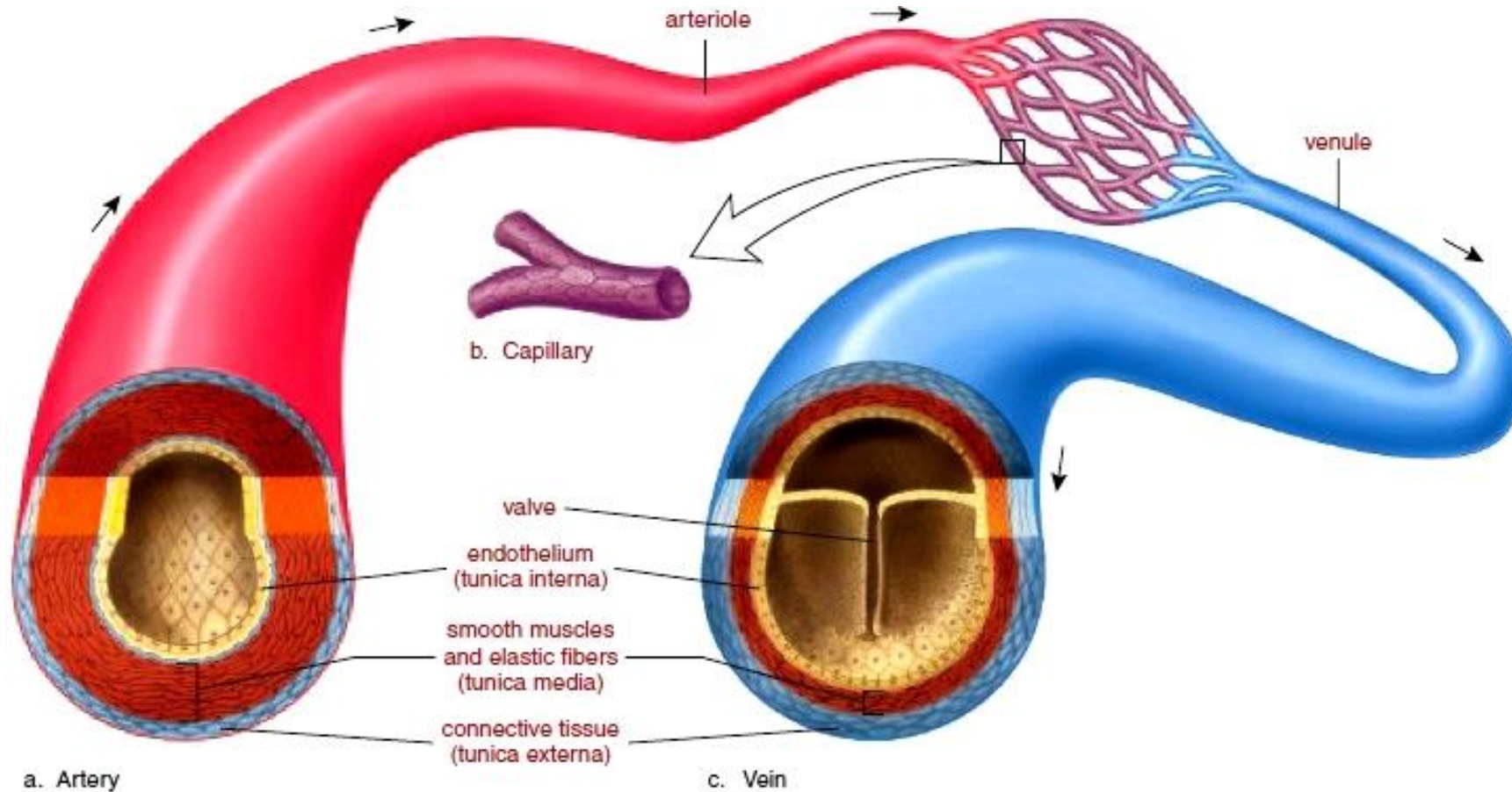
Red – arteries (vessels taking blood away from the heart)

Blue – veins (vessels taking blood towards the heart)

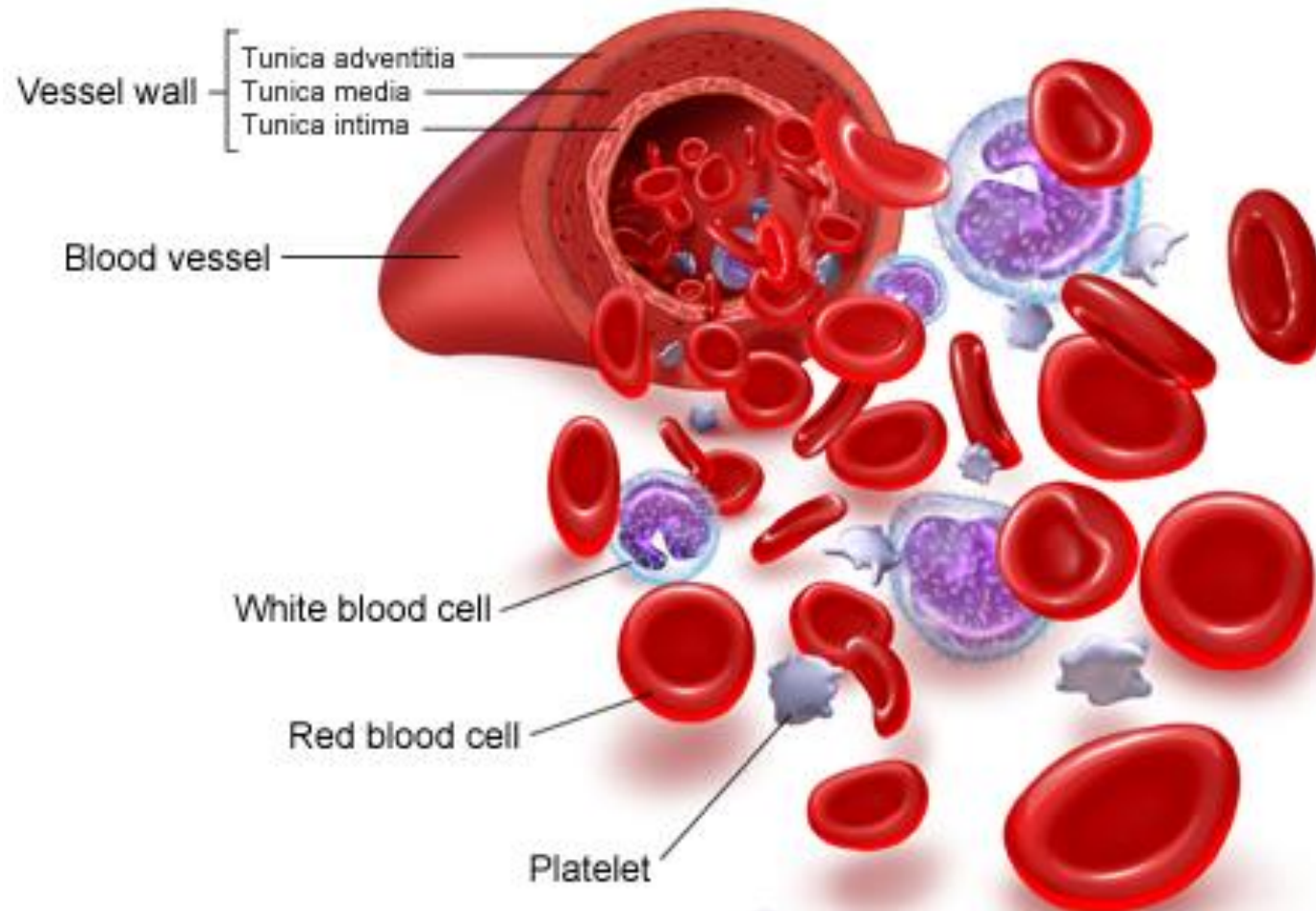


In an adult human body, there are 100,000 miles of blood vessels.

Looking closer – blood vessels



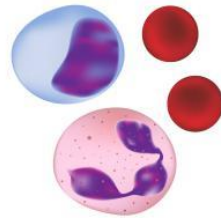
Looking closer – blood composition



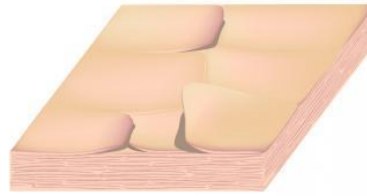
Looking closer – different cell types

There are over 200 different types of cells in the human body.

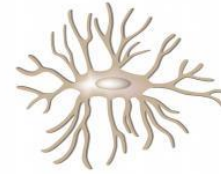
Each cell has a specific structure and performs a specific function.



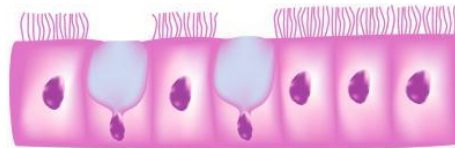
Blood cells



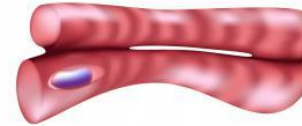
Surface skin cells



Bone cell



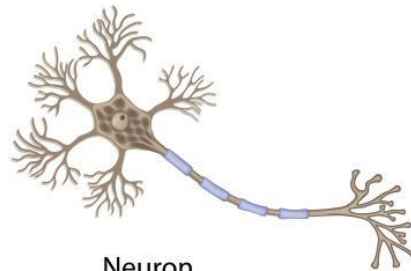
Columnar epithelial and Goblet cells



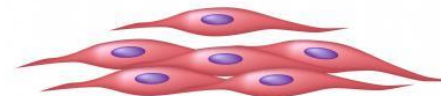
Cardiac muscle cell



Skeletal muscle cells

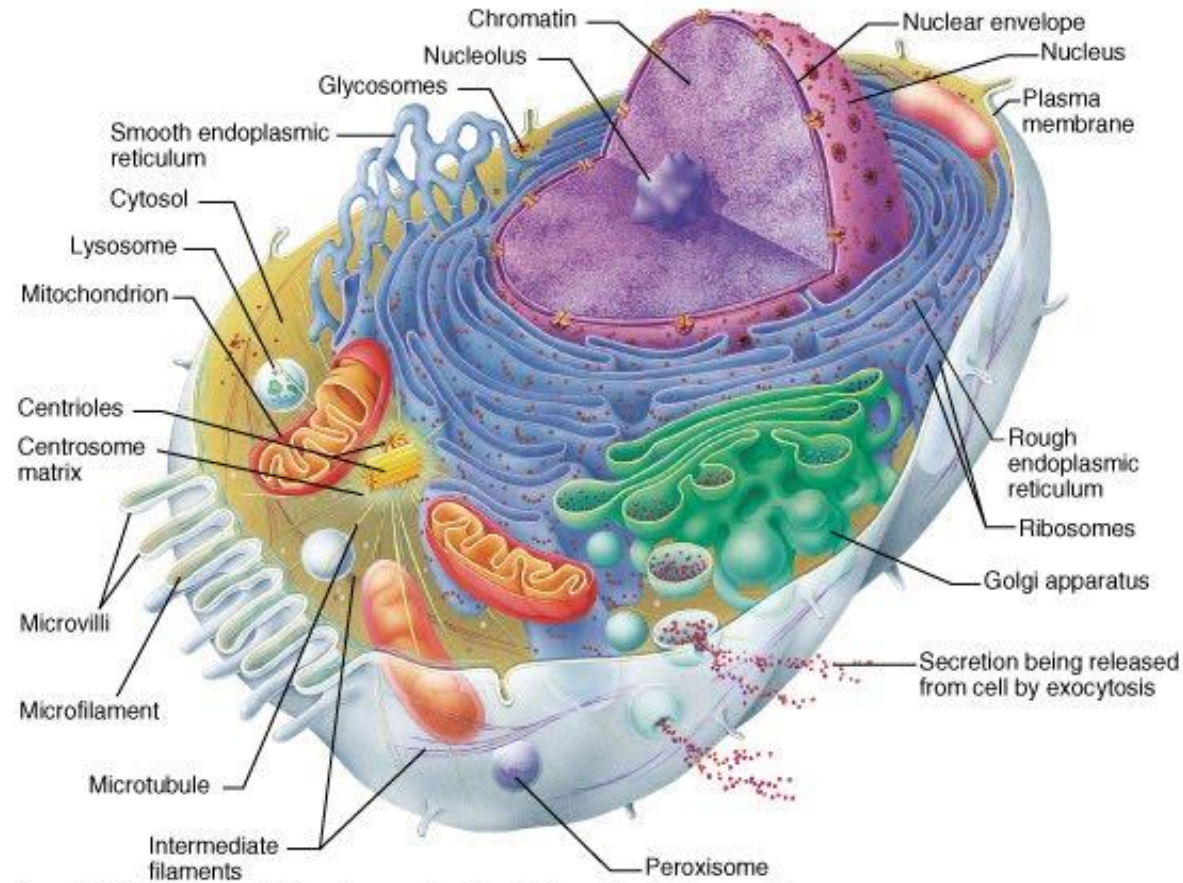


Neuron



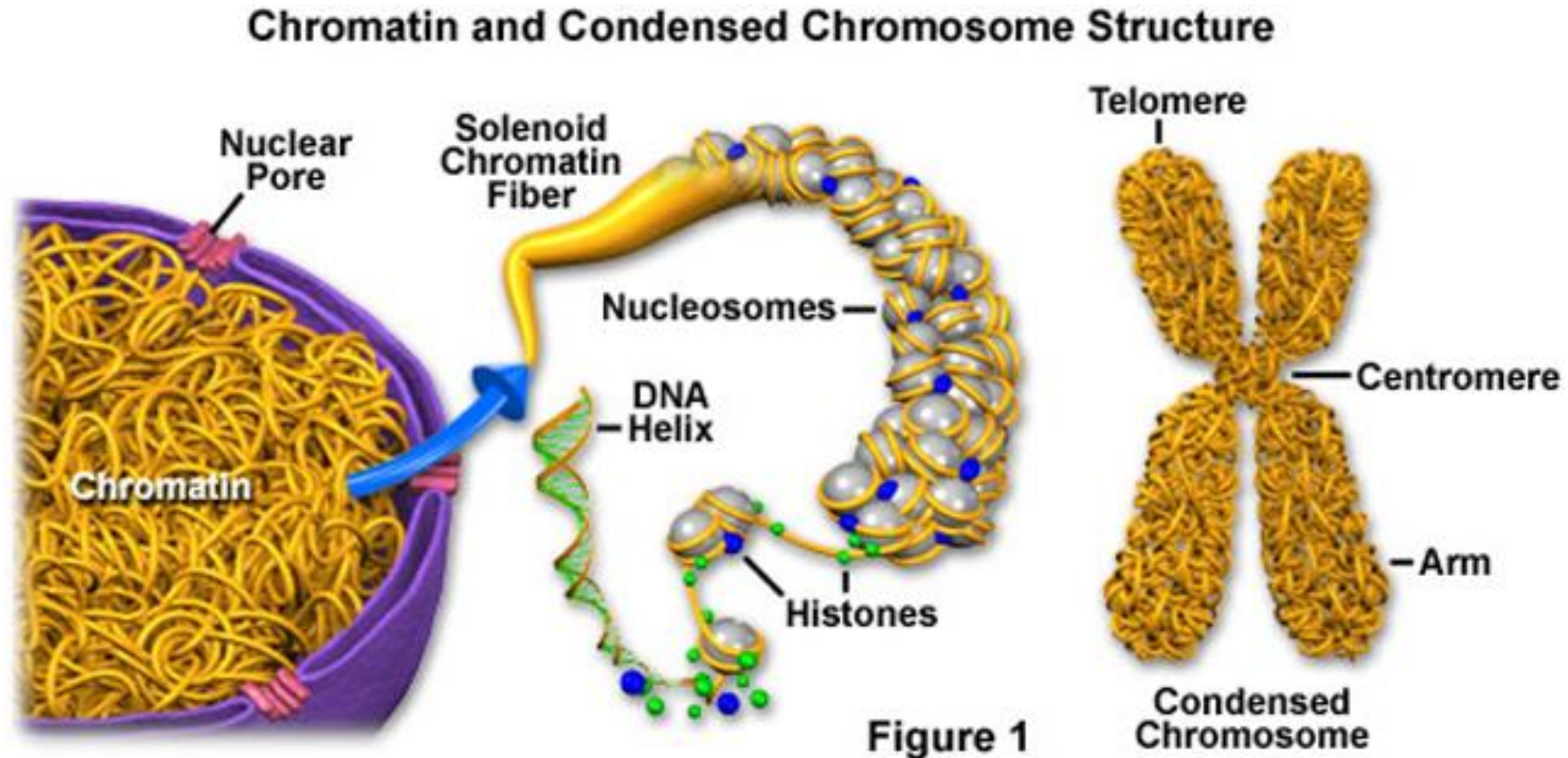
Smooth muscle cells

Looking closer – the human cell

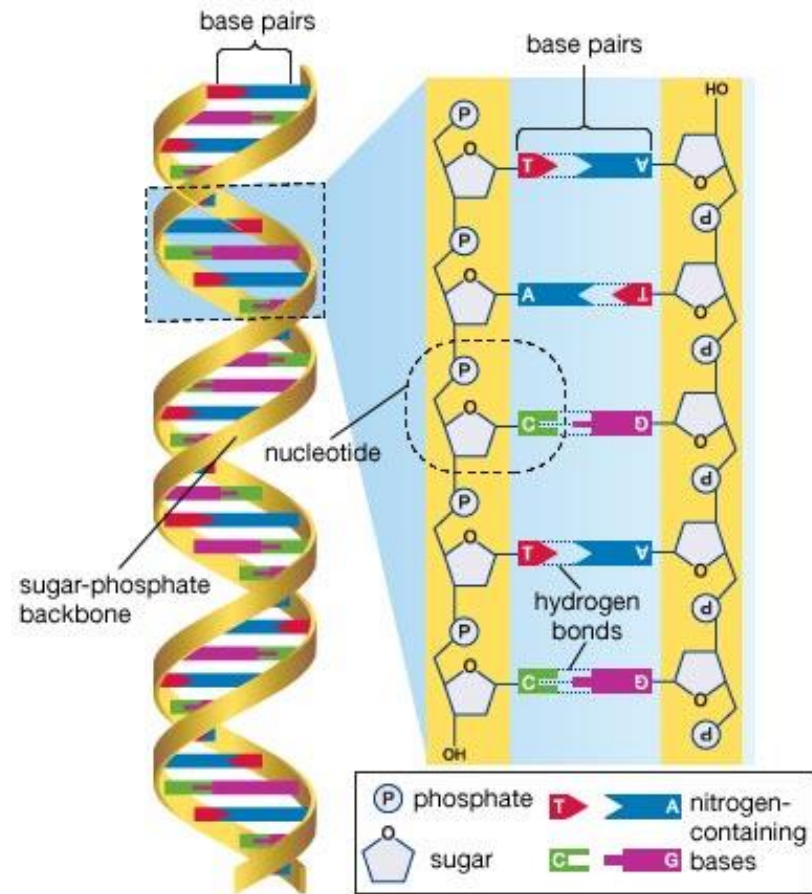


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Looking closer – inside the nucleus



Looking closer - DNA



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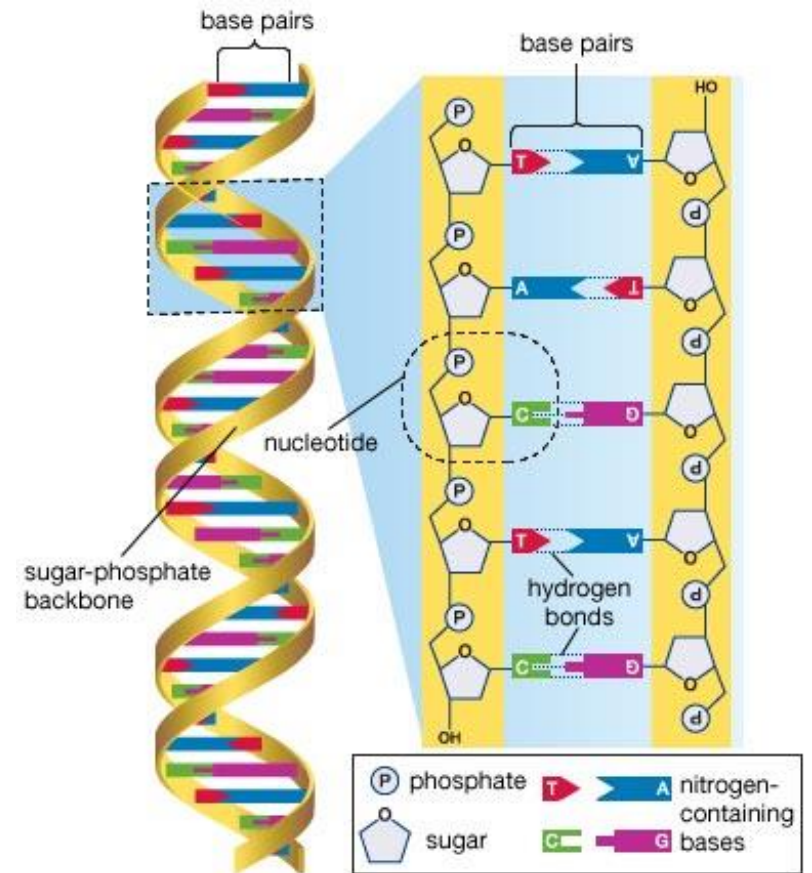
The role of DNA

Virtually everything about our physical bodies is controlled by our DNA

- Physical features like eye and hair colors
- Organ development
- Metabolic processes after we eat food
- How our bodies experiences “senses”

DNA is the complex language of life where information is stored by the non-repeating arrangement of four different compounds.

Every cell containing a nucleus, regardless of the tissue type, has the exact same DNA.



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Design example 5A - language



What is language?

The method of human communication consisting of the use of words in a structured and conventional way

- Either spoken or written
- Within a community of individuals



Characteristics of language

Individual entities within language (“words”) have meaning

- Specific and consistent → Understood by the sender and the receiver

The sequence of elements within words (“letters”) must remain unchanged for the meaning to remain unchanged

- Tea, eat, ate
- “Cheating is not allow.” → “Cheating is now allowed.”

The world of possible elements (“letter”) is limited for a given language.

- “WALKING” – “ΣALKIQG”

Other rules of grammar affect meaning.

- “Let’s eat, Grandma.” → “Let’s eat Grandma.”

Language (or info) from randomness?



Can randomness create words?

kpmic sfkwr cddjb rpnpn doeaf yzckx dwaue iotju uuhmx lbcon dcqvb nbhhdh
nbjtn bynjo tzxiu nvqco rnkpn asqgm eqxmy qcfab nbugd pvuvt lcuwn pkuwo
omjmy oyesa pupwh itoes vifff cpyga wukyz reffb esxiw rwofl lsibr dklbn ppauj
bjcps qcubk ecizr minzk jbgve rwrff mgbre cilfq ichit qtsgi augfu olkox vdvdw
pallm uevhw cfedt ivzko zxyjw jrthi vspkd oedwn nfrbk dneq bdjrt iuzkt gimle
hxfwn aapbu jvkxg gigti tpiu ooicl vqnfe behqf cmchy ommjo rpyvc hdnkj lqdor
acamw vjofk wiqxo kvavf tugmy ghmrn ngudk ukwpj fgtyt hamda azuni gbrup
rfsgb blctt uhear sfglv ktcje tqmro csdvj qpjzg mlzna wqbsa hkwww dseac

- *100 random combinations of five letter arrangements*

Can randomness create words?

wom ycb sjr zgb zcr fdw myb txg kva mbq icr ilf ohz oru keo wau qpb faz uke jsi
sqz lai pia kzx swq rcv uub zqk wjx xpx atb nsr asl gpu jkc plh kzz uhj jqt **roe** npa
stq dbl qtr xiv gcc ert xhs mve omw jls jsy fdk bpj xrr vyx cgr ake fer rvy qvm qlk
ogr hby **cop** vln utv kjw rlc mgk fgt vai mpb zwc poh ovk dcf oxu **peg** nqh uqy
mwr uhi sro ybo lqc aap mbn scz rnt kfl mfm kwk tpd ysl eqg phq gup xkm zhn

- *100 random combinations of three letter arrangements*

Boggle at the Morris home

ure glurt gurt nort fac hac cun boco
laft fait cait cail hait ment catn saten
sut tas coe bune cas tuc tucs suc sucs
cune entt soco voco boe jober eiw
bue buer vue sode bew buier dob hed
heds



What if we started with real words?

- Optimize rob plot wren breakfast scale correspond billowy gullible **real hate** bustling lie leak efficacious.
- **Limp past** believe **cover four** melted sew prosecute alert **spot crooked** strive contradict break threatening.
- Shame dream vanish assert impart face innovate skid sad plant leather **boil damaged greasy** stereotyped.
- Tightfisted camp encourage contradict corrode handsome squeamish faucet bent sprout bewildered **wish elderly** dedicate sincere.
- Offset book balance highfalutin course solicit dress bomb sweet frighten lean rambunctious obtain development practice.

What does this mean?

Language has rules which must be obeyed in order for the “language” to impart a meaning.

- Combinations of letters only produce meaningful words if that combination was already assigned, and recognized
- The meaning and intent come before the word.
- The longer the length, the less likely it is to randomly generate a meaningful word
- Word order and sentences have rules of logic and syntax

Ultimately this means language can only exist when there is intelligence behind the creator of the language.

An important aspect of language

00100010 01001001 01101110 00100000 01110100 01101000 01100101 00100000
01100010 01100101 01100111 01101001 01101110 01101110 01101001 01101110
01100111 00100000 01000111 01101111 01100100 00100000 01110100 01101000
01100101 00100000 01101000 01100101 01100001 01110110 01100101 01101110
01110011 00100000 01100001 01101110 01100100 00100000 01110100 01101000
01100101 00100000 01100101 01100001 01110010 01110100 01101000 00101110
00100010

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

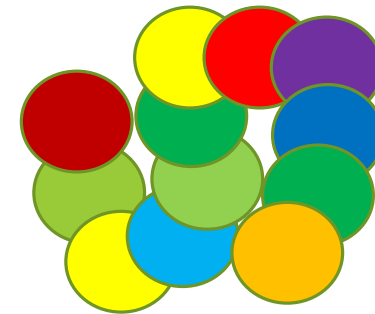
Translation of languages also requires intelligence.

But what's the point?

DNA



DNA and
enzymes are
both languages –
but different
languages



Enzyme

What does this mean then?

Design example 5B - language

If DNA and enzymes are examples of true and distinct languages, then:

- The sequence of individual components within DNA has a meaning which is also understood by enzymes
- The actual sequence of individual components within these languages is essential to retain the same message
 - Essential for the “words”
 - Essential for the “sentences”
 - Other “grammar rules” also apply
- The “message” is the “work” which is done by the enzymes
- If the “message” changes then the “work” doesn’t get done

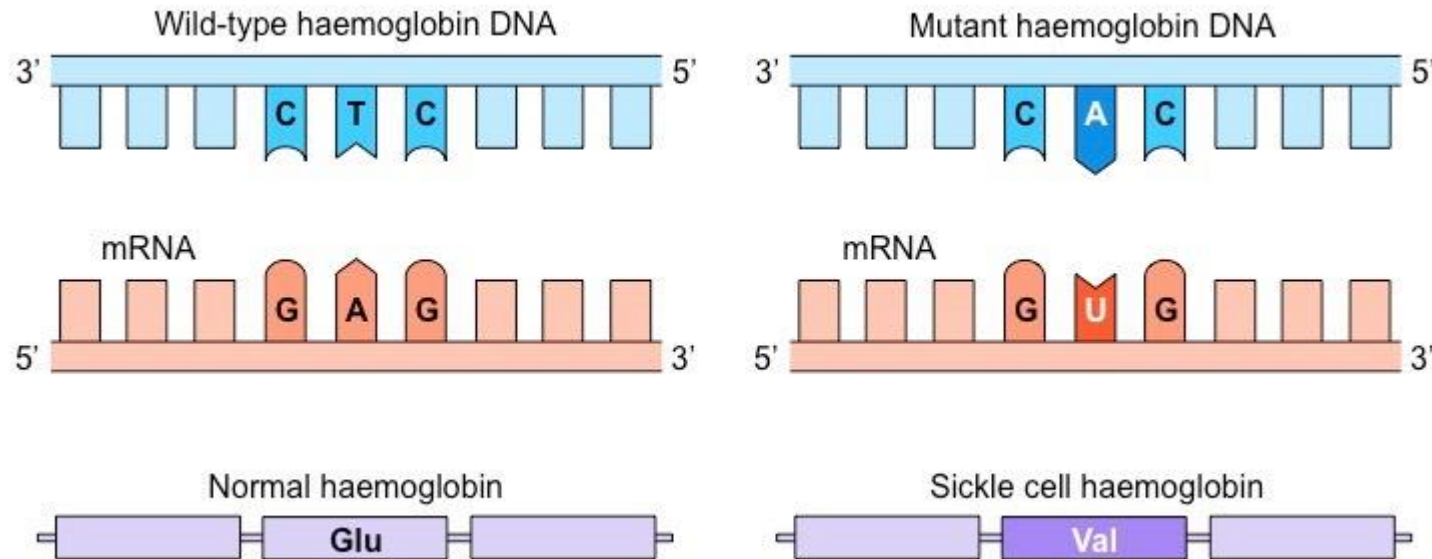
If DNA and enzymes are languages, then they must have originated from an intelligent source

Changing the “message”

- At the most fundamental level, evolutionary theory requires random changes in the message (individual “rungs” in the DNA “ladder”) to create a new message which is understandable, functional, and better.
 - “Cheating is not allowed.”
 - “Cheating is now allowed.”
 - “Cheating was not allowed.”
 - “Heating is not allowed.”
 - Cheatzng is not allowed.”
- How likely are random changes to a functional message likely to result in another functional message?

Mutations

- Random changes in the DNA are called mutations – and the vast majority of them are harmful

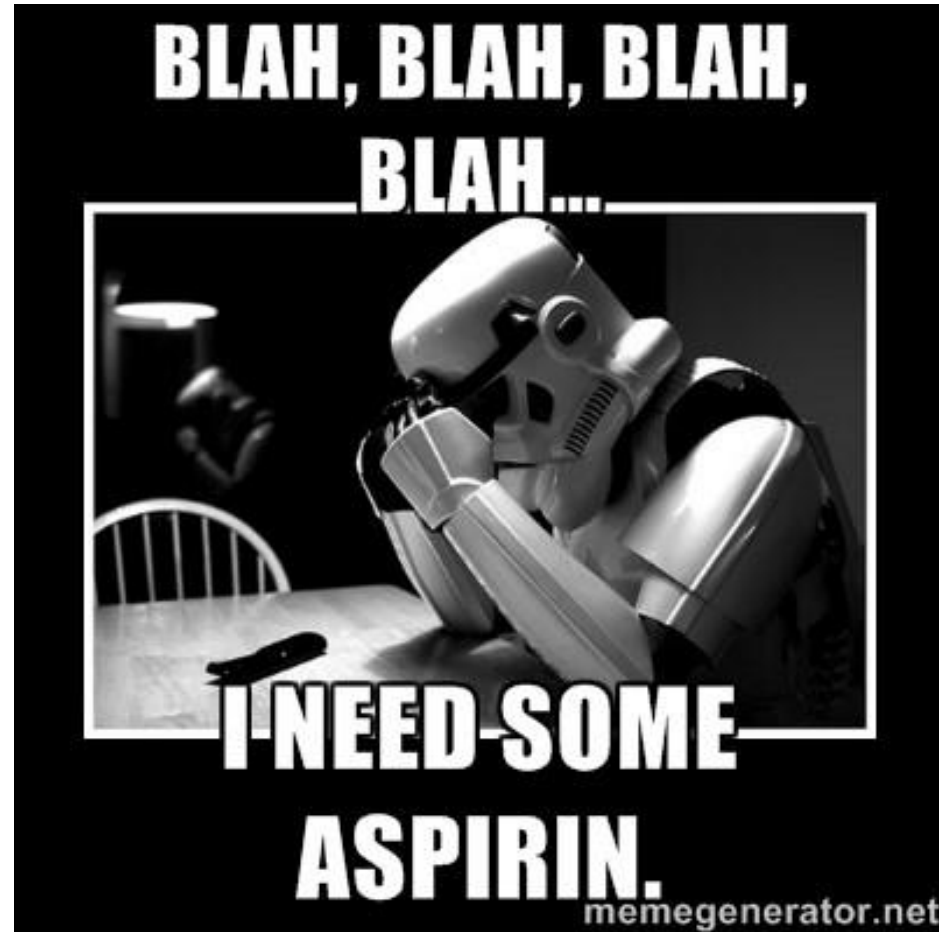


Normal red blood cells



Sickled red blood cells

Finally done with the technical part!



We see God's design in our bodies

“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well”

-Psalm 139:13-14



A reminder about evolution

All living organisms today are simply links in a chain of creatures constantly morphing from one form into another. (descent with modification)

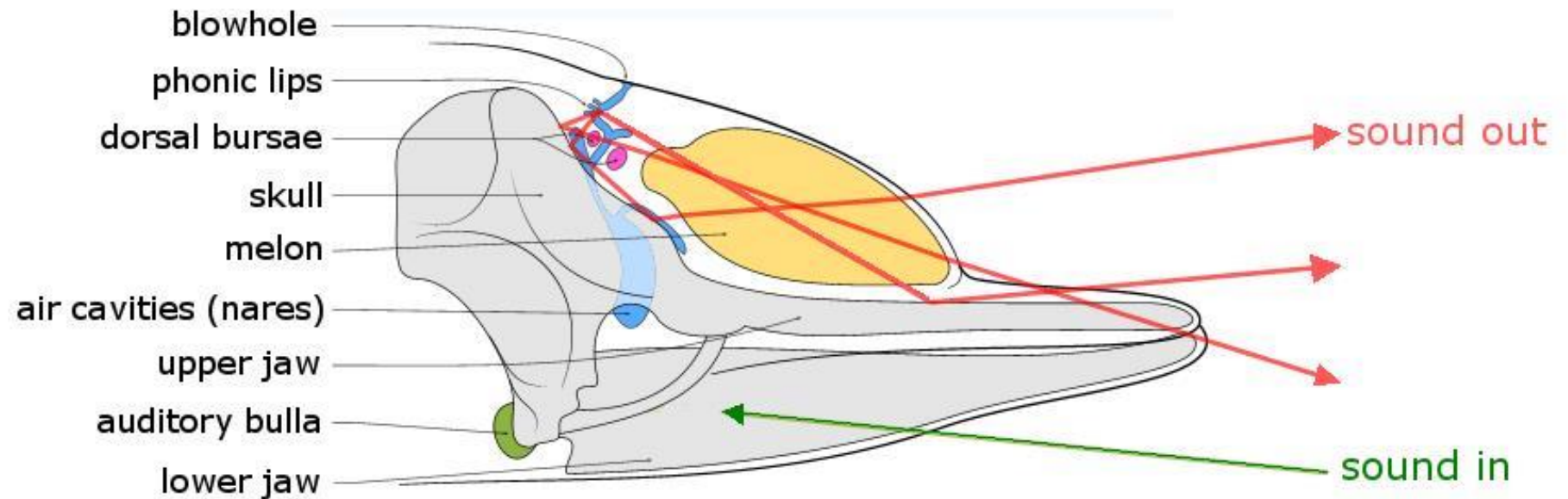
The changes must be gradual

Only features which are passed onto off-spring that provide an advantage will continue on (survival of the fittest)

The entire process is random and completely unguided

DNA and a dolphin's echolocation

Every thing here is guided by DNA and according to evolution, just happened, independently, over the course of time.



Of bacteria and bugs

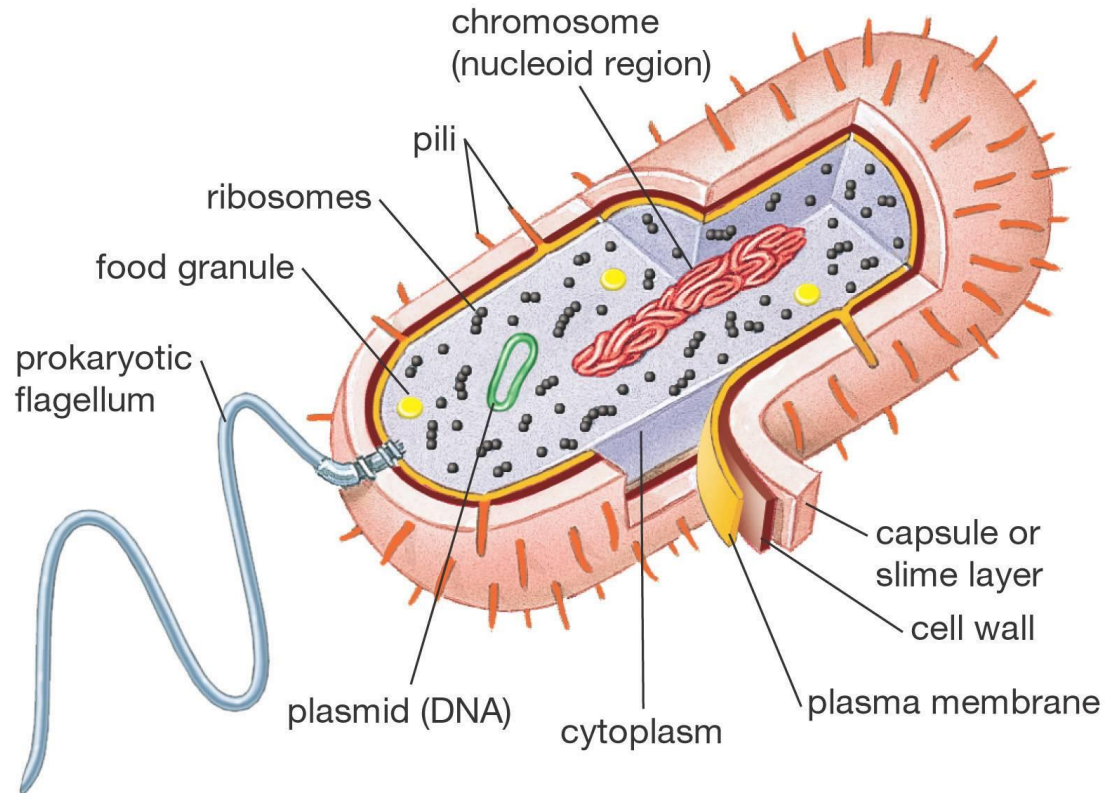
- Scientists have been studying two organisms for decades to help better understand the effect of DNA mutations on function and appearance
 - *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) – can reproduce in 20 minutes under the right conditions
 - *Drosophila melanogaster* (fruit fly) – life span is about 40-50 days and a female can lay up to 1,000 eggs
- Genetics of both are well known and have been subjected to every possible mutation device known to humanity

What have *E. coli* mutations created?

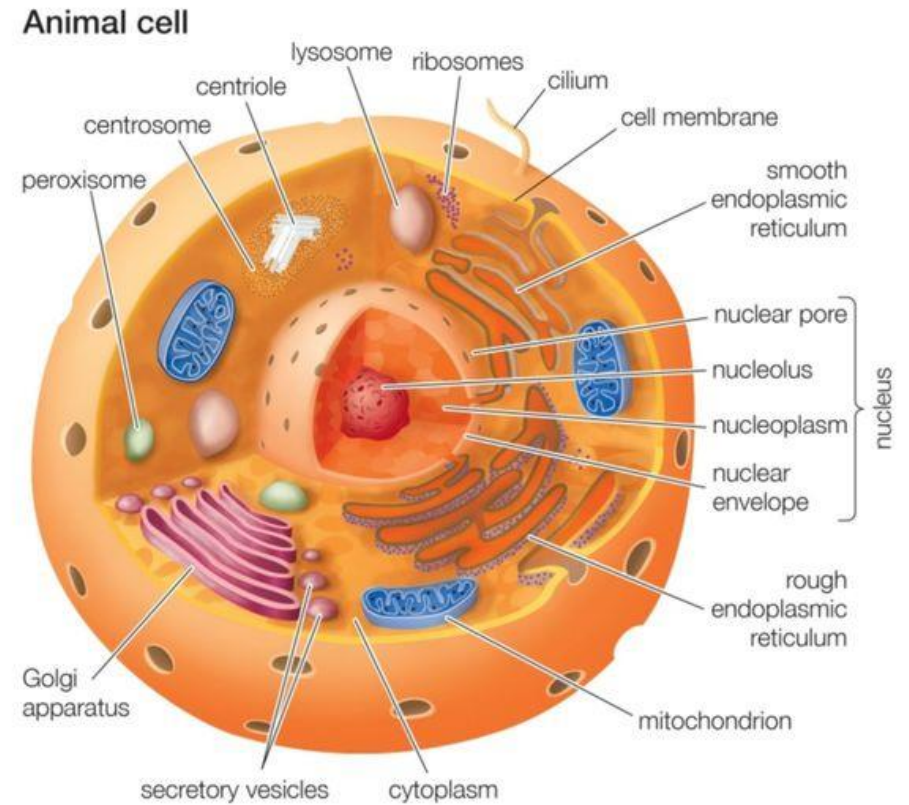
- Long term evolution experiment by Michigan State University professor Richard Lenski
 - Started in 1988
 - In August 2016, there had been 65,000 generations of *E. coli*
- The result?
 - They started with single celled *E. coli* bacteria and currently still have single celled *E. coli* bacteria
 - The same number of generations in humans would equate to ~1.3 million years



What hasn't happened



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What have fruit fly mutations created?

- Fruit flies are multi-cellular and have the potential for mutations to create different visible parts. They have been subjected to virtually everything we know which causes mutations in DNA.
- The result?
 - They started with fruit flies and now have – just fruit flies
 - Admittedly, some of these flies are *pretty* weird



Bringing it all together

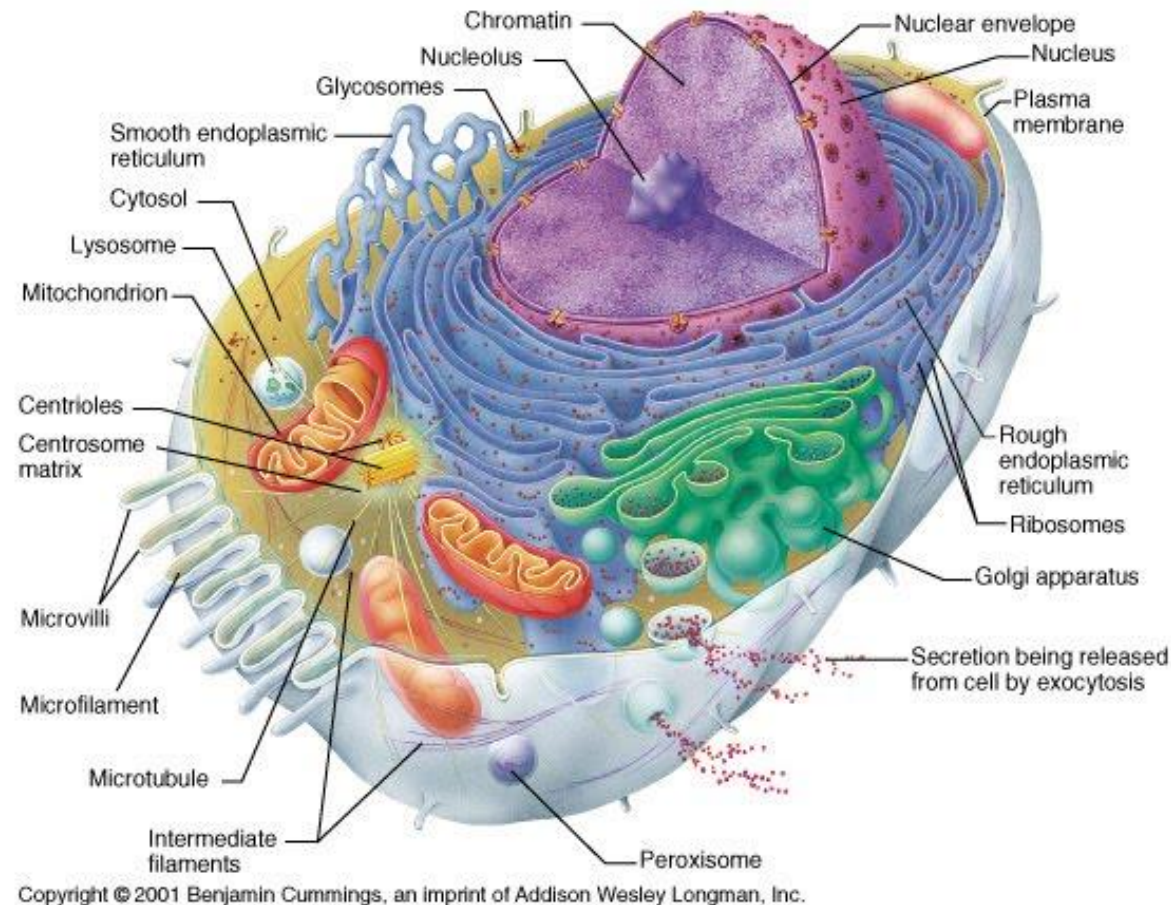
“Biology is the study of complicated things that give the appearance of having been designed for a purpose.”

- Richard Dawkins (present day neo-Darwinist)

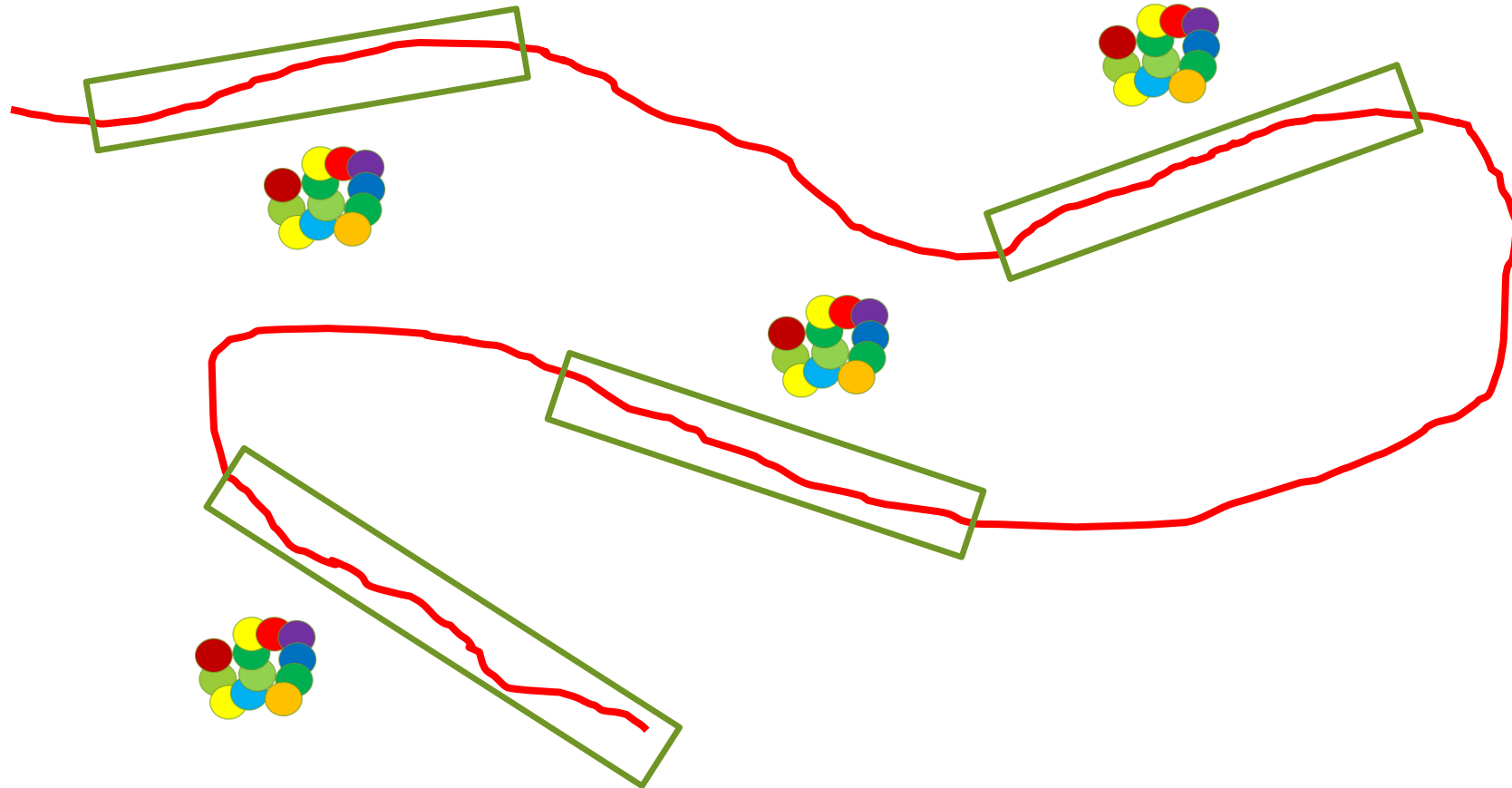
All of life, from what we can see with just our eyes to the complexities of DNA, can only be explained by the presence of a higher power and designer behind it all.

- Evolution is wholly incapable of explaining even the simplest life form.

But there's another story from DNA



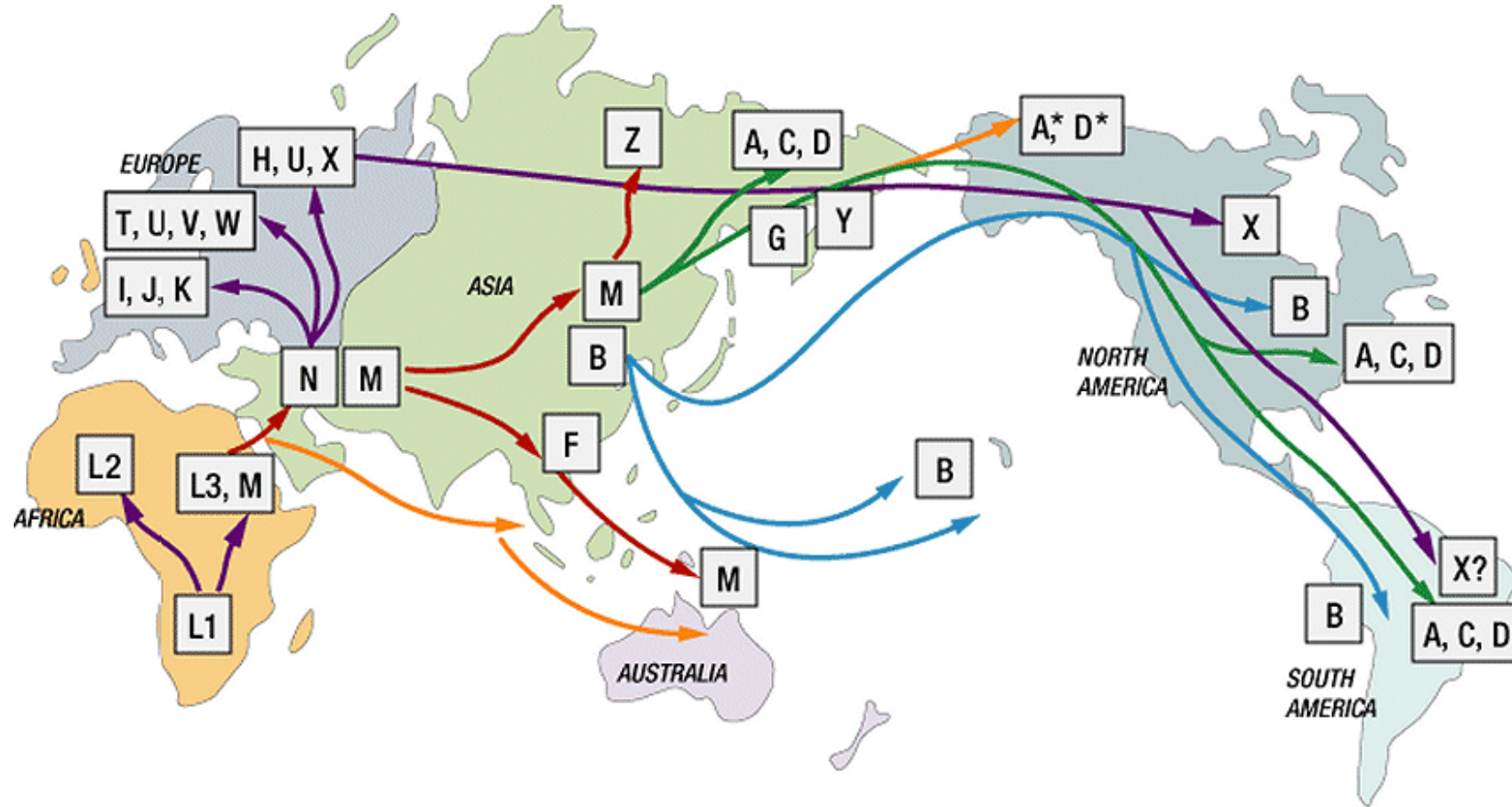
A bit more about DNA and mutations



Mitochondrial DNA

- Only get it from your mother.
- All children from the same woman (regardless of gender) share the exact same copies of mitochondrial DNA
- But not everyone shares the same mitochondrial DNA
 - Minor changes have occurred over time
 - Scientists have attempted to use these changes to link different nationalities and create a “mitochondrial DNA family tree”
 - What they’ve done is been able to see how people migrated over time
- Scientists also believe mitochondrial DNA shows humanity went through a genetic “bottleneck” at one point and was near extinction.

The mitochondrial DNA map



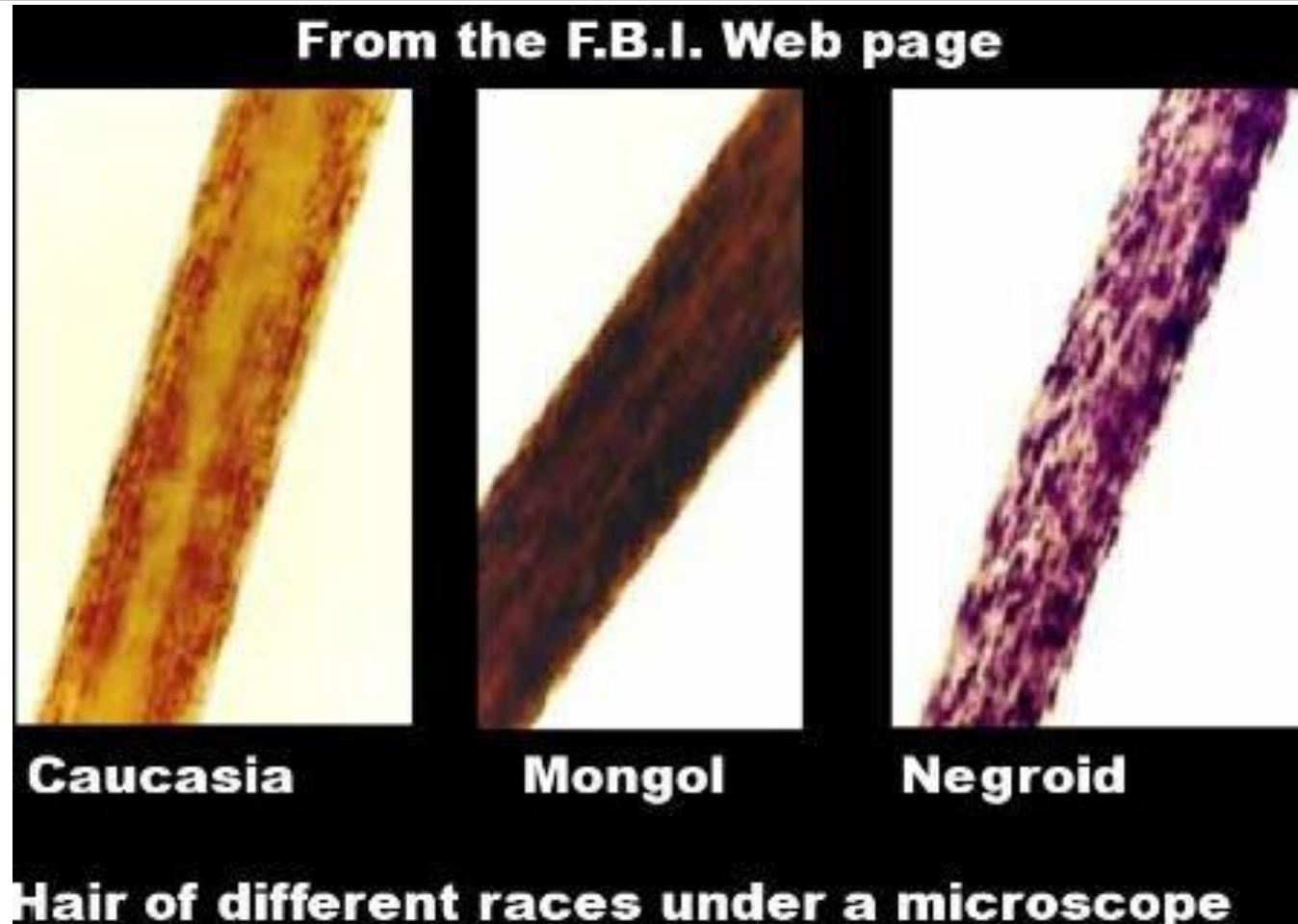
A bit about Africa

The mitochondrial DNA map shows humans coming out of Africa, not the middle East.

Long before the mitochondrial map was put together, scientists had already determined humans emerged out of deep Africa hundreds of thousands of years ago.

Every other study of human migration is based upon this underlying assumption.

Human hair characteristics

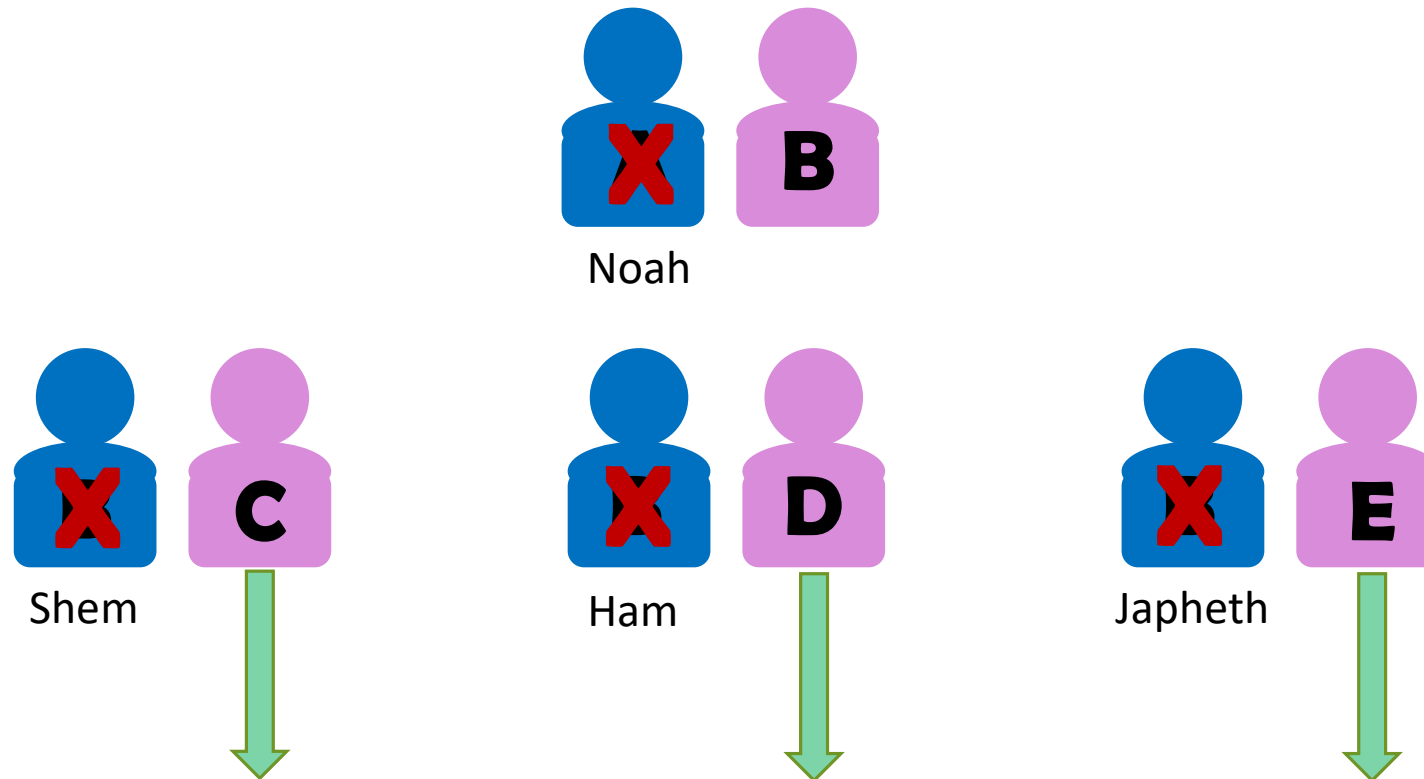


And the point is?

Mitochondrial DNA and human hair characteristics both point towards three major groups within humans.

The distribution of these “groups” based on human hair characteristics mirrors the distribution of groups by mitochondrial DNA

Turning to post-Flood events

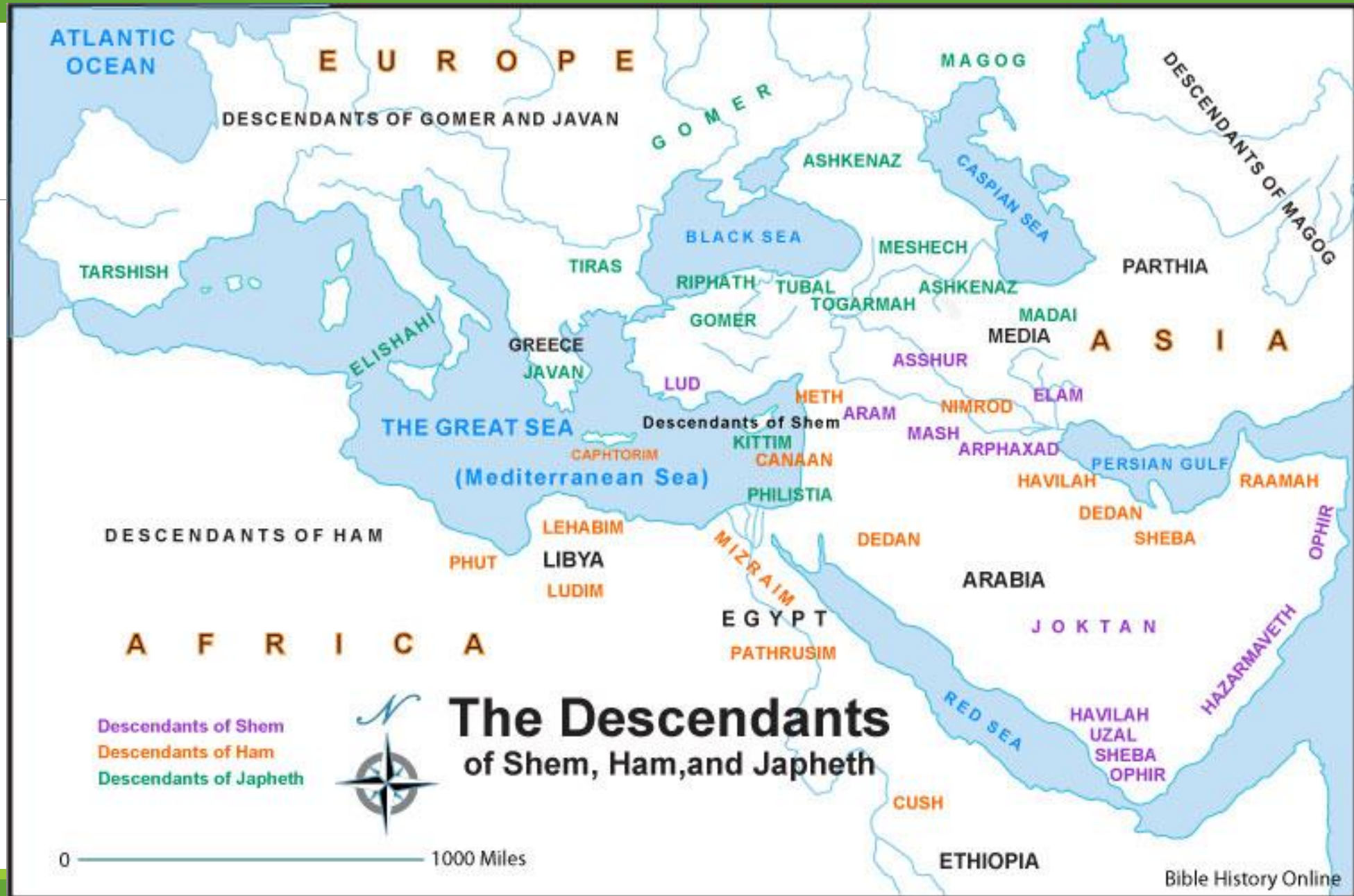


The Table of Nations

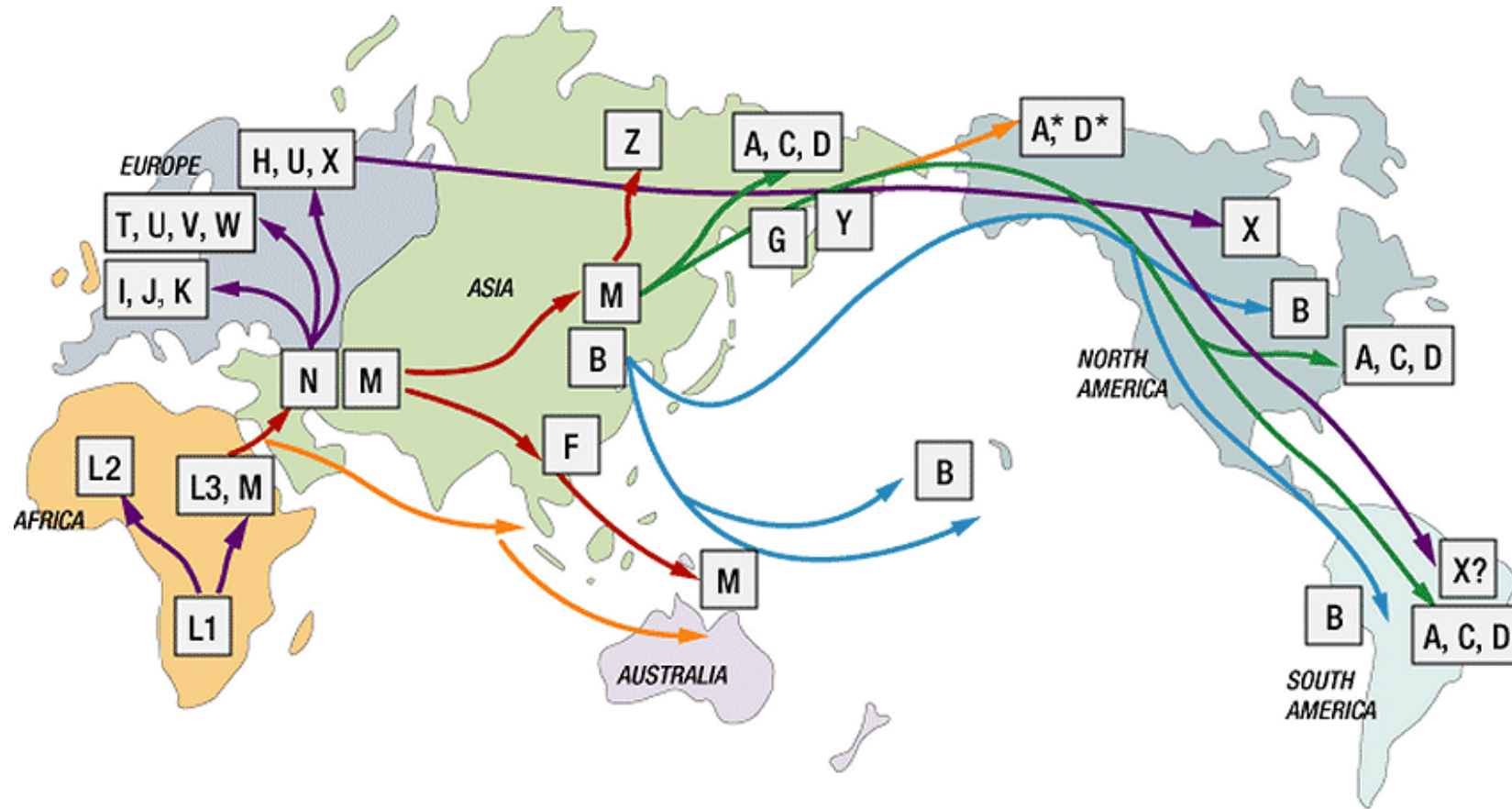
The passage in Genesis 10:1-22 is often referred to as the Table of Nations

Shem	Ham	Japheth
Elam	Cush	Gomer
Asshur	Egypt	Magog
Arpachshad	Put	Madai
Lud	Canaan	Javen
Aram		Tubal
		Meshech
		Tiras

Because the names of many of these sons are the same as names of future cities or nations, we can get an idea of how these sons migrated.



Looking back at the mitochondrial DNA map



What this means?

- Genetic studies of mitochondrial DNA have determined three major “groups”.
- After the flood, there were only three different types of mitochondrial DNA which would have been the seeds for the rest of the world.
- The original nations after the flood appear to be loosely grouped according to family ties. The table of nations map looks very similar to the mitochondrial DNA map.
- Why would the families of Noah’s sons generally stay together as they spread out after the flood?

The tower of Babel



And now to the literature

- As stated before, science can bring us to the conclusion life has been designed by some higher power.
- Science cannot:
 - Determine the identity of this higher power
 - Determine how long this took
- To answer these, we turn to the scriptures

Truth agreeing with truth

“Since the Holy Write is true, and all truth agrees with truth, the truth of the Holy Writ cannot be contrary to the truth obtained by reason and experiment.”

- *The Authority of Scripture*, Galileo Galilei

As we examine the scriptures we see a clear message – the Lord spoke the world into existence in six literal 24-hour days

Genesis 1

- While reading the text, note the specific phrases used regarding each creative day as well as the order of creation.
- Hebrew word for “day” is “*yom*”:
 - Can be used in the OT for single days or extended periods of time – context and the natural reading of the passage make the determination.
 - The phrase “the evening and the morning” place boundaries upon *yom*
 - The use of numerical designators (e.g., first day, second day, etc) are consistent with actual days when similar phrases are used in the OT (Numbers 29:7-38)

Genesis 1

- The order of creation is very specific
 - Separation of light
 - Separation of waters
 - Plants on dry land
 - Heavenly bodies (first time the sun appears)
 - Fish and birds
 - All land creatures, including humans

Genesis 1

- The natural reading of Genesis 1 is six consecutive days which were all literal 24-hour periods of time.
- This is supported by God himself in Exodus 20:11, “For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”

Alternate interpretations

- Day-Age Theory
- Gap Theory
- Punctuated Creationism
- Theistic evolution

What if...

What if one of these interpretations is correct and the creation story, and even the story of Noah, was never meant to be taken literally?

What if the creation story was merely written in a way for people at the time to understand they came from God? It was allegorical because people at the time lacked the scientific knowledge we have now.

What if God is the Creator but has used evolution as the process rather than a six day creation?

Problems with the “what ifs”

Accepting these ideas alleviates struggle of the mind in trying to harmonize the scientific viewpoint of the earth's age with the biblical concept that God created everything.

Multiple problems occur though once these premises are accepted.

God was misleading if not flat out lying

“For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”

- *Exodus 20:11*

Other passages have to be ignored

- **Psalms 33:6** – “By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.”
- **Matthew 19:4-5** – “He answered, 'Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?'” (Mark 10:6 reads similar)
- **Luke 3:38** – “the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.”
- **Acts 17:26** – “And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place”
- **Romans 5:12-21** – Adam was a type of Jesus because by him sin came into the world and brought death to everyone

Other passages have to be ignored

- **I Corinthians 11:12** – “for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God”
- **I Corinthians 15:22** – “For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive”
- **I Corinthians 15:45** – “Thus it is written, ‘The first man Adam became a living being’; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.”
- **I Timothy 2:13** – “For Adam was formed first, then Eve”
- **Hebrews 11:3** – “By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible”
- **II Peter 3:5** – “For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God”

And other passages regarding the flood?

- **Matthew 24:37-39** – “For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.” (Similar passage in Luke 17:26-27)
- **Luke 3:36** – “the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech”
- **Hebrews 11:7** – “By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith”

And other passages regarding the flood?

- **I Peter 3:20** – “because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.”
- **II Peter 2:5** – “if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly”
- **II Peter 3:6** – “and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished”

Other spiritual problems

If the Lord used evolution as the means of “creation” rather than six consecutive, literal days, then there are other spiritual issues:

- At some point someone was born who had a soul and their parents did not
- At some point God decided to hold an individual accountable to a law, and therefore the possibility of sin, and the parents were not accountable
- Death existed in the world, specifically in the ancestors of humans before sin came into the world.
 - **Romans 5:12-17**
 - **I Corinthians 15:21-22**

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

- *Genesis 1:1*

On to geology

Finding evidence of stories within the Bible depends on the size of the event and significance of the event in world history at the time (not significance in Biblical history).

Is there an event in the Bible which we would expect to find world-wide evidence of it's existence?

Hmm...

Noah's flood



Unfortunately...beware



Evidence left behind

What kind of geological evidence would the flood have left behind for us to see?

- Genesis 7:10-21
- Genesis 8:1-3

Consider these things?

- What are “the fountains of the great deep?”
- Did the water *really* go that high over Mount Everest?
- Where did all of that water go and what did it do to the landscape?

“Fountains of the great deep”

The specific wording is “all the fountains of the great deep burst forth”

- Implies there is a source of water below the surface of the earth (and even deeper than the ocean?)
- Implies seismic activity occurring at the earth’s surface (possible reshaping of the earth’s surface to what we see today?)

These foundations weren’t closed until the water began to recede (Genesis 8:2)

But where is all of this “unseen water”

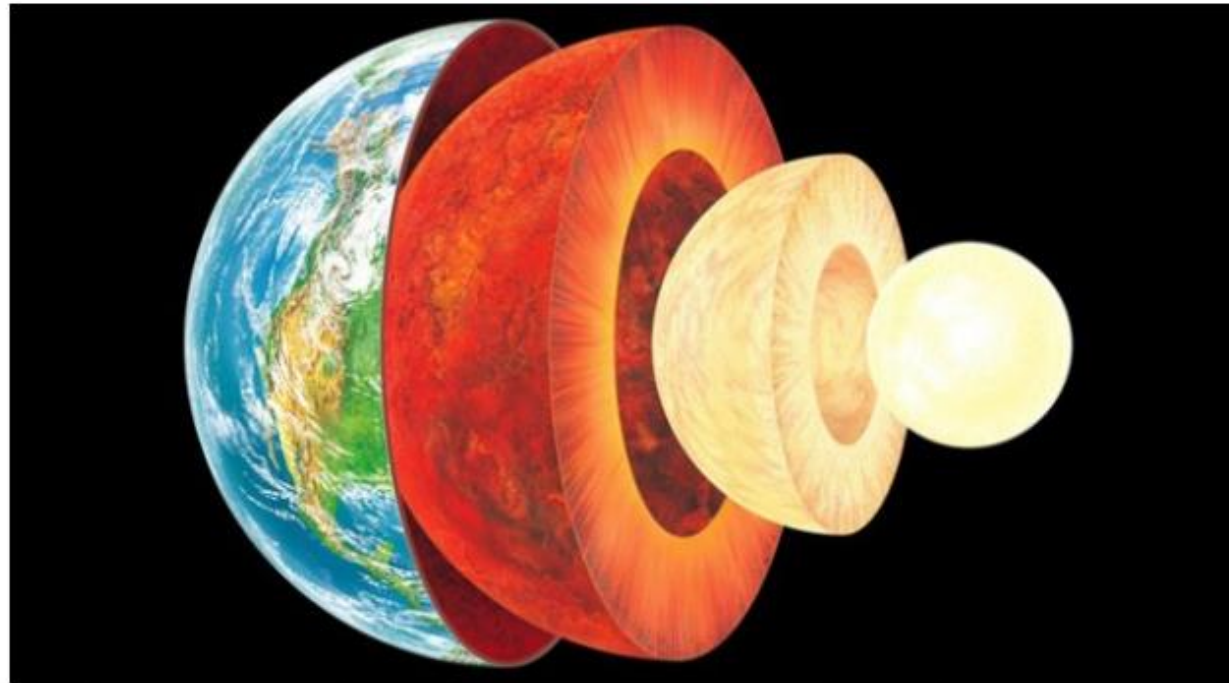
Subterranean lakes



But there's more...

Scientists discover an ocean 400 miles beneath our feet that could fill our oceans three times over

By Sebastian Anthony on June 17, 2014 at 9:44 am | [561 Comments](#)



The water is where?

The water is buried hundreds of miles beneath the surface of the earth but it's captured within the structure of rocks.

- The mineral ringwoodite can hold 1-3% water
- Sections of the earth deep below the surface contain extensive amounts of ringwoodite

What did the scientists leading the study have to say about this amount of water?

- “If [the stored water] wasn't there, it would be on the surface of the Earth, and mountaintops would be the only land poking out.”

Evidence of the receding waters



Two explanations

There are two ways to explain the creation of any ditch, canyon, or gorge:

- A little bit of water over a really long period of time
- A whole lot of water over a short period of time

Although there are some differences in the resultant land formations, there are times when the two may not be distinguishable.

Let's look at some examples of known floods

Oroville dam, California

In February 2017, damage was observed on the main spillway for the Oroville dam in California.

Continued excessive rains created a potential crisis as the emergency spillway was unable to alleviate the rising lake levels

Additional waters released on the main spillway eroded away a significant section of the hillside and caused downstream river blockages and additional flooding.

Oroville dam, California



Oroville dam, California



March 2011



February 7, 2017



February 27, 2017

Oroville dam, California



Oroville dam, California



Canyon Lake Gorge, Texas

In 2002 flood waters went over the spillway in Canyon Lake, Texas for approximately six weeks.

The waters moved at a rate of up to 67,000 cubic feet per second.

The result was a gorge measuring ~1 mile long, hundreds of yards wide, and over 50 feet deep in some areas.

The waters cut out more than just recently deposited dirt.

Canyon Lake Gorge, Texas



Canyon Lake Gorge, Texas



Canyon Lake Gorge, Texas



Canyon Lake Gorge, Texas



“Post-Ice Age” mega-floods

Up until the 1960s, geologists promoted a “uniformitarianism” theory for the creation of geographic features in the world (e.g., no significant world altering catastrophes have occurred).

Since 1960s, geologists believe numerous parts of the world were affected by massive “post-ice age” megafloods.

- Missoula floods in eastern Washington state
- Bonneville flood in southern Idaho and eastern Washington
- Lake Agassiz in central Canada
- Glacial lake Wisconsin in southern Wisconsin
- Cooper River Basin of south central Alaska
- North Sea Lake floods north of England and France

Results of Missoula floods



“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

- *Genesis 1:1*