DINOSAUR FOSSILS HAVE BEEN FOUND ON EVERY CONTINENT ON EARTH; HUMANS HAVE INHABITED, AND continue to inhabit, every continent on Earth. So, it would seem that if dinosaurs and humans really did once live at the same time (as the Bible teaches), human fossils would have been found near, or in the same strata of Earth as, dinosaur fossils. But is there evidence from the fossil record of their coexistence?

At times, questions like these appear somewhat puzzling, at least on the surface. We know from the biblical record that dinosaurs and humans coexisted (Genesis 1; Exodus 20:11). Furthermore, many ancient paintings, rock carvings, and historical references confirm they lived on Earth at the same time (as we have discussed in previous Discovery issues). Still, many wonder why dinosaur and human fossils may not have been found side-by-side in the fossil record.

FOSSILIZATION IS RARE

First, we must understand that fossils are somewhat rare. That is, it is extremely rare for things once living to fossilize. Dead animals lying in a field do not fossilize. Under normal conditions, living things die then decay and rot. In order for something to become fossilized, it must be buried rapidly in just the right place (such as in a lot of mud, silt, and other fine sediments). In this “protected” environment, once-living things may last long enough to mineralize. But, normally, carcasses do not find themselves in such environments.

NOT AS MANY DINOSAUR FOSSILS AS YOU THINK

Although dinosaur graveyards have been discovered in various countries around the world (where thousands of dinosaur bones are jumbled together), there are fewer dinosaur fossils than most people realize. Did you know that nearly half of all dinosaur genera that have been named are based on one, single fossil specimen? What’s more, nearly 75% of the named dinosaurs are represented by five fossil specimens or less. Truly, although dinosaurs have captured the attention of scientists for more than 150 years, their fossilized remains are not as prevalent as many think.

HUMAN FOSSILS ARE EXTREMELY SCARCE

Given the number of drawings of our alleged human ancestors that often appear in the news, you might get the feeling that human fossils are everywhere; but that is not the case. Humans actually make up a tiny portion of the fossil record. In the past few decades, scientists have become increasingly frustrated with the lack of these fossils. In fact, one scientist has admitted that “the mantra of all paleontologists” is “we need more fossils!”

FOSSIL “COMBOS”

Simply because human fossils may not have been found with dinosaur fossils does not make the case for the coexistence of dinosaurs and humans any less credible. Think about it: Where are the human fossils that have been found with the recently extinct Pyrenean Ibex? Can we prove that Dodo birds and humans once lived together by observing their fossilized remains together in a particular layer of rock? We know that they once coexisted, but can a person point to the fossil record for such information? Probably not. The truth is, the chance of finding human fossils is extremely rare. The chance of finding an exact combination of fossils is even less likely.

A LESSON LEARNED FROM GINGKO TREES

Evolutionists believe Gingko trees were living on Earth 240 million years ago (before dinosaurs supposedly evolved). Interestingly, Gingko fossils are absent in rock layers that are allegedly many millions of years old, yet they are alive today. Thus, simply because they are absent in certain rock strata does not mean they were non-existent during the alleged millions of years it took those layers of rock to form. Likewise, simply because human fossils are missing in certain layers of rock does not mean they were not living on Earth at the time those rock layers were formed. Humans, just as easily as Gingko trees, could have been alive when the various rock layers were formed, without leaving human fossils.

HUMANS AND THE FLOOD

It could very well be that in the time of Noah the human population was confined mainly to the Middle East, while most dinosaurs roamed in other parts of the world. If that was the case, and the global Flood of Noah’s day was the catalyst that eventually brought about many of the fossils on Earth, then one would not expect to find many (if any) humans buried with dinosaurs. Also, after the Flood, Noah’s descendants chose to “stay put” for more than a century, resisting God’s command to “fill the Earth” (read Genesis 9:1,7; 11:1-9). In contrast, the animals from the ark likely began to migrate around the world shortly after the Flood. Thus, if various fossils were formed several decades after the Flood, again, one would not expect to find human fossils with many of the animal fossils.

CONCLUSION

It may be that dinosaur and human fossils are never found together. Whether they are or not, the evidence for the coexistence of humans and dinosaurs at one time in the past is decisive. Nothing has ever disproved the biblical teaching that God created everything in six days.
WHAT KILLED THE DINOSAURS?

JEFF MILLER

IN THE AUGUST ISSUE OF DISCOVERY LAST YEAR, I TOLD YOU ABOUT THE FIELD TRIP THAT NOAH AND I TOOK TO the Grand Canyon. The other trip we took last summer was to Wyoming to study dinosaur fossils. Archaeologist Dewayne Bryant and NASA scientist Dr. Mike Houts also came to help. We excavated (dug up) and studied fossils with the geologist who is perhaps the leading dinosaur fossil expert among creationists: Dr. Art Chadwick. His team has excavated more than 18,000 dinosaur fossils, including lots of Tyrannosaurus, Nanotyrannus, Pachycephalosaurus, Edmontosaurus, and Triceratops fossils. Each summer his team travels to Newcastle, WY, sets up tents, and camps out for a few weeks in the stormy, windy grasslands of the northwest U.S. where there are abundant fossils of the dinosaur species that were most likely the last to die in the Flood.

The big question which everybody wants to answer about the dinosaurs is what happened to them? Bible believers, of course, suggest that many of them were killed in the Flood, with a few representatives surviving on the Ark, only to finally die off later (possibly from being hunted or starving from lack of enough post-Flood vegetation to support their size). Since we find dinosaurs in the geologic strata (the rock layers in the ground) that we are confident were laid down during the Flood, we know that dinosaurs were still around at the time of the Flood. And since Noah took representatives of "every beast" on the Ark (Genesis 7:13-14), we know dinosaurs would have been on the Ark (though probably young representatives). But how do we determine if most of the dinosaurs died in the Flood? That is what we were studying with Dr. Chadwick.

On the ranch where we were digging, there are five different fossil quarries (places where fossils are dug up) being excavated, and hundreds of fossils are carefully unearthed, documented with pictures and GPS, glued, and cast every year. Based on the thousands of fossils that have already been discovered, Dr. Chadwick believes that there are possibly as many as 15,000 dinosaurs represented in one layer of sediment in the bonebed. That is excellent evidence that something catastrophic killed the dinosaurs, just like we would predict if the Flood happened.

Many secular geologists (who do not believe in the biblical Flood) admit that the dinosaurs were killed and buried by water activity and even by catastrophe. They often conclude, however, that the dinosaurs died while trying to cross a river during flood season, and their corpses were washed down to a river bend where they piled up year after year. They say this would explain why there are so many fossils in one place. This explanation has problems. First, the fossils on the ranch were not found oriented (lined up) in the way they should have been if they were laid down by a river. They are randomly oriented. Further, they are not piled up, as though at a river bend. They are randomly distributed (spread out) over the entire area. The bones are also disarticulated (DIS-are-TICK-yo-late-ed). In other words, the whole, intact dinosaur is not found in the area they are studying. Instead, the bones are separated—isolated from each other. If corpses were piling up on a river bend and being buried rapidly in order to preserve them for fossilization, you would expect that at least some of the remains would be articulated—that you would find partial skeletons. That is not what is found on the ranch. Second, if the corpses were being piled up, year after year, we would expect there to be separate layers of dinosaurs for each flood event, with the remains of each flood’s dinosaurs together in one layer. Again, that is not what we find. Instead of multiple layers of dinosaur fossils, the dinosaur fossils in the area are in one layer: a single graded bed, with large bones at the bottom and smaller bones higher up. That means that a single, rapid, catastrophic event was responsible for the burial of the thousands of dinosaurs in the area, just like we would predict if the Flood killed them.

Bottom line: the Bible is always right. If it says that all land animals (including dinosaurs) and humans were created on day six of the Creation week, we can believe it. When it says that there was a global Flood that wiped out most of the land and air creatures on the planet (including dinosaurs), we can believe it. The real evidence always supports God’s Word.
1. Write a paragraph about what you think killed the dinosaurs, and why.
2. Discuss why dinosaur and human fossils are unlikely to be found side-by-side in the fossil record.

**Activity Pages**

1. ___ When most plants and animals die, they soon become fossilized.
2. ___ Dinosaur fossils have only been found in North America.
3. ___ *Indominus rex* is a made-up animal.
4. ___ Nothing has ever disproved the biblical teaching that God created everything in six days.
5. ___ In the Bible we read that we should “never test things” (1 Thessalonians 5:21).
6. ___ Nearly 75% of the named dinosaurs are represented by five fossil specimens or less.
7. ___ There is no real evidence that dinosaurs evolved over millions of years.
8. ___ The real evidence always supports God’s Word.

**Match, Find, and Circle**

1. ___ Places where fossils are dug up
2. ___ The main “dinosaur” featured in “Jurassic World”
3. ___ To dig up fossils
4. ___ Geologist who is perhaps the leading dinosaur fossil expert among creationists
5. ___ The rock layers in the ground
6. ___ Built the ark
7. ___ “Test all things” and “hold fast to what is good.”
8. ___ “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

**Want to Learn More About Dinosaurs?**

- DINOSAURS UNLEASHED (2nd Edition)
  - Kyle Butt and Eric Lyons
  - Packed with beautiful illustrations and informative, easy-to-read text, this is a “must-have” for those who want to know the truth about the coexistence of humans and dinosaurs. Dinosaurs Unleashed is one of the most fascinating dinosaur books on the market. Perfect for 3rd-6th graders.
  - 94 pages, hardbound
  - $10.95

- DINOSAURS UNLEASHED (INTERACTIVE BOOK)
  - Like the original, this interactive book is packed with beautiful illustrations and great information. It is filled with interactive images, instructive activities, as well as audio and video files.
  - ONLY AVAILABLE ON iBOOKS THROUGH iTUNES
  - $8.99

**On a Separate Sheet of Paper**

1. Write a paragraph about what you think killed the dinosaurs, and why.
2. Discuss why dinosaur and human fossils are unlikely to be found side-by-side in the fossil record.

**Dear Digger Doug,**

Why do horses have hooves?

Grant, Wetumpka, AL

**Dear Grant,**

Since I’m a mole, I like to stay close to the ground. That is why I don’t ride horses very often. Some people, however, love to ride horses. God designed horses with strong muscles that can carry people at fast speeds for long distances. One reason horses can carry people is because they have strong hooves. Horses run over rough ground where there are sharp sticks and rocks.

If their feet were soft, these sharp objects would stab them, especially if the horse had extra weight on its back, such as a human rider. Hard hooves help protect horses from injury. Also, horses use their hooves for defense against enemies or predators. One swift kick from the hind legs of a horse can kill a wolf or coyote. One hard stamp from the hooves on the front legs of a horse could crush the skull of an attacker.

If horse feet were soft, without tough hooves, horses would not be able to protect themselves as well. So you see, Grant, God gave horses hooves to help them haul humans and hinder harmful attackers.

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RECENTLY THE MOVIE JURASSIC WORLD WAS RELEASED IN THEATERS. IT WAS AN ADVENTURE FILM about a theme park where dinosaurs were the main attraction. If you saw it, or even watched previews for it, you probably heard about the main character—a dinosaur named *Indominus rex*. This dinosaur’s name means “Untamable King.” In the movie, this creature could grow to be 50 feet long, had a massive head full of razor sharp teeth, could change color, and control its body temperature. While this creature makes for an exciting movie, it is important to remember that the *Indominus rex* never really existed. It is a make believe animal that supposedly had genetic information from cuttlefish and a tree frog. There never really was an *Indominus rex*.

What lesson do we learn from this? When we read books or watch movies about dinosaurs, we should pay close attention to what is real, and what the writers are making up. For instance, we know that dinosaurs once existed because scientists have found dinosaur fossils in many places all over the world. Many times, however, books and movies tell us that these dinosaurs evolved over millions of years and never lived with humans. That is not true. There is no evidence that dinosaurs evolved. That is a made up idea, similar to the made up creature *Indominus rex*. God created humans on day six of Creation along with all land-living animals, including the dinosaurs.

In the Bible we read that we should “test all things” and “hold fast to what is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21). This is especially important when it comes to information about dinosaurs. Instead of believing everything we read in a book or magazine or see in a movie, we should try to find out what is true and what is false. The truth is, God designed the amazing dinosaurs to bring glory to Him.