

# THE FOSSIL RECORD

from  
 **FAITH MAKES SENSE**

The fossil record is one of the best opportunities to compare the competing stories of creation and evolution. The fossil record is real. The animals whose remains we can study lived and died. The first big question we need to ask is which story, creation or evolution, better predicts what the fossil record should look like? Here is a brief introduction to the fossil record evidence.

## EVOLUTION'S STORY ABOUT FOSSILS

Evolution claims the fossil record is a record of life. The remains found are the record of how life on earth evolved over hundreds of millions of years. If this is true, the following predictions should be visible in the fossil record:

- a: lower layers contain less evolved animals
- b: middle layers contain transitional forms
- c: steady rate of extinction over time

## CREATION'S STORY ABOUT FOSSILS

Creation claims the fossil record is a record of death. The remains found are the record of death on a massive worldwide scale during the catastrophic flood event. If this is true, the following predictions should be visible in the fossil record.

- a: lower layers contain fully formed animals
- b: simple & complex animals appear together
- c: a massive extinction event

## THE FOSSIL RECORD TIMELINE

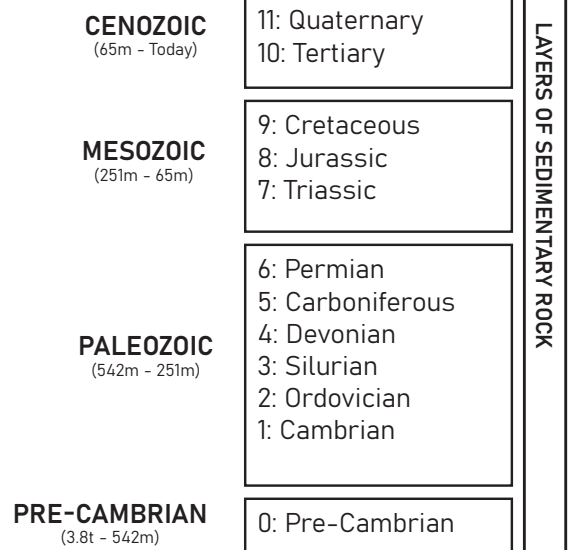
The Paleozoic or 'early life' era is characterized by the quick appearance of hard bodied animals. By the middle of this era fish and some land animals appear. Towards the end, large reptiles and coniferous plants appear.

The Mesozoic or 'middle life' era is characterized as the "age of reptiles". Large land and flying reptiles appear here as well as squid-like sea creatures. Towards the end of this period, mammals, birds, and flowering plants also appear.

The Cenozoic or 'recent life' era is characterized by flowering plants, trees and shrubs. The majority of bird and animals groups we recognize today, including humans, appear in this period.

## THE ELEVATOR OF TIME

The fossil record is like an elevator with different "floor groups" representing different periods in earth history.



© 2024 Faith Makes Sense, Inc. All rights reserved.

This resource is free to reproduce for personal or local church use as long as no changes are made to the content. For questions or assistance, contact us at: [info@faithmakesense.com](mailto:info@faithmakesense.com).

# THE FOSSIL RECORD

from  
 **FAITH MAKES SENSE**

The evidence from the fossil record is not mysterious. It is very clear. Take a look at the evidence and decide for yourself which story about earth history best fits the evidence from the fossil record. Creation's claims about the fossil record are verifiable! Evolution's claims are falsified. It's that simple.

## THE FOSSIL RECORD EVIDENCE

**1: Sudden Appearance:** The fossils we observe in the fossil record appear fully formed without any previous evolutionary ancestor.

**2: Consistency of Fossil Forms:** Creatures in the fossil record remain virtually the same as they appear in all rock layers.

**3: Lack of Transitional Forms:** There are no known transitional forms agreed upon by the scientific community.

**4: Order of the Fossil Groups:** Of the fossil groups that do exist, they do not appear in the order predicted by the evolutionary model.

**5: Living Fossils:** A 'living fossil' is an animals who appears to be the same creature as found in the fossil record. These living fossils illustrate that absence from the fossil record do not equate to extinction.

**6: Extinction**  
The fossil record does not show gradual extinction over time. It demonstrates a massive worldwide catastrophe in which all the major forms of animal life we know today died and were buried suddenly.

## COMPARE FOR YOURSELF

**Evolution's claims about the fossil record:**  
a: lower layers contain less evolved animals  
b: middle layers contain transitional forms  
c: steady rate of extinction over time

**Creation's claims about the fossil record:**  
a: lower layers contain fully formed animals  
b: simple & complex animals appear together  
c: a massive extinction event

## THE FLOOD & THE FOSSIL RECORD

If the Bible's story of the flood is historical, how would that affect the way the fossil record would be formed?

a: The majority of the animals in the fossil record would appear together, having died in a catastrophic event.

b: As ocean waters rose, different ecosystems would have been overtaken and deposited in the fossil record, there would be groups noticeable in the fossil record.

c: Animals would die and be buried rapidly in sedimentary rock in a watery environment.

© 2024 Faith Makes Sense, Inc. All rights reserved.

This resource is free to reproduce for personal or local church use as long as no changes are made to the content. For questions or assistance, contact us at: [info@faithmakesense.com](mailto:info@faithmakesense.com).