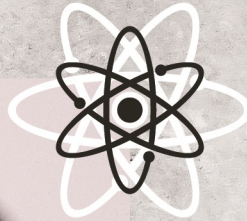


# EXAMINE

WHERE DOES THE  
EVIDENCE LEAD?



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KNOW WHY YOU BELIEVE  
WHAT YOU BELIEVE

Each lesson has optional videos that you can watch on our Facebook page ([facebook.com/shofarcreationscience](https://facebook.com/shofarcreationscience)). Find the playlist titled "Explore Booklet: EVIDENCE." Videos are numbered according to the lesson they are paired with. Videos are not required, but are additional ways for you to learn more about specific topics.

# Big Life Questions

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## How did we get here? Where did we come from?

As we look at the diversity and complexity of the world around us, how do you think life came to exist? Did we simply appear? Did someone specially create us? Opening the Bible to Genesis 1, we learn that everything was created in seven days. God is a God of order. He had a purpose and a plan for how you and I got here.

It is important to know why you believe what you believe. There are many different beliefs out there. For example, consider the teachings of Charles Darwin. Many people believe his theories are true. His reason for life's origin and development was intended to replace the idea of Creation. He believed random mutation and natural selection were the reasons that life developed, instead of someone specially and uniquely designing it.

Charles Darwin was an English naturalist, geologist, and biologist, best known for his contributions to the science of evolution. His proposition that all species of life have descended from common ancestors is now widely accepted and considered a fundamental concept in science. In a joint publication with Alfred Russel Wallace, he introduced his scientific theory that this branching pattern of evolution resulted from a process called natural selection, in which the struggle for existence has a similar effect to the artificial selection involved in selective breeding.

Darwin has been described as one of the most influential figures in human history. He published his theory of evolution with compelling evidence in the 1859 book “On the Origin of Species.”

1. Charles Darwin did not believe in Creation. He believed in natural selection. Define natural selection. Share what you believe and why.

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2. What explanation for life’s origin and development did Darwin try to replace with his theory? Why?

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3. What do you believe? Why do you believe it?

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# The Unknowns

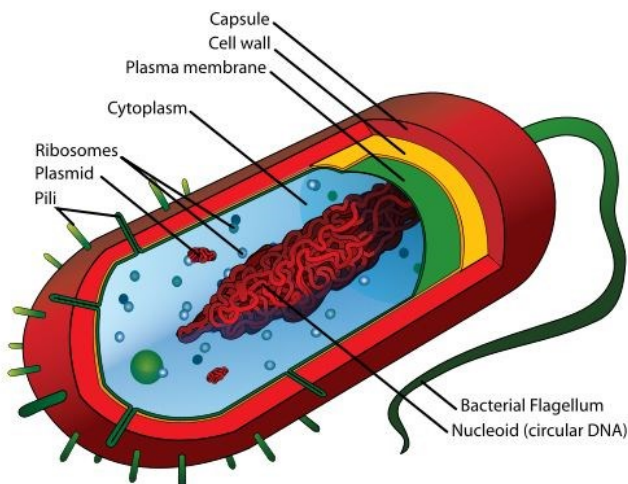
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“How did we get here?” The common answer to that question is that we simply evolved gradually by natural selection.

In the last half of the century, knowledge of the cell has exploded. Microscopic technology reveals worlds that are very small—like the head of a needle. Liquids held within something this small can contain up to four million single-celled bacteria. Each cell is packed with circuits and assembly line-type construction. This simply did not appear, but rather was specially and uniquely designed. Darwin would have never imagined this to be.

It has been noted that there are many machines just like the many functions of your body—breathing, etc. Is all of this simply evolution? As you think about that, remember that scientists thought cells were made of protoplasm, which is the living part of a cell that is surrounded by a plasma membrane. Flagella are slender, threadlike structures and have been designed to spin at 100,000 revolutions per minute and can stop on 1/4 of a turn.

It is important to remember this: such detailed design of things like the many kinds of bacteria and things like flagella clearly indicate there is a Creator.



1. We learned that cells are very complex. What are two reasons for this?

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2. Do you think something that complex simply appeared or is there a better explanation? Why?

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3. Describe some of the discoveries over the last several decades that have led to how we understand the cell today.

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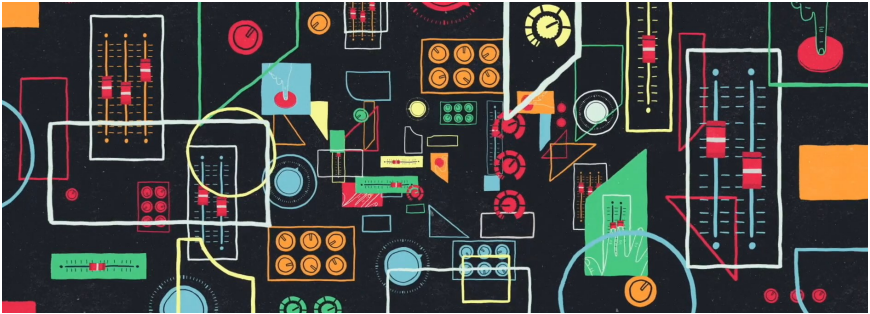
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**“Natural selection acts by taking advantage of slight, successive variations. She can never take a great and sudden leap, but must advance by short and sure, though slow steps.”**

**—CHARLES DARWIN**

# Molecules & Traps

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**“If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down.”**

**—CHARLES DARWIN**

Did you know that life is made and ran by molecular machines? These machines make the cell go. Simply put, if you believe in evolution, you believe these machines just appeared. Could such detail have simply appeared or did someone specially design it? There is no getting around the fact that God specially designed each and every molecular machine!

Irreducible complexity means that there are many parts to any given organelle or system in a cell all of which are needed for function. Many scientists have said the complex structures could have never been completed during natural selection! We must note that all of these structures have many parts. If you remove a part, you lose that system’s function because each and every part is necessary. You cannot build something without having all of the parts.

Natural selection eliminates things that may not have a function or if they do, one that harms the organism. If you have something like a bacteria with a tail that does not function as a flagellum, chances are natural selection would get rid of it. The only way you can select a flagellum is if you have one that works. This means all of the pieces need to be together in order to begin with. It is important to remember that natural selection cannot create the flagellum. It can only work after it is there and operating.

Is it possible these pieces could have simply been constructed using other parts already available, or did someone specially design them?

1. Why do you think irreducible complexity challenges natural selection?

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2. Do you find this to be a compelling argument? Why or why not?

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# Life

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**There are two main questions in biology:**

- 1. How do you get new living forms with new structures (like wings and eyes) from life that already exists on Earth?**
- 2. How did life originate on Earth in the first place?**

Charles Darwin spent most of his life forming an answer to the first question. He tried to explain how the branches on a tree of life originated. The base of the tree represented the first living cell. The branches made up a new and more complex life form appeared over time. He believed natural selection modified existing organisms to produce the diversity that fills life today. It is important to remember that Darwin never addressed the fact of living from nonliving matter. We must always remember life needs to have the ability to use energy, reproduce, grow, and respond to its environment. This goes beyond a simple “building block.”

Chemical evolution can be defined as “simple chemicals combining to form larger ones.” For example, amino acids are building blocks and proteins function in the cell doing day-to-day jobs. Without sequence, things like amino acids cannot fold properly into the correct three-dimensional shape needed to perform its function and the sub-cellular machinery will get rid of



it. There are people that believe some experiments point to the creation of “building blocks” through natural processes. If they are right, is this good enough for you to believe a naturalistic explanation for the origin of life or do you need more information?

1. Why do you think sequence is important in the chains that make up building blocks?

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2. As you read, some people have indicated there have been experiments that have resulted in the creation of some “building blocks” through natural processes. Do you think this is enough to provide a naturalistic explanation for the origin of life? Why or why not?

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# Life & Language

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During the early 1960s, many scientists ruled out chemical reactions as a course for the first complex molecules and living cells. Many continued to believe that life on Earth began through a natural process. Still others believe it may have been biochemically predestined but the properties of attraction that exist between its chemical parts particularly between amino acids that are found in proteins. This theory led many to believe life simply came to be by chemistry. Some thought proteins could have formed directly from amino acids without having any assembly directions—as if they just appeared.

It is important to note here that protein structures show they cannot self-assemble without DNA! Another problem with this is DNA cannot be explained by natural processes. Without DNA, there is no self-replication. Without self-replication, there can be no natural selection! Therefore we can only conclude that natural selection cannot be used to explain the origin of DNA without assuming existence of the very thing we are trying to explain.

Simply put, the explanation for the origin of life can be none other than intelligent design—especially as it matches the discoveries in molecular biology. We also need to remember that information-based code in DNA is the language of life. Since many have gotten on board with intelligent design, science continues to release information that supports this! This can be found in everything from DNA to the assembly of protein molecules to messenger RNA!

**“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”**

**—THE APOSTLE PAUL (ROMANS 1:20)**

1. Do you believe natural selection is possible without a system that can replicate, like DNA? Why?

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2. True or False: Amino acids have the ability to self-organize into meaningful and functional sequences through unguided processes. Explain.

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3. Do you think anything positive could come out of a scientist stating that, based on new evidence, what they said in the past was not accurate? Why or why not?


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# in the beginning

(Genesis 1:1)

## JOURNEY THROUGH THE CREATION ACCOUNT

### **DAY 1 • GENESIS 1:1-5**

On Day 1 of creation, light is created and divided from the darkness. God begins to literally speak things into existence: “Let there be light.” From the beginning, God created an environment which we as mankind can see. We were not meant to be blind—physically or spiritually! He wanted and intended us to be aware of His existence, His creation, and His activities. God’s first day of creation work included creating the light, and then separating it from the darkness. God was sure to record, “the evening and the morning were the first day.”

### **DAY 2 • GENESIS 1:6-8**

On Day 2 of creation, God separated the water above the earth from the water on the earth, placing the sky between the two. In verse 6, “God said, ‘Let there be space between the waters, to separate water from water.’ And so it was. God made this space to separate the waters above from the waters below. And God called the space ‘sky.’ This happened on the second day.”

The “space” that is referred to here is no doubt the sky just above our heads, the “space” where the birds dwell. For the first time ever, the earth would have experienced an atmosphere and things like clouds, wind, waves, and evaporation.

### **DAY 3 • GENESIS 1:9-13**

On the third day God moves to create “dry land” out of the waters. As the creator and therefore the owner of all this, He does the naming. Psalm 24:1 says “The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to Him.” When it started, God saw it as “good.” Now there were mountains, valleys, boulders, springs, rivers, waterfalls, caves, beaches, gravel, clay, and sand.

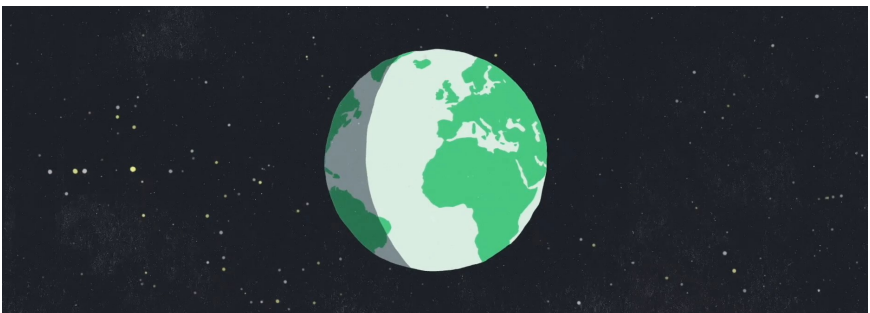
God created the “produce” of the earth. God made the plants in just one day! The creation design is a thing of staggering beauty! Its harmony, one with another, is only the stuff of a Creator and supernatural being. The plants would produce the seed for the next crop, and the fruit would bear the seed for the next tree. God thought that was “good,” too. Since there were plants, the earth, for the first time, contained roots, stems, leaves, grass, pollen, bark, vines, fruits, vegetables, flowers, and more.


## **DAY 4 • GENESIS 1:14-19**

Those who attempt to tie the theory of evolution with creation have trouble here. According to the scriptural account, the earth was made on day one and the sun on day four! Evolution, however, pushes the principle that the earth was once part of the sun and was “spun off” at some point. And apparently the light He had been working with up to this point was not radiating from the sun or the moon, as they are just now being created on day four!

God was very careful and precise here. The “arrangements” clearly point to a creator. If not for the design and set up of the sun, moon, night, day, their ratios to each other, etc. all of creation would have perished! If the sun was slightly further away, we would freeze to death; if it was a little closer, we would fry. God was very precise in his measurements here. Night and day begins the earthly concept of time. A beginning and an end, created by a deity that has neither! With the sun came light, heat and warmth, UV rays, sunrises, sunsets, dawn, dusk and even eclipses. God knew that the earth would need the sun to survive.

There was the beauty of the night sky for the first time. Sometimes the moon is full and round and sometimes it is shaped liked a crescent. When the moon appears very thin some people even call it a “toe-nail moon.” Of course the stars are amazing because they are bright and sparkly and even appear to twinkle in the sky.





Who kicked this off?

## **DAY 5 • GENESIS 1:20-23**

God created the sea creatures as only a God can. He brought them into existence from nothing. All this was done with His “word.” In the sea there are fish, swimming mammals such as whales and dolphins, as well as sponges, jellyfish, clams, oysters, sea urchins, sea cucumbers, starfish, sea lilies, lobsters, worms, snails, and many more. On Day 5, God created all sorts of birds to fill the skies. When He created birds, He created feathers, beaks, wings and claws.

## **DAY 6 • GENESIS 1:24-25**

Think of all of the animals that live on the ground (wild animals and tame animals): amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and even some birds that do not fly. God is amazing because every single kind of animal was His idea and His unique creation.

On the same day God made the animals, He also made a man. The man was called “Adam.” Adam was different from the animals because, when God breathed life into Adam, God gave him a soul. Adam’s soul gave him the ability to think, love, and worship. Adam could make choices. Adam could talk to God. Adam was a special creation.

God brought all of the animals to Adam and gave him the honor of naming them. But Adam knew that he was different from the animals. God did not want Adam to be lonely. The Bible says that God made them out of the earth. That does not mean that all the animals and men evolved over thousands of years to become what we are today. Scripture gives no place for evolution, and to believe such is to reject the Bible and refuse the biblical account.

## DAY 7 • GENESIS 1:26-2:3

God gave His new creation an awesome gift right from the beginning. He gave humans the ability to reproduce—a taste of the joy of producing life—the same joy that He no doubt experienced in those six days! He made man and He made woman—and He blessed them—*both* of them!

Creation was now finished, complete, and perfect. Evolutionists believe that we are evolving and that the “work is not done.” Such a belief refutes Scripture, goes against the authenticity, and effectively denies the existence and power of God. The two can’t exist side-by-side. Somebody is wrong.

On the Day 7, God rested. It is a comfort to know that God took time to rest from His work; it is a welcome fact! But God did not rest as a man rests. That is not the meaning of the word. God does not get tired nor does He need to take a break. The word “rest” here has in it the ideas of stopping, finishing, and completing. I wonder, was there was a standing ovation in heaven? We do need to rest in the traditional sense even if God doesn’t. Even more than that, though, we too need to sometimes just stop and stand back, and take a look at what we are building and creating.



What keeps it going?

1. What is your response to the Creation account? Why do you believe what you believe? Are your sources of evidence reliable?

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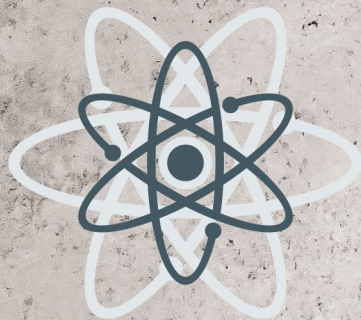
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EXPLORING  
**CREATION**  
SCIENCE

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