

MUDSKIPPER EYES—EVIDENCE OF EVOLUTION?

A popular YouTube channel claims that blinking in land gobies or ‘mudskipper’ fish is evidence for evolution from fish to land creatures. The video, *Stated Clearly*, is shown in school biology classrooms. It states:

Human eyelids are extremely complex, lots of muscles, special hair placements and so on. With this in mind, how did our early fishy ancestors keep their eyes wet as they first ventured out onto the land?

The answer is supposedly in the biology of mudskippers:

Mudskippers have not evolved any new eye muscles for blinking, not in the skin around the eye—the proto-eyelid, or anywhere around the eye

itself. Instead their eyes just stick out further, and because of this the normal eye muscles that all gobies possess are slightly stretched and rearranged which allows [blinking].

The claim is that our alleged fish ancestor evolved the ability to blink in a similar way to the mudskipper, via a simple rearranging and stretching of muscles.

However, protozoon-to-professor evolution requires the progressive addition of countless *novel* structures and functions. The above quote concedes that if blinking mudskippers *did* arise from non-blinking fish, it did not require anything truly novel. Which means, ironically, that it is irrelevant as evidence for explaining the quite



different blinking mechanisms of true land creatures.

Perry, J., Evidence for Evolution in the Mudskipper's Eye, [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...), 2 Jul 2023.

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SALMIAK MUTANT CAT

Domestic cats have all sorts of fur colours and designs. Add to that ‘salty liquorice’ (salmiak), now officially a new coat colour of this beloved pet.

The individual hairs start off black near the skin and lose colour progressing outward, to be white at the tips.

Salmiak cats have been known in Finland from at least 2007, but the genetics have only recently been worked out.

The different colouring is the result of a mutation, an inherited accidental change. This has deleted about 95,000 base pairs (DNA ‘letters’) from a gene named KIT. The salmiak trait is *recessive*, so a kitten that inherits this truncated allele (gene version) from only one parent will be a *carrier* of the trait but will not exhibit it. To have the salmiak colouring, both of its pair of KIT genes must be the mutant form. So, on average, 25% of the offspring of two carriers will be salmiak.

Evolution’s big problem has always been explaining how accidents could add all the new information (specified complexity) needed to turn microbes into microbiologists. The salmiak coat is new, but adds nothing to the case for evolution, since the ‘newness’ comes from the *loss* of a significant chunk of information from the DNA.

Leach, N., A new colour of cat has been discovered, [sciencefocus.com](https://www.sciencefocus.com), 30 May 2024.



(a) CC-BY 4.0 | Ari Kankainen – Animal Genetics, Vol. 55(4), August 2024

YET ANOTHER ROCK ARCH COLLAPSES

A famous rock formation in southern Utah known as the ‘Double Arch’ has collapsed. This adds to the pattern of regular attrition of Utah’s rock arches in recent years; dozens in the nearby Arches National Park collapsed within a few decades (see creation.com/age-of-arches).

With no replacements appearing in a comparable time frame, the observations suggest a much younger age for the arches than the authorities state.

Halpert, M., Utah’s famous ‘Double Arch’ rock collapses, [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com), 13 Aug 2024.



nps.gov

TWO NEW VEGETARIAN PIRANHA SPECIES NAMED

The Amazon River fish species *Myloplus schomburgkii*, first named in 1841, is often dubbed a ‘vegetarian piranha’, including in recent news reports. It is in fact a pacu, a very close cousin of the feared flesh-eating piranha. But it uses its powerful sharp teeth and jaws to eat plants (creation.com/piranha).

Despite their radically distinct diets, pacus are notoriously difficult to visually distinguish from piranhas, even for experts.

Recent genetic studies have added to the confusion rather than clearing it up. They have however caused scientists to divide what was previously regarded as one species into three. The two newly named ‘piranha’ species are *M. sauron* and *M. aylan*.

Both pacus and piranhas are highly likely to belong to the same original created kind. The plant-based diet of the pacu serves as a reminder of the biblical truth that all animals were originally vegetarian, even the ferocious piranha.

Ashworth, J., New species of vegetarian piranha named after Lord of the Rings villain Sauron, nhm.ac.uk, 11 Jun 2024.



Freshwater and Marine Image Bank, University of Washington

WORMHOLES TO EXPLAIN ‘DARK ENERGY’

The most popular current idea of the alleged big bang origin of the universe is the Lambda Cold Dark Matter model. This needs the still-unobserved ‘dark matter’ for it to work. Also, for the big bang to ‘fit’ with the universe’s seemingly accelerating expansion requires proposing another mysterious entity—‘dark energy’. Supposedly, our universe comprises 68% dark energy, 27% dark matter, and 5% ordinary matter.

Some scientists have come out lately with independently derived calculations showing it is very likely neither of these dark twins exists or is necessary (*Creation* 46(3) p. 11). Nonetheless, a research team has now proposed a theory of what might cause dark energy, using the idea of a *wormhole*.

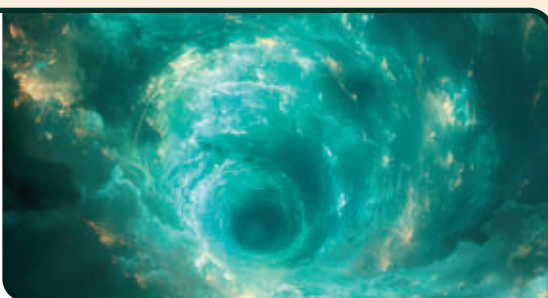
This is a hypothetical ‘tunnel’ between two regions of space-time. One occasionally sees speculation that if we could somehow make a wormhole, we could reach other parts of the universe faster than light.

In this latest idea, though, the wormholes are smaller than an atom. It is postulated that billions of them spontaneously form and are destroyed, every second, in each cubic centimetre of space. This apparently has to do with quantum gravity, a field that tries to unify quantum physics and Einsteinian gravity but is still ‘poorly understood’. Not surprisingly, ‘the theory remains untestable’.

Afternote: Some well-known physicists have pondered whether (larger) wormholes could one day be used by people to time-travel. Renowned physicist Stephen Hawking remained skeptical. His famous question: ‘Where are the tourists from the future?’

Feldman, A., Huge cosmological mystery could be solved by wormholes, new study argues, livescience.com, 6 Aug 2024.

Tsilioukas, S. *et al.*, Dark energy from topology change induced by microscopic Gauss-Bonnet wormholes, *Phys. Rev. D* 109:084010, Apr 2024.



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GREEN LAND BELOW GREENLAND ICE

Scientists have discovered the remains of plants, wood, insects, and fungi below the 3,000-m-deep (10,000 ft) 1993 GISP2 ice core drilled in central Greenland. Similar items were found below the Camp Century ice core from northwest Greenland (creation.com/green-under-ice). Glaciologists interpret this to mean the Greenland Ice Sheet melted completely during an ‘interglacial’ period of warming in the Pleistocene. So, it could do this again in future from global warming—a scary proposition, with many cities underwater.

However, creation scientists would explain the greenery as due to the relatively warm climate at low altitudes of Greenland, before the ice covered it all. The mild climate was caused by the warm ocean after the Flood, which fuelled the Ice Age (creation.com/ice-age-cause); nothing to do with past or predicted global warming.

Bierman, P.R. *et al.*, Plant, insect, and fungi fossils under the center of Greenland’s ice sheet are evidence of ice-free times, *Proc. Nat. Acad. Science* 121(33):1–3, 2024.

Oard, M.J., Greenery beneath Greenland ice sheet, *J. Creation* 36(2):5–7, 2022; creation.com/green-under-ice.



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DID AN ASTEROID KILL THE DINOS? ‘AI’ STUDY SAYS NO.

There have long been two main ideas about what allegedly wiped out the dinosaurs, supposedly 66 million years ago. Was it the Chicxulub asteroid impact in Mexico, widely promoted as *the* cause? Or was it massive volcanism, evidenced by the humongous past outpourings of lava displayed as India’s Deccan Traps? There are also the Siberian Traps, blamed for a supposedly earlier mass extinction.

Either proposed cause would still need long-agers to explain why so many other types of creatures, some much more fragile, survived such alleged climate extremes.

Now Dartmouth College researchers claim to have settled the debate. They used a computer model, best described as a modest form of artificial intelligence (AI), to analyze vast amounts of data (as already interpreted within their framework). Volcanism won hands-down.

Both Traps are just part of the huge volcanic activity associated with the geological upheavals necessarily accompanying Noah’s Flood. These eruptions were mostly *underwater*, which prevented the air becoming toxic enough to overwhelm the Ark’s inhabitants. A lot of the material ejected would still have reached the upper atmosphere to reflect back a portion of sunlight. This, plus the volcanically warmed oceans causing more snowfall in high latitudes, directly led to the post-Flood Ice Age. Noah’s Flood explains many Ice Age ‘mysteries’—see creation.com/hippos-england.

Shavitt, J., New study results end the debate of what killed the dinosaurs, thebrighterside.news, 4 May 2024



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KOMODO DRAGONS HAVE ‘IRON’-COATED TEETH

Indonesia’s Komodo dragon is the largest living lizard—up to 3 m (10 ft) long and weighing 150 kg (330 lb). In this fallen world, they are mostly ambush predators, with powerful jaws and a venomous bite. They also have ‘ziphodont’ teeth—narrow, pointy, and serrated, with smooth sides and sharp edges. Many carnivorous dinosaurs also had ziphodont teeth. (Komodos are *not* dinosaurs. All lizards have sprawled legs and a cup-shaped hip socket; dinos had column-like legs and a prominent hole in the socket.)

However, the enamel layer, the hard outer tooth coating, is very thin in both dinosaurs and Komodos. Dental experts at King’s College London noticed an orange layer on Komodo teeth, first dismissed as staining. Their research revealed *iron*—the compound ferrihydrite ($\text{Fe}_3\text{HO}_8 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$)—was concentrated at the cutting edges, bonded with the enamel. This design feature makes the layer harder and more wear- and acid-resistant.

The team also studied carnivorous dinosaur teeth. However, chemical changes in fossilization prevented determining whether they had a similar iron coating.

The researchers think their work may lead to new ways to regenerate human enamel.

Allan, O., Komodo dragons have iron-coated teeth, scientists find, theguardian.com, 24 Jul 2024.

LeBlanc, A.R.H. *et al.*, Iron-coated Komodo dragon teeth and the complex dental enamel of carnivorous reptiles, *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, 24 Jul 2024.



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ASTONISHING ANT AMPUTATIONS

Carpenter ants in Florida (*Camponotus floridanus*) can identify wounds on the legs of their nestmates before treating them to prevent the spread of infection. They do this either by cleaning only, or amputation after cleaning.

Lead author of the study in *Current Biology*, Erik Frank—behavioural ecologist at the University of Würzburg in Germany—said:

This is literally the only case in which a sophisticated and systematic amputation [performed on] an individual by another member of its species occurs in the animal kingdom. Femur (upper leg) injuries were first cleaned by the ants' mouths, then amputated by repeated biting—a procedure of around 40 minutes. Tibia wounds (lower leg) were just cleaned. In both cases survival rates increased dramatically. Femur injury survival went from below 40% to over 90%, while for tibia injuries, it rose from 15% to 75%. The researchers say this amazing behaviour is innate—i.e., not learned but programmed into their DNA. Evidence of a Master Programmer!

Kwan, J., Ants perform life saving operations—the only animal other than humans known to do so, [livescience.com](https://www.livescience.com), 2 Jul 2024.



Bart Zijlstra, UNIL

CO₂ NOT CAUSING CLIMATE CATASTROPHE?

Researchers from Warsaw, Poland, have concluded that further increases in CO₂ in the atmosphere will have little to no effect on Earth's temperature. In a paper in *Applications in Engineering Science*, Kubicki and two others reviewed published data which showed that there is a diminishing effect of adding more CO₂ to the atmosphere.

Their analysis documents that CO₂ absorbs only certain infrared radiation frequencies and most of those are already absorbed. I.e., climate sensitivity decreases as the CO₂ concentration increases. Contrary to the IPCC reports, they conclude that the impact of anthropogenic CO₂ increase on Earth's climate is very small.

This supports the idea that Earth's climate is stable, designed to support life in the long term, as Genesis 8:22 suggests.

The authors encourage moves to renewables and greater energy efficiency. They say this is not because of “unsubstantiated arguments” (that manmade CO₂ is leading to climate catastrophe), but to conserve valuable fossil fuel reserves and reduce toxic non-CO₂ pollutants.

Kubicki, J. *et al.*, Climatic consequences of the process of saturation of radiation absorption in gases, *App. Eng. Sci.* 17:100170, Mar 2024.



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GREAT WHITE SHARKS AND THE FLOOD

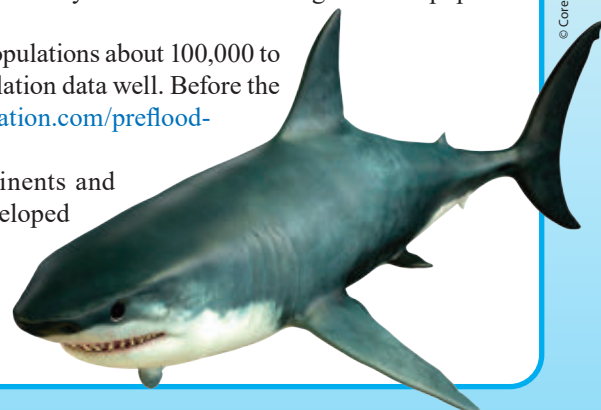
Thanks to movies like *Jaws*, and Discovery's 'Shark Week' documentaries, great white sharks are well known. Yet there is so much still to find out. One of the mysteries is where they live, since they are always on the move.

Research published in 2024 revealed that there are three distinct populations of great whites—in the Atlantic, Indo-Pacific, and North Pacific Oceans. Only one of the 89 sharks investigated in the genomic study showed interbreeding between populations, suggesting that these sharks tend to stick to their own regions.

The evolutionary explanation is that there was a divergence into three shark populations about 100,000 to 200,000 years ago during an ice age. However, biblical history explains the population data well. Before the global Flood there likely was one land mass surrounded by a single ocean (creation.com/preflood-pangaea), and one population of great white sharks.

After the global Flood, Earth has multiple oceans separated by the continents and changed ocean currents. Thus distinctive populations of great white sharks developed because they were more isolated from each other.

Tjandra, K., Great white sharks split into 3 populations 200,000 years ago and never mixed again—except for one hybrid found in the Bermuda Triangle, [livescience.com](https://www.livescience.com), 8 Aug 2024.



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ANIMAL FEAR RESEARCH CONFIRMS GENESIS

The findings of a team of biologists led by Prof. Liana Zanette (Western University, London, Ontario), unintentionally confirm Genesis 9:2. There, God says to Noah's family after the year-long Flood that, "The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea."

Prof Zanette is an expert on predator-prey interactions. She and colleagues comprehensively tested numerous animal interactions at South Africa's Greater Kruger National Park (e.g., by playing sound recordings). This was during the dry season when animals must frequently visit waterholes. The 4,238 independent trials conclusively show that wildlife fear human beings even more than lions—animals were "twice as likely to run" away and "abandoned waterholes in 40% faster time." In fact, she wrote:

Fully 95% of species, including giraffes, leopards, hyenas, zebras, kudu, warthog, impala, elephants, and rhinoceroses, ran more often or abandoned waterholes faster in response to humans than in response to lions.

The scientists think these results support the idea that "wildlife worldwide fear the human 'super predator' far more than other



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predators". But why? It seems God supernaturally altered animal minds to perceive humans with dread in the post-Flood world. Other than in exceptional circumstances (e.g. when extreme thirst drives some animals to seek our help), creatures mostly give us a wide berth. See the second reference for a detailed study of all this.

Zanette, Y. *et al*, Fear of the human 'super predator' pervades the South African savanna, *Current Biology* 33(21):P4689–4696.E4, 2023.

Bell, P., Dread of man, *J. Creation* 35(2), 2021. Part 1: pp. 53–60, creation.com/dread-of-man-1; Part 2: pp. 61–68, creation.com/dread-of-man-2.

NEW DNA CODE: "SPATIAL GRAMMAR"

DNA is life's 'message molecule'. Like any message, it must have a *language* to provide meaning. (See creation.com/dna-remarkable-language.) For comparison, this article won't mean much to anyone who doesn't understand English. In the same way, DNA language must be decoded using machinery, which is itself encoded on the DNA. But while this article is written in only one language, the stretch of DNA has *multiple* languages with different 'messages'. (See creation.com/dna-codes.)

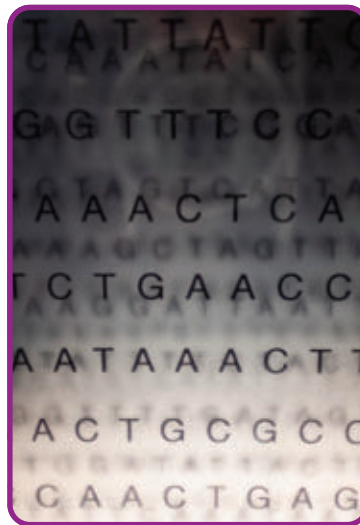
Geneticists have long known that genes on DNA are regulated. The regulator proteins are called *transcription factors* (TFs). TFs themselves are encoded by genes. 'Activators' can start or increase the reading of a gene. 'Repressors' can decrease or stop the reading. In July 2024, geneticists at two American universities showed that activators can also function as repressors. The difference depends on their position—a "spatial grammar".

For example, a given protein might be an activator when it is 'upstream' from the beginning (transcription start site, TSS) of a gene. But downstream, it might switch to a repressor. Thus, "These findings highlight the importance of accurate TSS positional information to decode TF function ..."

The reports call the spatial grammar a "newly discovered code". We know that an article with only one language points to at least human-level intelligence. How much more does a cell with multiple languages point to a *super-human* Intelligence?

Duttke, S.H., *et al*. Position-dependent function of human sequence-specific transcription factors, *Nature* 631(8022):891–898, 17 Jul 2024.

Coppedge, D.F., DNA code has grammar, crev.info/2024/08/dna-grammar, 29 Aug 2024.



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