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HOW DID IT ALL BEGIN?

Projects

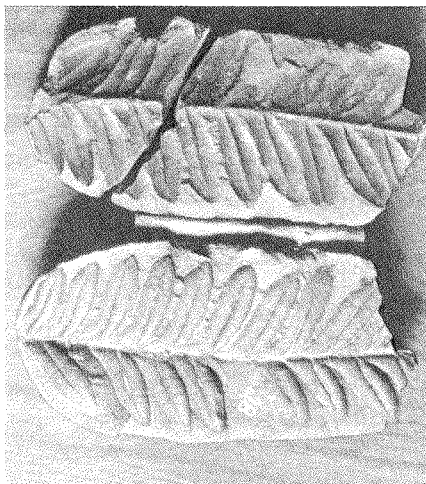
1. Find at least three stories on how the earth and life began from either ancient cultures like the Egyptians and Greeks or from the American Indians, Chinese, or Africans. Compare these stories. Are they based on creationist or evolutionist beliefs? Explain.
2. Make a scale model, or drawing to scale, of Noah's Ark.
3. Do a study on floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, and volcanoes. Are they occurring as often or more often than they have in the past? Does this support the evolutionist's viewpoint that natural occurrences are continuing in the same way as they always have?
4. Write a story about cave people based on the facts given in this chapter. At the end of your story, state whether you agree that they were "barely human." Explain.
5. Do a study on "stone age" people who have been discovered in modern times. Check newspapers and magazines for reports. Why have these people not advanced further than they have?
6. Do a study on unusual events in the heavens, such as eclipses and Halley's Comet. How often do they reoccur? How do these past occurrences help scientists predict future events?
7. Do a study on the Great Redwoods of California. How old are they? Research any tree whose rings were marked after it died, to show its age and the historical events that happened while it lived. Tell about this tree, bringing pictures, diagrams, or models to explain.
8. Do a study on the Ice Caps. How do evolutionists say they were formed? How do creationists say they were formed? What do scientists say will happen if they melt? Where did water for Ice Caps come from? Explain.
9. Class project. Have a class debate on evolution and creation.

Words and Concepts

uniformitarianism
law of entropy
history's building blocks
clan
missing links
creationist
disciplines
civilization
catastrophism
omnivorous
evolutionist
tell
culture
king lists
carnivorous
diplomacy
trench cut
history's two functions
sediments
**Second Law of
Thermodynamics**



How did it all begin? The system of Evolution claims that everything in the universe evolved by chance. The concept of special creation teaches that all matter and life was created with a purpose and in order by God. Above, the earth is seen photographed from the Apollo 13 spacecraft.



Fossil Ferns

In the Beginning

In studying the story of man, it is important to start with his origin—his beginnings on earth. There are many viewpoints about where the first person came from because no written records have been kept. There are also many questions which remain unanswered about this period of early history.

What happened to the dinosaurs and other strange creatures? Why has the earth changed so much? Who were the “cave men” and where did they come from? These are not easy questions and even scientists disagree on the answers.

In this chapter we will explore the facts of science and other fields of study in an attempt to answer these questions. We also will compare the two major ideas about man’s beginnings—evolution and creation. As we travel through very early times, each person must make his own decision and answer for himself the question: “How did it all begin?”

Time Before Our Known Records

Before written history began, the world must have been very different from the way it is today. There were probably no arctic areas with freezing temperatures and no arid desert areas. Strange creatures, such as giant dinosaurs and great flying reptiles, lived on the earth. How do we know about these very early things? Remains of these and other extinct animals have been discovered by archaeologists.

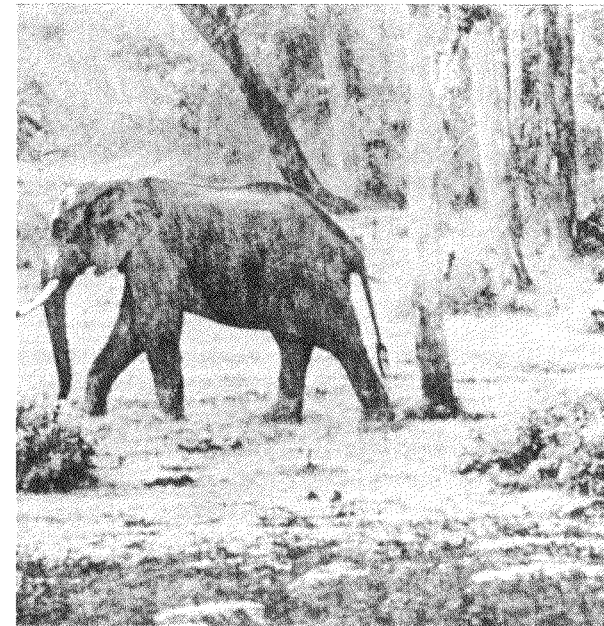
Fossil Findings. We know the arctic regions were once warmer because bones of thousands of animals have been excavated from now frozen soils. Fossils of elephants and other such animals have been found, in some instances,

with flesh still on their bones and food still between their teeth.

Fossils are any remains or traces of animals or plants that have been preserved in the earth’s crust throughout the ages. Fossil remains of tropical plants also have been found in these arctic regions. Surely there have been great changes in the world.

Two Explanations—Beliefs Not Theories

There are two major explanations about very early events and how the earth began.



Giant elephants, called mammoths, once roamed the forests and grasslands of the earth. Remains of these extinct animals have been found in arctic regions, the United States, and parts of Europe.

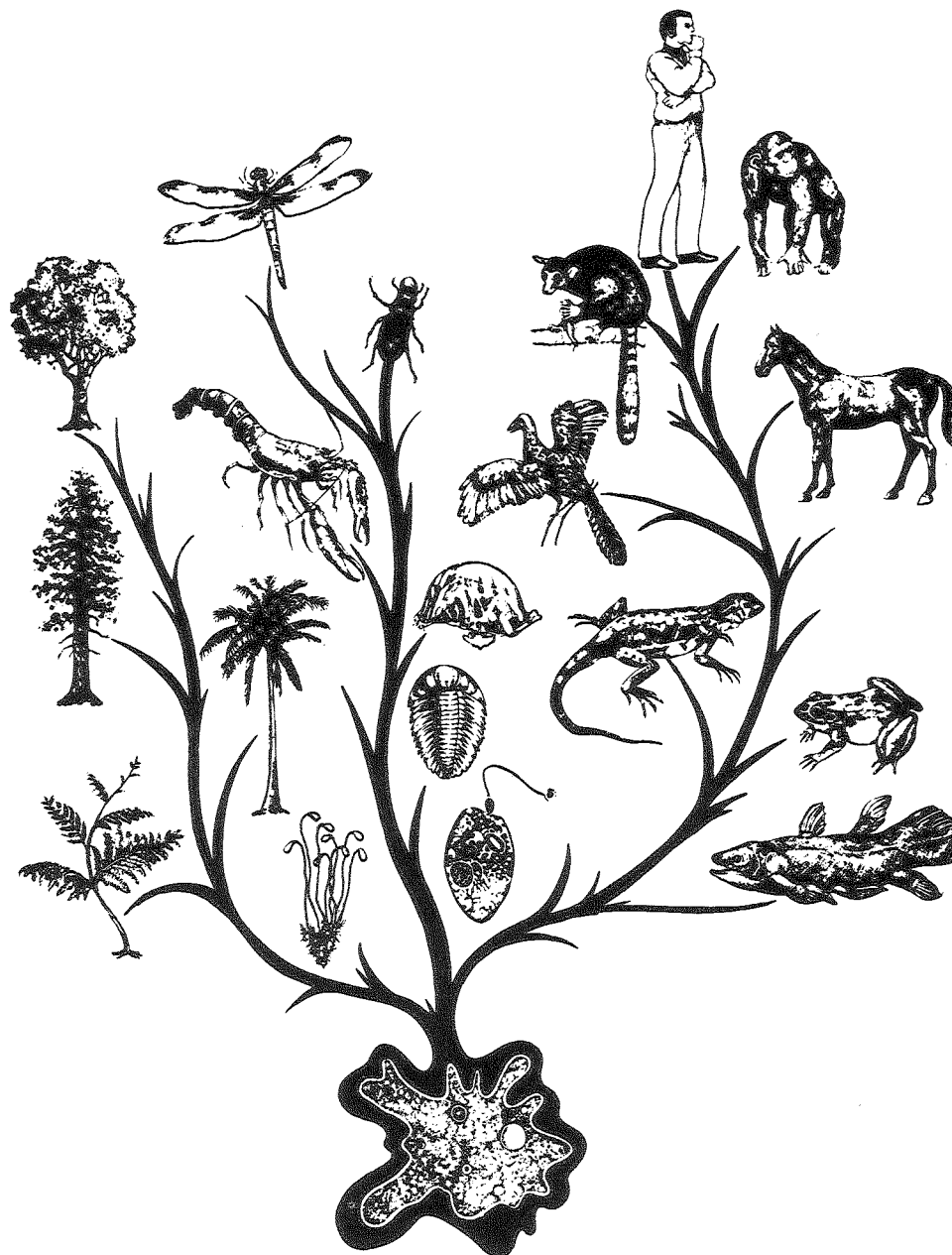
They are known as Special Creation and Evolution.

In *Streams of Civilization* we will not refer to either viewpoint as a theory. A scientific theory can be proved or disproved by actual testing and measuring. This is not possible with either evolution or creation. Scientists cannot see or test events that took place in the distant past. They cannot prove without a doubt how the earth and all life began. Therefore, we will refer to creation and evolution as concepts, models, beliefs, or systems. Those who believe in evolution are called evolutionists, and those who believe in creation are called creationists or creationist scientists.

Since neither evolution nor special creation can be proved by science, a person must simply believe in one or the other. Each, therefore, is a *faith*. Both require faith or belief because they are based on events of the past that cannot be verified one way or the other. It is just as scientific to believe that God created the earth as it is to believe that it was not created by God. Neither belief can be tested scientifically.

Evolution. The general concept of evolution has been found in many religions and philosophies of the world, both ancient and modern. In its current form, however, it dates back to 1859 when Charles Darwin, a young theological graduate, published the famous book entitled *The Origin of Species by Natural Selection*. Since then, scientists and non-scientists have tried to find ways to prove his ideas.

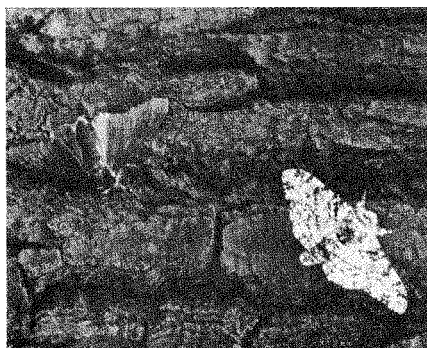
According to leading evolutionists, matter in some form has always existed. They believe that many changes have been occurring slowly over aeons of time. The earth, they believe, was formed from some kind of cosmic dust



The concept of Evolution claims that all life came from one cell. Evolutionists believe that this one cell gradually changed over billions of years into man and into every kind of plant, bird, and animal in the world.



Charles Darwin wrote about the evolutionary process in his work, *The Origin of the Species by Natural Selection*.



Evolutionists claim the peppered moth of England is an example of evolution. The moth has changed from a light color to a dark one, as pictured here.

cloud about four and a half billion years ago. Then by some unknown process, non-living chemicals in the seas evolved into a simple living cell about three billion years ago. This first cell has since evolved into the cells of every plant and animal that ever existed.

This evolutionary process in plants and animals is said to happen because of the processes of mutation and natural selection. A mutation is an accidental and unpredictable change in the reproductive material of a cell. Natural selection is the process by which nature weeds out individuals who in one way or another are less fit than others to survive and reproduce. Evolutionists estimate that perhaps four million years ago, one of these evolving lines produced human beings. Since that time, changes have been more in the cultures and economic systems of mankind than in man's body and brain.

When we use the term evolution in this book, it refers simply to the process of evolution. According to evolutionists, this process involves aeons of slow changes, mutations, and natural selection.

There are three main points that evolutionists use to support their beliefs:

1. Living things are similar in many ways. These likenesses include similarities in body form, in the first stages of embryonic growth,

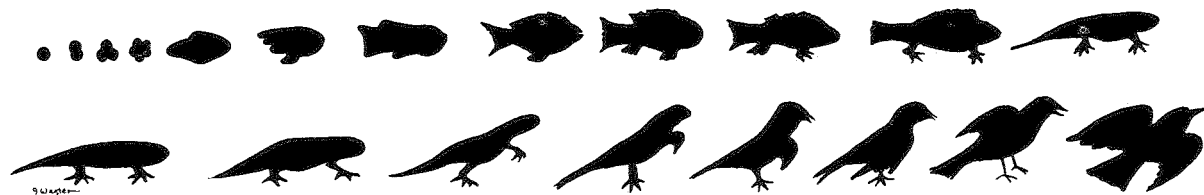
and in the chemicals of the blood and reproductive cells. These similarities exist, for example, between apes and men.

2. Changes in nature have always occurred. There are many examples of this. Varieties of dogs have been produced during the past 4,000 years from an original dog "kind."

Great numbers of mutations have been produced in the fruit fly, as well as in other plants and animals. The color of the "peppered moth" is known to have changed from a dominantly light color to a dominantly dark shade. This change occurred in England during the Industrial Revolution. As the trees became darker from the soot in the air, the moths' color gradually changed.

These changes were possible because of the different characteristics located in the gene pool of the moth. Other changes have occurred in some animals who seem to have some organs that have no useful function. Such organs are believed to be the remains of organs that were once useful to their ancestors. There is no doubt that there is a great amount of change taking place in nature.

3. The fossil record. Remains of plants and animals have been preserved in the rock formations of the earth's crust. These are said to represent former geological ages. Evolutionists



Evolutionists claim a fish gradually turned into a bird over a long period of time. The fossil record, however, has never revealed

remains of any of the in-between, or *transitional*, stages of development that are pictured here.

believe that old rocks contain fossils from an early stage of evolution, and young rocks contain more recent, more complex life. Thus, evolutionists say, the fossil record shows the evolution of life over the ages.

Special Creation. Unlike evolutionists, creationists claim there is no natural process that explains the origin of earth or of life. The creation model defines a period of Special Creation. During this time all the stars and planets, all the plants and animals, and the first man and woman were supernaturally created by God.

The creationist agrees that many changes have taken place since that time. He

knows that some of the created kinds of plants and animals even have become extinct. The creationist believes, however, that it is not possible for one living thing to evolve into a completely different kind of organism.

Interestingly, creationists use the same three main points as the evolutionists to support creation. They claim, however, that the evidence for creation is more substantial than the evidence for evolution. Creationist scientists explain their beliefs as follows:

1. The many likenesses in living things are to be expected if everything was created. Such a

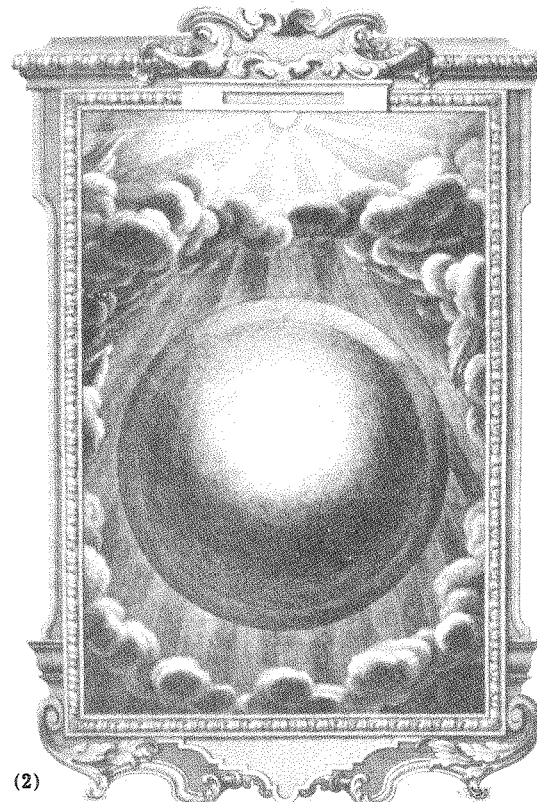
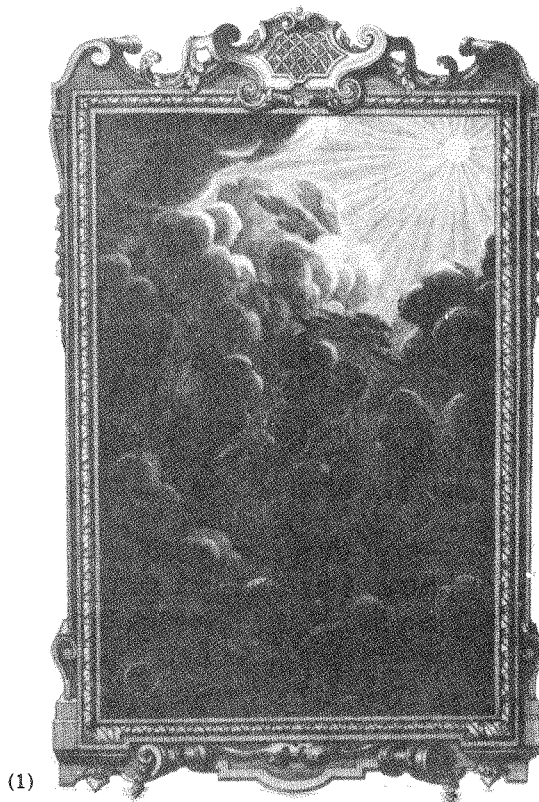
Evolution vs. The Gospel of Christ

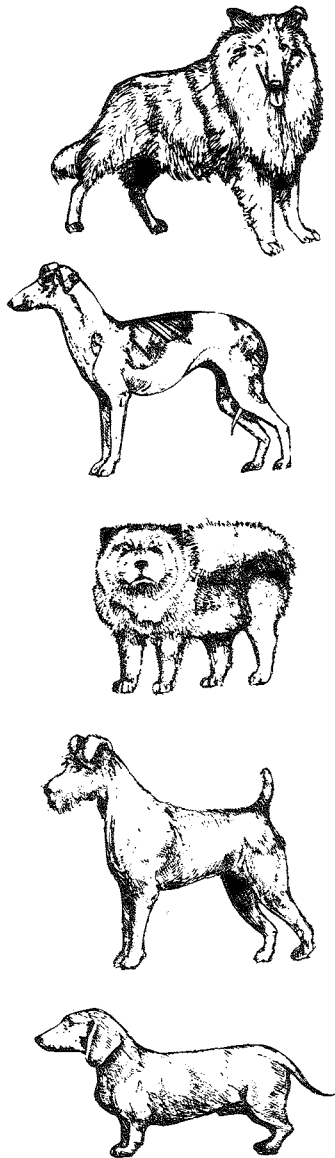
During the twentieth century, a number of scientists and religious leaders have sought to reconcile the teachings of Biblical Christianity with the teachings of Darwinian evolution. However, a growing number of people who believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ are finding that evolutionary beliefs undermine their Christian faith.

When a person accepts the theory of evolution they are forced to conclude that the story of Adam and Eve's fall into sin, as recorded in the Holy Bible, is a myth. Consequently, Jesus looks very foolish for coming to the earth to save people from the myth of original sin. Indeed, evolutionary teaching requires individuals to fictionalize major portions of the Bible that talk about sin, creation, and Jesus as Savior.

It is proper to conclude, therefore, that the teachings of true Biblical Christianity are incompatible with the teachings of evolution. Individuals must ultimately accept the Biblical view of origins or the evolutionary view of origins by faith. However, professing Christians would do well to remember the words of Jesus as he declared, "He who is not with me is against me;" Matthew 12:30a

Artists throughout the centuries have been fascinated by the creation and have pictured the beginning of life in many forms of art. These engravings, representing an unusual decorative style of the 1700s, were originally published during that time in a Bible. The engravings realistically present the creationists' view that God spoke the world into existence by saying: (1) "Let there be light," and (2) "Let the dry land appear."





Many varieties of dog "kinds" exist today. There is no scientific evidence, however, of a dog evolving into a different kind of animal.

master design would have to use similar organs, such as eyes and ears, if they were to be used for similar purposes, such as seeing and hearing and communicating with one another.

In addition to explaining the likenesses, the creation model also answers the question of why there are so many differences in living things. So far, evolutionists have not been able to show how such completely different features could have evolved by accident from the same ancestor.

2. Changes in nature do occur and the process of natural selection does operate. Such changes, however, take place within a "kind"; that is, dogs change into many varieties of dogs, but never into cats. These changes are horizontal, not vertically upward toward more complex kinds. Creationists agree that mutations also occur, but there never seem to be any "good" ones.

Natural selection operates to conserve the kinds of organisms as they were created. This process keeps the injuries which result from mutations from gradually affecting all the other individuals in a particular group of living things.

3. The many fossils that have been uncovered over the years are known as the fossil record. This record reveals to the creationist that there always have been differences between kinds of organisms. Nobody has ever found a series of fossils showing a gradual change of one kind of animal or plant into a different kind. Fossils have shown variations within a kind, but never stages of development into new kinds. These situations—variations within kinds and differences between kinds—are exactly what one would expect if creation were true.

In addition to their argument that the very evidences claimed by evolutionists are really

better evidences for creation, creationists point to two important additional scientific evidences for creation. One is the scientific law of decreasing order (also known as the Second Law of Thermodynamics or the law of increasing "entropy"), according to which *every* system in nature tends to go downhill from order to disorder *unless* it has available (1) some kind of special "motor" to take in a surplus of ordering energy from outside and; (2) some kind of "blueprint" to guide this energy into orderly growth. Since the evolutionary process has neither such a mechanism to energize it nor program to direct it, creationists maintain that this scientific law makes evolution impossible. However, the law of decay is quite consistent with the idea of an originally perfect creation which is now running down, and so it fits the creation model easily.

The other special evidence for creation is the great complexity of living organisms. Even the simplest one-celled animal is far more complex than the most complex computer or spaceship or any other invention of mankind. It can be shown mathematically that such highly-organized systems almost certainly could never—in all the history of the universe—organize themselves by chance. That is, the number of different "events" of any kind that could ever happen anywhere in the universe in all of its history turns out to be far less than the number of events that would have to take place before even the simplest living thing could ever arise without anyone or anything to guide it.

Summary. Which belief—evolution or creation—fits these facts of science best is a decision you will have to make for yourself. Remember that neither belief actually can be

proved by science. In the following sections there are additional facts about evolution and creation. This information will give you a good foundation for your study of history.

Men, Monkeys and Missing Links

Regardless of when the universe came into being or how life began, people are interested in the nature of man's beginnings and early history. Evolutionists believe that apes and men evolved over many millions of years from some unknown apelike ancestor. Creationists believe that the first man and woman were created by God as human beings and that all people are their descendants.

To better understand man's beginning, scientists look for pieces of bone and other remains that might have belonged to a very early man. By examining these bones, scientists try to determine whether they came from an animal or a human. Bone findings reveal much information to scientists.

For example, if a skull or fragments of a skull are found, they are measured to determine the size of the brain. Even if only a very tiny piece is found, the size of the skull can be estimated. Also, the opening at the base of the skull (where the spinal cord is attached) shows whether or not the head was held upright. The eye sockets indicate what the face may have looked like. The shoulder sockets show whether the specimen walked upright or spent most of its time on four legs.

A jawbone and teeth are very important because no two animals have exactly the same kind of teeth or jaws. The size of the jawbone and teeth help the scientist determine what the specimen ate. It could be either *vegetarian* (eating only vegetables), *carnivorous* (eating

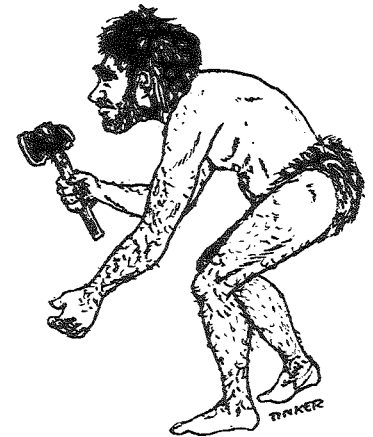
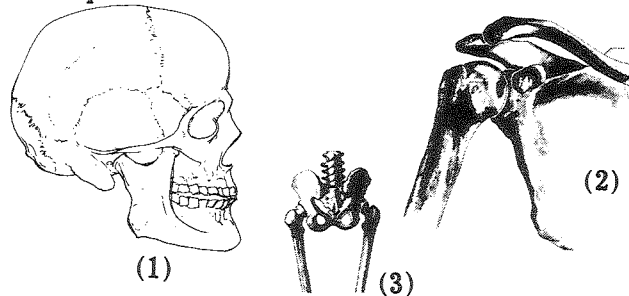
only meat), or *omnivorous* (eating both plants and animals).

The Cave Men

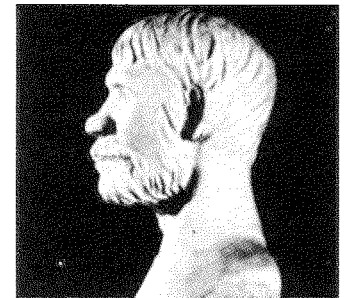
Since Darwin's time, many people have felt that the cave men of very early times proved the concept of evolution. If these early people seemed to be less than human, people thought they were in a stage of evolution between an apelike creature and man. For example, many books show the early cave people to be stooped and apelike in appearance. They claimed these cave men were the "missing links" in man's development. That is, they were believed to be an in-between, or *transitional*, stage in man's development.

Scientists today are aware that incorrect ideas about these early people have been published. They are taking a close look at the remains of these very early men. We will now examine some of the interesting evidence about these so-called cave men.

Neanderthal Man. The unmistakably human remains of the Neanderthal Man were first discovered in 1857 in Germany. Later other remains were found in France and Spain. In the past, the Neanderthal Man was thought to be the missing link between the ape and modern man.



The stooped posture of some early men known as "Neanderthal" came from disease, not from ape-like ancestors.



Neanderthal Man (Skhul V). From Rusch's *Human Fossils*, in *Rock Strata and the Bible Record*, P.A. Zimmerman, Ed., Concordia Publishing House.

The shape of a skull (1) is not evidence of human intelligence, but its size can determine if it is *hominid*, or human. If a part of the skull is found, specialists can estimate the size of the brain capacity. Shoulder sockets (2) illustrate the position of the arms and whether the specimen walked upright on two legs or moved on four legs. The pelvic bones (3) indicate the sex and approximate age of a specimen. If parts of a thighbone socket are found, it can determine whether the specimen walked upright or spent most of its time on four legs.

