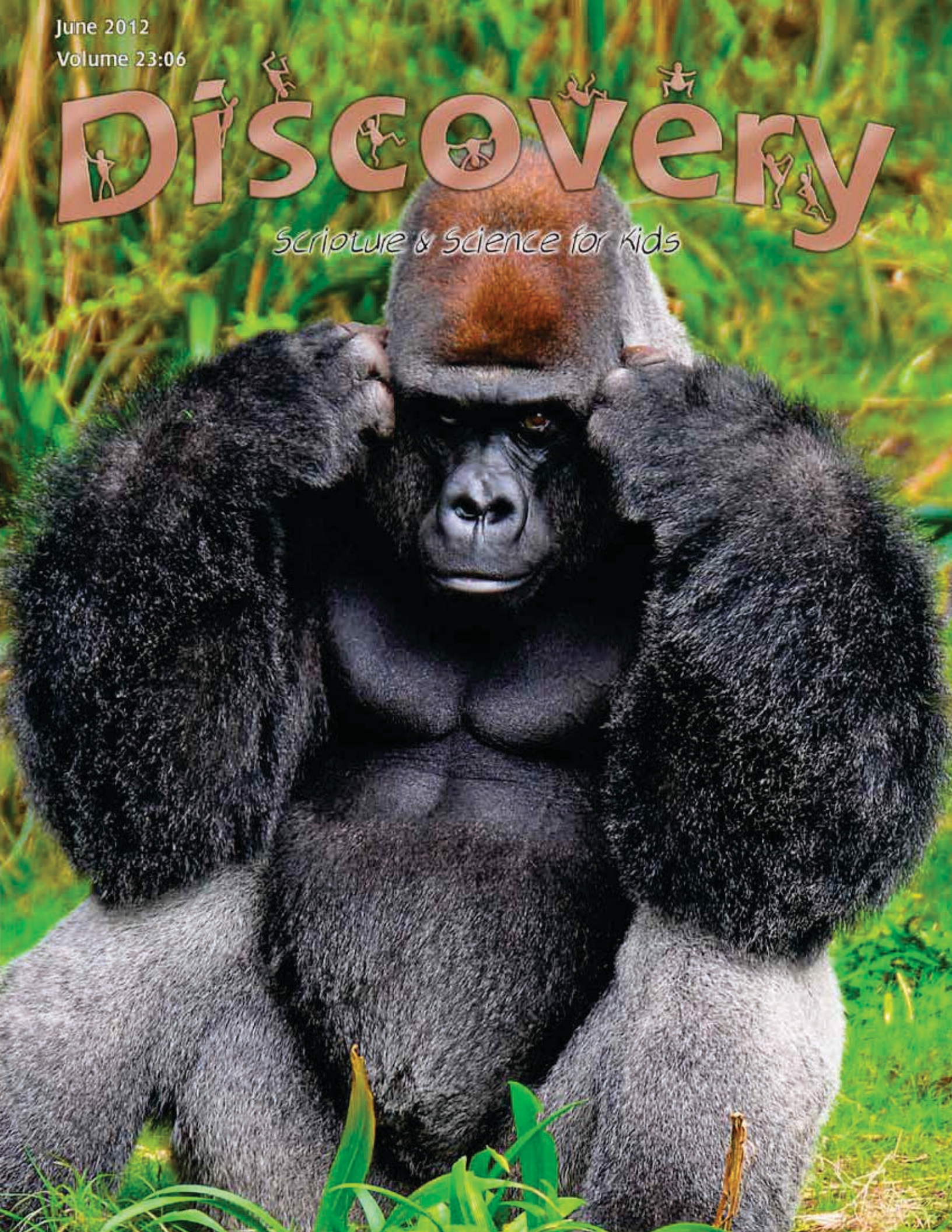


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Discovery

Scripture & Science for Kids



My TRIP to the ZOO

KYLE BUTT



ON TUESDAY, MAY 1 OF THIS YEAR I TOOK AN EXCITING TRIP TO THE ZOO IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. I SAW

all kinds of amazing animals that God designed. There were bears, lions, tigers, elephants, huge snakes and cheetahs, massive komodo dragons and bats, and scores of other interesting beasts. As I walked around looking at the animals and reading about their behavior on information boards, I was reminded of a couple of things. First, I was reminded of what an awesome God we have Who created all those different animals. Sadly, most zoos, including the one in Memphis, never give God any credit for His creation. In fact, many zoos and museums teach that evolution is responsible for all the different types of animals we see. I was encouraged to see that most of the exhibits in the Memphis zoo don't say anything about evolution. But it is unfortunate that the exhib-

its do not teach children that their loving heavenly Father designed and created the animals.

Second, I was reminded that any time we go to a zoo or a museum, we must understand that not everything that is being taught is the truth. As I said, most of the animal exhibits at the zoo did not say anything about evolution, but a few of the exhibits did teach some things about evolution that are very wrong. For instance, the zoo had a captivating exhibit that displayed several kinds of apes. The massive gorillas sat lazily in the shade as the kids and parents snapped pictures of them with

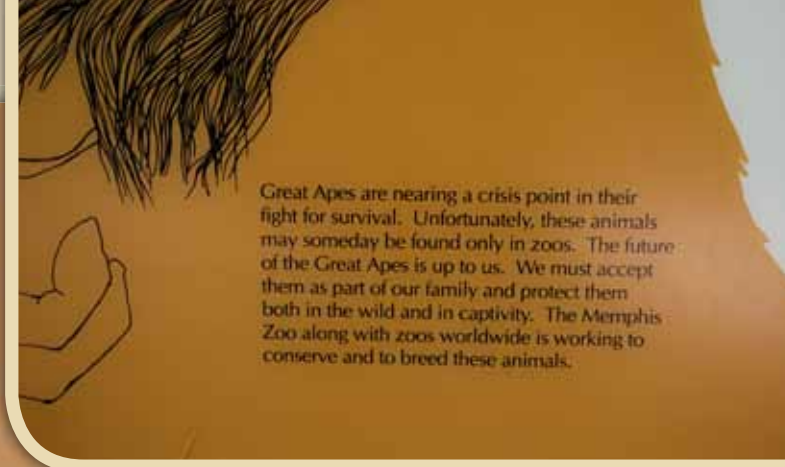


digital cameras and cell phones. In the middle of the exhibit was a large information board. The board presented several pictures of the different kinds of apes. It also presented the idea that apes are not just animals, but should be accepted into the human family.

One of the statements on the plaque said that humans and apes are very similar. The board then stated: "Despite these human similarities, we have not accepted them as part of our family." At the end of the plaque, the text said: "The future of the Great Apes is up to us. **We must accept them as part of our family** and protect them both in the wild and in captivity."

The information on the board is based on the idea that humans and apes evolved from a common ancestor. According to evolution, apes are distant cousins to humans. The people who wrote the information at the exhibit are trying to teach that humans and apes are relatives, in the same family, and that humans should protect their "cousins" just like they would protect other humans.

The fact is, however, that humans and apes are not relatives. God made Adam from the dust of the ground on the sixth day of Creation. He made Eve from one of Adam's ribs. In Genesis 3:20, the Bible says that "Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living." She was not the



Great Apes are nearing a crisis point in their fight for survival. Unfortunately, these animals may someday be found only in zoos. The future of the Great Apes is up to us. We must accept them as part of our family and protect them both in the wild and in captivity. The Memphis Zoo along with zoos worldwide is working to conserve and to breed these animals.

mother of any living ape, dog, or sheep. She was the mother of all living humans. Every human ever born descended from Eve. Humans did not evolve from ape-like creatures, and apes are not our relatives.

When God created Adam and Eve, the Bible says that He gave them "dominion" over all the creatures on the Earth. That means they could control the animals and use them to do work and other things. In Genesis 9:3, God told Noah and his family that all the animals, "every moving thing," could be used as food to keep Noah and his descendants alive.

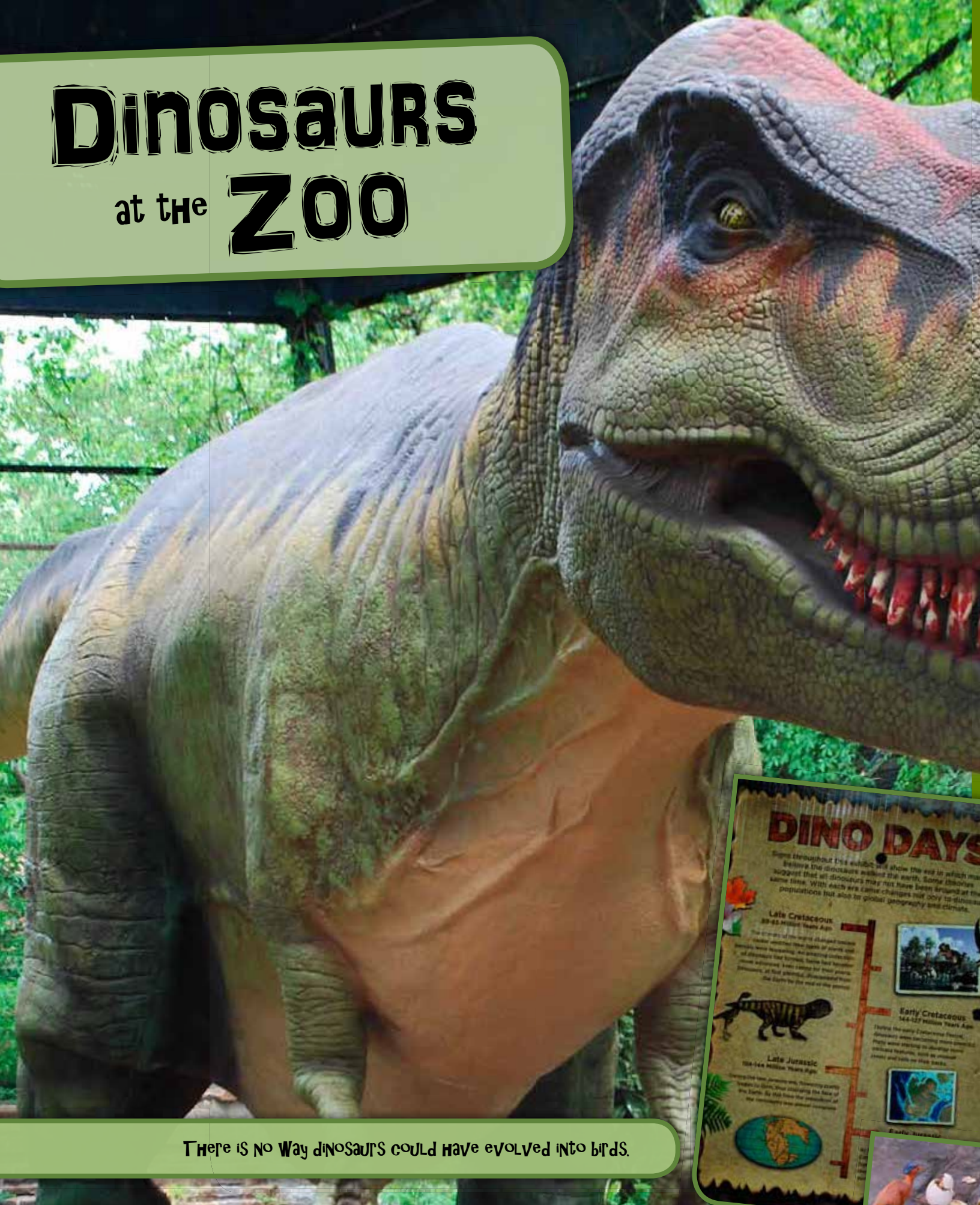
Humans and animals are very different. Humans have souls and animals do not. Humans use animals for food, like beef from cows and ham from pigs, but we do not use other humans for food. Nor would we put other innocent humans in a cage against their will to be exhibited at the zoo. But there is nothing wrong with putting animals in a cage to be exhibited at the zoo, since humans have dominion over the animals.

God designed humans in His own image (Genesis 1:26). He sent His Son to die for the sins of humans, so that their souls could be saved. God did not send His Son to die for animals, because they do not have souls and they cannot sin. No animals—not even apes—should ever be viewed as part of the human family.



Dinosaurs

at the **ZOO**



WELL, DON'T GET TOO EXCITED BY THE TITLE. OF COURSE THERE WERE NO LIVE DINOSAURS AT THE MEMPHIS zoo, since dinosaurs are extinct. But the zoo does have an incredible collection of life-sized dinosaur figures that move, make noise, and even look like they are breathing. One of the most interesting parts of the dinosaur exhibit is the *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

Before you enter the exhibit, a warning is posted that some of the material might be quite graphic. That is certainly true of the *T-rex*. The huge carnosaur (meat-eating dinosaur) is shown eating a wounded *Triceratops*. The *T-rex* moves its head up and down, while the wounded *Triceratops* breathes heavily and struggles to live.

There are lots of other interesting dinosaurs as well. A huge *Giganotosaurus* looms over the fence as children walk near its head. A baby *Stegosaurus* about the size of a small car "walks" among the plants. A huge-headed *Styracosaurus* seems to be looking for tasty vegetation to eat. A playful looking *Ankylosaurus* stares past a wooden fence at passers by. And several newly hatched *Parasaurolophus* babies are pictured scampering around in their nest. There is even a "dino dig" at the end of the exhibit where you can brush sand off of fossils like a "real" paleontologist.

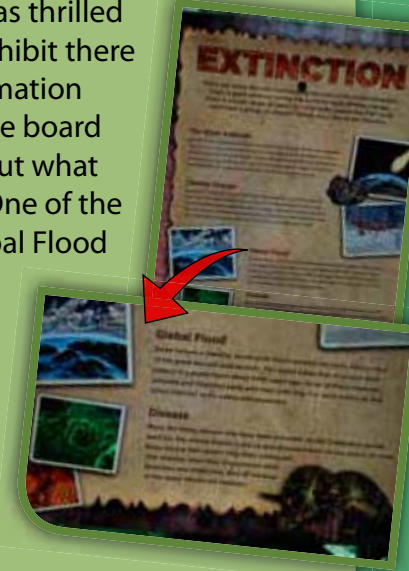
Even though the exhibit is great in many ways, it does present some false teaching. For instance, one information board explains that the dinosaurs evolved into birds. The plaque states that scientists "learned" this by studying a tiny shred of a protein from a *T-rex*. That simply is not true. While the *T-rex* protein may be similar to proteins found in birds, that does not prove dinosaurs are related to birds. In fact, there is no way dinosaurs could have evolved into birds. God created birds on day five of Creation. Land-living dinosaurs, such as the *T-rex*, were created on day six of Creation. Dinosaurs didn't evolve into birds. Birds were here first.

In addition to the false notion that dinosaurs evolved into birds, the exhibit also presents the idea that dinosaurs lived millions of years

ago. That is not true either. The world has not been around for millions of years. Land-living dinosaurs and humans were created on the same day of Creation only a few thousand years ago. At least the people who wrote the information at the exhibit said that the signs "show the era in which **many believe** the dinosaurs walked the earth." Just because many people believe dinosaurs lived millions of years ago does not make it true.

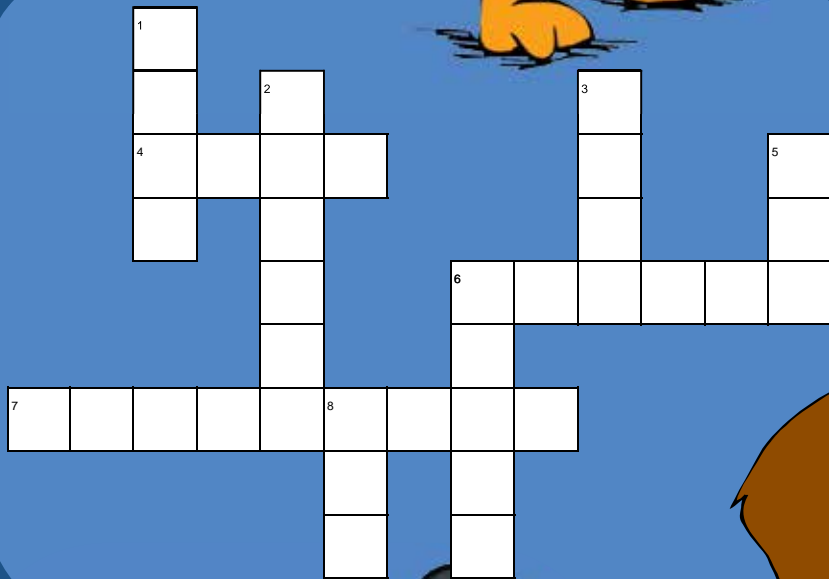
There was one sign that I was thrilled to see. Near the end of the exhibit there is a board that has on it information about dinosaur extinction. The board presents several theories about what happened to the dinosaurs. One of the ideas it presents is that a global Flood about 4,400 years ago killed most of the dinosaurs. The board states that some lived through the Flood (we would say on Noah's Ark) and died off later. It was the first time I had ever seen the idea of the Flood presented so clearly at such a secular dinosaur exhibit. Of all the "theories," the global Flood idea definitely fits the available evidence the best.

As people who believe in God, Creation, and the Bible, we should not be worried about visiting exhibits about dinosaurs and other animals because evolution might be taught. We should simply educate ourselves with the truth, and prepare to learn all the truth that we can, but reject any error that is taught. As the apostle Paul said, we are to "test all things; hold fast what is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21).



There is NO Way dinosaurs could have evolved into birds.

ACTIVITY PAGES



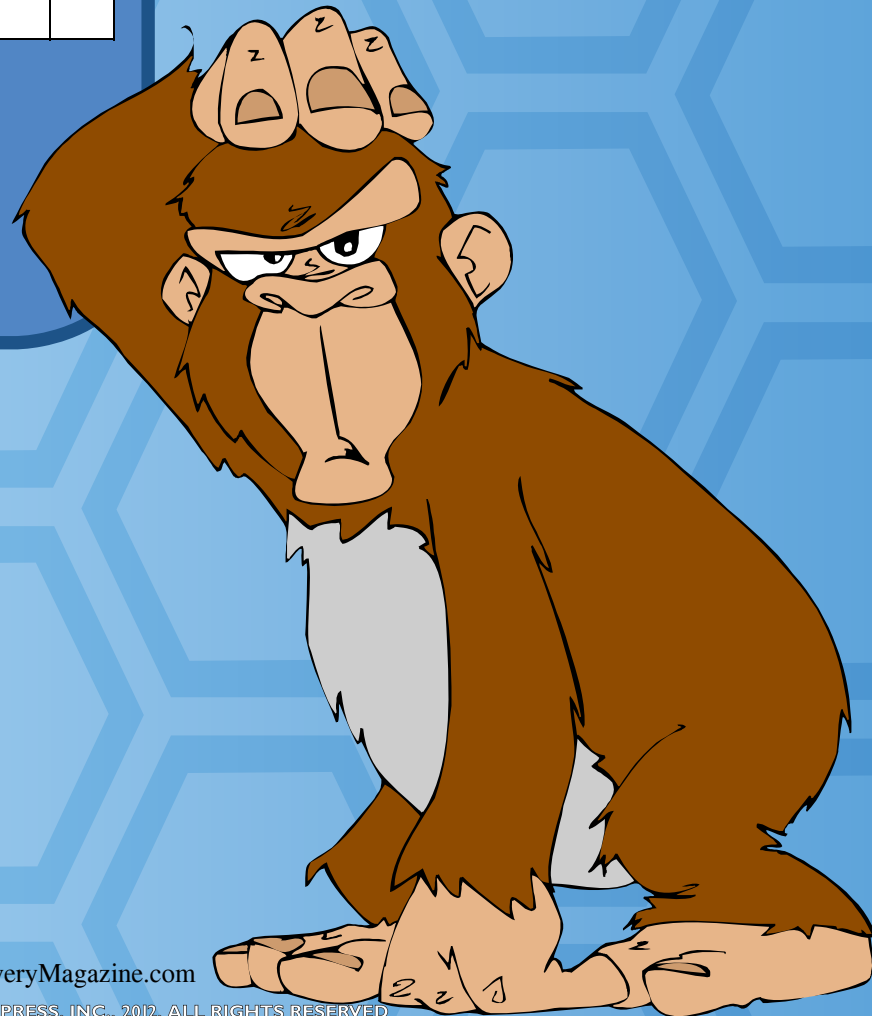
CROSSWORD CHALLENGE

Across:

4. First man
6. Number of hours pandas spend each day eating
7. Meat-eating dinosaur

Down:

1. First person recorded in the Bible that God said could eat animals
2. What pandas eat
3. Day of Creation on which God created birds
5. "The mother of all living"
6. The perfectly designed "tool" the panda uses to hold and eat bamboo
8. Day of Creation on which God made dinosaurs



TRUE OR FALSE

1. Most zoos never give God any credit for His creation.
2. Everything taught at zoos is true.
3. Apes are just animals.
4. It is vital for humans to accept apes as part of the human family.
5. Dinosaurs evolved into birds.
6. God created birds before dinosaurs.
7. The panda's thumb shows that the animal must have evolved.
8. Pandas evolved 30 million years ago.
9. Apes are distant cousins to humans.
10. Most zoos and museums teach that evolution is responsible for all the different types of animals we see.

FILL IN THE BIBLE VERSES (NKJV)

1. "_____ all things; hold fast what is _____" (1 Thessalonians 5:21).
2. "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have _____ over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over _____ the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God _____ man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them" (Genesis 1:26-27).
3. "And Adam called his wife's name _____, because she was the _____ of all living" (Genesis 3:20).

Dear Digger Doug,
How do hummingbirds flap their wings so fast?

—Jesse Mandigo, Wausau, WI

Dear Jesse,

That's a great question. Some hummingbirds can flap their wings 100 times or more per second. That is really fast! As you probably know, the theory of evolution teaches that hummingbirds evolved from less advanced birds, which supposedly evolved from animals millions of years earlier that did not even have wings.

If you were to make a robotic bird that could flap its wings 100 times per second, no one would ever conclude that your bird was the result of an explosion in a workshop or of some other accidental, naturalistic cause. Why would anyone think that mindless evolution, time, and random, chance processes could produce such amazing flying abilities as those found in hummingbirds?

The reason hummingbirds are capable of flapping their wings so fast, like little hovering helicopters, is because the great Creator gave them a perfectly designed body. Part of this design includes extremely strong, resilient muscles that are associated with flying, such as the pectoral and supracoracoideus (soo-pruh-cor-uh-COI-dee-us) muscles. These muscles make up a greater percentage of the overall weight of hummingbirds than most other birds, and contribute greatly in moving the wings of hummingbirds so quickly.

Thanks for writing!





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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Panda's THUMB



THIS CUDDLY LOOKING

PANDA WAS SO EXCITED ABOUT ALL THE DELICIOUS BAMBOO HE WAS EAT-

ing, that it was hard to get him to sit still long enough to snap a clear picture. The panda exhibit at the Memphis Zoo is outstanding. The glass barrier allows you to get within inches of the pandas. This big

guy was laid out on its back putting on a bamboo-eating show for the hundreds of visitors. Of all the pictures I took of the zoo creatures, I'm showing you the panda for a special reason. Pandas have a very unique thumb. Many years ago, a scientist named Stephen Jay Gould who taught evolution, said that the panda's thumb shows that the creature must have evolved. He said that the thumb of the panda is very clumsy and is

not well-designed. He argued that if God designed the panda's thumb, He would have made it more functional and more useful, like the thumb of a human. Gould said that the poor design of the panda's thumb proves an all-wise Creator did not design the panda.

What Gould did not understand is that the panda's thumb is perfectly designed to do the job it needs to do. Sure, the panda can't use its thumb to write a letter or screw a lid on a peanut butter jar. But its thumb is ideal for holding bamboo. In fact, the "clumsy" thumb of the panda can hold bamboo in a grip so tight it is like a vice. This allows the panda to strip the bamboo of its leaves and stem. That is good for the panda, because it spends about 12 hours every day eating about 50 pounds of food. In the wild, almost all of the food pandas eat is bamboo. They rarely eat anything else. We see then that their thumb is not an example of "bad design." Instead, God designed the panda to have the perfect tool it needed to eat bamboo all day long.



ANSWERS

FILL IN THE BIBLES VERSES: 1. Test, good; 2. dominion, all, created; 3. Eve, mother, 3. five; 6. thumb; 8. six. **TRUE OR FALSE:** 1-T, 2-F, 3-T, 4-F, 5-F, 6-T, 7-F, 8-F, 9-F, 10-T. **CROSSWORD CHALLENGE:** Across: 4. Adam; 6. twelve; 7. carnosau; Down: 1. Noah; 2. bamboo.

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