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VARIATION WITHIN A KIND*
by Lanny and Marilyn Johnson

Have you ever wondered where all the different varieties of animals come from? From whales to hummingbirds, there is a lot of variety in the living world. Although the Bible teaches that God created each of the kinds of animals to have more babies just like themselves, evolution teaches that the changes we see in animals happened through accidents or mistakes called mutations. Imagine if each animal was made up of a bunch of living puzzle pieces (*genes*). Each of those pieces is in charge of producing certain parts of their bodies – like arms, lungs, and hair. As new babies are born, these pieces get passed along and do the same jobs in babies as they did for their parents. Sometimes though, some of those pieces get lost or broken. When that happens, the results can be pretty strange.

For example, this rooster's name is TNR, which stands for **Totally Naked Rooster**.



Nobody was being mean to this poor chicken by pulling his feathers out. He was just born that way. The puzzle pieces that were supposed to make feathers got lost or broken leaving TNR totally naked. Why is not having

feathers bad for this rooster? First of all, think about the sun. When you and I are outside too much, we get sunburned. If we were staked out in the hot sun for two or three days without any protection, we would probably die. Too much sun is harmful to us. TNR, on the other hand, would not have to wait two or three days. In just a few hours he would get such a bad sunburn that he would start cooking. To protect ourselves from the cold, humans can put on clothes, turn up the heat in the house, or put another log on the fire.

But TNR would freeze to death! When flies and mosquitoes pester us, we can put on more clothes, use bug spray, or even swat the pests. A featherless chicken though, might be eaten alive!

If TNR could somehow survive, his babies might be naked as well. Although this is change, it is actually a loss of information (missing or broken puzzle pieces) in the genetic code. For an animal to evolve to another kind of animal, it has to gain information, not lose it. Mutations such as the loss of feathers, actually go against the idea of evolution.¹

Sometimes this can be confusing because we do see changes in animals. Take, for instance, the dog. A dog is what we call a "kind" of animal. We have very large dogs and we have very small dogs. Everything about these two dogs is very different. Yet, they are still dogs.



This is because within a kind you can have many different "puzzle pieces" or genes. Some will produce long hair, some curly hair, some long legs and some short legs. This is what we call *variation within a kind*. Beyond these variations, however, there seems to be an invisible barrier that the kinds cannot go beyond. For example, a cat cannot have offspring with a dog. Some would say that this is a process that "nature" has

developed. But the Bible says they were created that way. It says 10 times in Genesis that animals were created "after their own kind." – Not one kind changing into another kind.

On display in the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, was a picture of a dog-type creature. Underneath the picture was a story stating that this dog was the ancestor of modern whales. Other museums believe that a cow is the great, great, great, great...granddaddy of the whale. In fact, that seems to be the accepted story of most people that believe in evolution. Even at Sea World, as Shamu the killer whale went through his antics, the narrator used to share that Shamu's relatives used to walk on land.



Have you ever been to a beach? As you were walking along that beach, how many half-cow/half-whales have you run into? Have you looked into the ocean and seen a half-cow/half-whale swimming by? To get from one kind of a creature to another kind, we should see some intermediates somewhere. Do we see any of these half-creatures living today? No, we see cows and we see whales, but we never see anything halfway in between. We observe animals that were born after their own kind.



Even when we look at the fossil record, we see the same kinds of animals that we have today. Although some animals, like dinosaurs, are no longer around, it is clear that whales, dogs, and cows, have always been whales, dogs, and cows. Hmmmm, do you wonder then, why so many people still believe in evolution?

¹ Don Batten, Ken Ham, Jonathan Sarfati, and Carl Wieland, The Revised and Expanded Answers Book (Master Books, Inc., Green Forest, AR, 2000) pg. 25.

* Adapted from Discover Creation Children's Adventure.

Find the 21 differences between the two Nativity Scenes

FOR ANSWERS GO TO: <http://www.discovercreation.org/kids/NewsletterAnswers.htm>



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"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

May your heart be lifted in praise this Christmas for
the wonderful gift of Jesus and the joy
He brings to our lives.

Have a wonderful Christmas from all of us at
Alpha Omega Institute

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