



## EVOLUTION ILLUSION

### THE AGE OF THE EARTH

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#### Contents:

1. Dating Methods
2. Uniformitarianism
3. Young Earth
4. References

#### 1. Dating Methods

##### Rules for Honest Dating

Imagine that you are shown a burning candle, and are asked to estimate the time at which it was lit. To answer accurately, you would need to know:

1. The original length of the candle.
2. The rate at which the candle burns.
3. The current candle length.

4. Whether or not the current conditions around the candle have been uniform (that is, have they remained unchanged.)

##### Beginning our investigation

On enquiring about the candle's length you are given the candle's box. The original length is 350mm long.

On observing the candle, you notice the burn rate to be 10mm per hour. You measure the present candle length - you get 150mm. The flame has burned through 200mm of candle at a burn-rate of 10mm per hour.

The candle has therefore been burning for 20 hours. All you have to do now is subtract 20 hours from the current time to get the correct answer.

Simple, except that we have forgotten our fourth honest dating rule: Have the current room conditions remained uniform since the candle was lit?

In most dating methods you will notice this very important factor is often ignored.

Consider the candle again. Would the burn rate be affected if the room was filled with double the normal amount of oxygen? Without a doubt it would burn faster. What if someone blew out the candle for an indefinite period of time?

Factors such as these cannot be ignored as they can undermine not only the answers to our candle investigation, but also the various methods used to date the earth.

## The uniformitarianism assumption

To many it is a proven fact the earth is billions of years old. People, however, do not realize that these figures are based on an assumption called uniformitarianism. (Remember, an assumption is something assumed, but not proved to be true!)

Uniformitarianism assumes that the present conditions on the earth have remained unchanged far into the past. For example, in our candle experiment, uniformitarianism would assume that the conditions around the candle have remained unchanged -- this is of course something that we cannot know is true.

With this in mind let us examine some dating methods.

## Dating Methods

### A1. Radioactive Carbon Dating

In 1948, W. F. Libby developed a dating technique that involved the measurement of radioactive carbon (C-14) in the remains of organisms. Libby explained the technique as follows:

"Nitrogen atoms in the upper atmosphere are bombarded by neutrons produced by cosmic radiation resulting in the production of a known proportion of radioactive carbon (C-14) that becomes incorporated in atmospheric carbon dioxide. In turn, this carbon dioxide is absorbed by vegetation and passes into animal tissues when the plants are eaten. When the animal dies, no further isotope is absorbed and beta ray emissions gradually reduces the radioactivity of the remains to about a half after period of 5,730 years, called the "half-life" of the isotope."

Put Simply:

C-14 is formed in the upper atmosphere and is absorbed into plants. Animals eat the plants and so ingest C-14. When the animal dies, the C-14 begins to decay. Years later, when the animal's bones are found, the remains are dated by the level of C-14 decay.

Let's put the C-14 method to the test

1. What was the initial C-14 amount in the atmosphere? The amount is unknown.
2. What is the current rate of C-14 decay? The half-life of C-14 is 5,730 years.
3. What is the current amount of C-14 in the remains? It depends on the amount of C-14 that was in the atmosphere while the animal lived.
4. Has the C-14 content of the atmosphere been constant in the past? We don't know. This is an assumption as Libby himself explains below:

"Perhaps the most important single assumption of the radiocarbon dating method is that the rate of C-14 production by cosmic rays in the upper atmosphere has been constant."

This is a very important statement. Libby has just confessed that the C-14 method is based on assumption. The rate of C-14 production must be assumed to be constant.

If for whatever reason there was less C-14 in the atmosphere for a time, then all the remains from that time would contain less C-14 and so would seem older than they really are.

On the other hand, if for some reason there was an over production of C-14, the remains of that time would appear much younger. Libby's is a very important admission as it attacks the very foundation of this dating method.

The C-14 (radio carbon dating method) cannot be trusted to date accurately.

## A2. C-14 Measuring Reveals a Young Earth

During the formation of the earth there would probably have been excessive C-14 in the atmosphere. This C-14 would have to dissipate to achieve what Libby called, the "equilibrium value." Until this equilibrium was reached, no reliable dating could take place. C-14 takes about 30,000 years to completely dissipate. Evolutionists believe the earth is billions of years old, so it was assumed that the equilibrium value had already been reached.

However, in the 1960's, experiments showed that C-14 was forming 25% faster than it was decaying. Something was wrong.

Later, Melvin Cook -- a professor in Metallurgy -- showed that C-14 was indeed forming 38% faster than it was decaying! He explains the result as follows:

"This result has two alternate implications: either the atmosphere is for one reason or another in a transient build up stage as regards carbon 14... or else something is wrong in one or another of the basic postulates of the radiocarbon dating method."

Calculating the present radiocarbon formation figures, Cook then worked backwards to a time when there would have been zero C-14 in the earth's atmosphere. He arrived at a date 10,000 years ago!

Could it be that the earth is so young that the "equilibrium value" of C-14 has not yet been reached?

## B. Radiogenic Dating Methods

When you hear about fossils that are supposedly millions of years old, you can know that the scientists are using radiogenic dating methods. Radiogenic dating measures the rate of decay of radioactive elements in rock.

The Radiogenic method we will be examining is the Uranium/lead method

Uranium 238 has a half life of 4,5 billion years. This means that in 4.5 billion years time, half of the uranium will have completely decayed.

As it decays, it breaks into lead 206 and helium gas.

By measuring the ratio of lead 206 to uranium 238, scientist can estimate how old the earth is.

Let's test the method

1. How much lead 206 was innitially in the rock in question?

We don't know. It is possible that there was lead 206 around the uranium before it began decaying. This factor severely undermines the dating method.

1. What is the current rate of Uranuim 238 decay? The half-life of uranium 238 is 4.5 billion years.
2. What is the current Uranuim 238 decay in the earth?

We cannot say since we cannot know how much lead 206 is from the decay process and how much is not.

4. Is the uranium 238 decay rate constant?

No.

When stars explode, the surrounding areas are showered by cosmic radiation particles called "neutrinos". Neutrinos are able to penetrate deep into the earth's crust and once there they are able to speed up the uranium 238 decay process. In other words, this radiogenic dating method is continuously tampered with.

Neutrino showers happen fairly often. Since 1885, over 230 neutrino showers have been recorded. The measurement of uranium 238 to lead 206 is therefore unreliable as the decay process is regularly altered.

Since the uranium/lead method is not constant, there is no need to look into helium content in the atmosphere except to say that there is actually a lot less helium in the atmosphere than is expected.

Cook studied the lack of helium and estimated the earth to be about 175,000 years old. This is far fewer years than 4,5 billion years we are told to believe.

### C. Cosmic Dust

Every day cosmic dust and tiny meteorites enter the earth's atmosphere and settle on the land and oceans. Hans Peterson of the Oceanographic Institute of Göteborg has estimated that the rate of fall is about 14 million tons annually.

Over the years, general erosion, and catastrophic events such as the Genesis Flood, would have washed much of this dust into the oceans. Because cosmic dust contains up to 300 times more nickel than earth dust, we are able to track its presence in the oceans.

Henry Morris estimated that the nickel erosion into the oceans is around 750 million pounds per year. He also measured the total amount of nickel in the oceans to be around 7 billion pounds. This means that it would only take about 9,000 years for the oceans to reach its current nickel content. Could it be that the earth is only 9,000 years old?

Let us now apply the dating rules to this dating method:

#### 1. What was the original nickel content in the oceans?

We don't know. If the oceans contained much nickel originally, then the earth would be even younger than 9,000 years.

1. What is the current rate of nickel flow into the oceans? Henry Morris says about 750 million pounds per annum.
2. What is the current nickel content of the oceans? Henry Morris says about 7 billion pounds.
3. Has the rate of introduction of meteoric dust into the atmosphere and oceans remained constant?

We don't know. This fact also affects this entire dating method. A time of increased dust raining from space would make the earth seem older; while a time of little or no dust would make the earth seem much younger.

The conclusion is that this dating method cannot be used adequately to prove the age of the earth.

### D. Missing Meteorites

Although this is not a dating method, it does provide interesting information in regard to the age of the earth.

This is the geologic time scale. Evolutionists use this scale to categorize the fossil remains of animals into various time periods. This scale is built on the uniformitarian assumption that these layers of rock and animal remains were laid down in a uniform manner over hundreds of millions of years. Creationists, on the other hand, believe that many of these sediments were laid down mainly during one huge, catastrophic event - the Genesis Flood of only a few thousand years ago.

So, which view is correct?

One of the evidences used to support the creationist view involves meteorites. When a chunk of space rock enters our atmosphere, it usually burns up due to intense heat caused by friction. We commonly call these shooting stars. However, some larger rocks, or meteors, are able to break through and reach the earth's surface. These are called meteorites.

If evolutionists are correct in their assumption that the geologic scale has been building up over hundreds of millions of years, then surely geologists should unearth ancient meteorites throughout the geologic time scale on a fairly frequent basis? The scale should be peppered with thousands of ancient meteorites. It is not. Rather, the remains of meteorites are commonly found on, or very close, to the earth's surface.

What Does This Mean?

Either meteorites have only begun hitting the earth only fairly recently - which is something that is highly unlikely; or the creationist view is correct and the geological time scale is flawed.

The lack of meteorites in the geologic time scale casts serious doubt on the reliability of the scale, and the age of the earth as suggested by the geologic scale.



## 2. Uniformitarianism

Uniformitarianism is the assumption that conditions on earth have been under a slow gradual change for hundreds of millions of years into the past. This assumption fits well with evolution, since evolution, too, is said to involve slow and gradual change.

The opposite of uniformitarianism is catastrophism. Catastrophism comes from the word "catastrophe." The Biblical Flood was a catastrophe and is a powerful example of catastrophism.

One of the reasons many evolutionists refused to believe the Bible, was because it supported catastrophism and was directly opposed to uniformitarianism, and therefore also opposed evolution.

However, in the early 20th Century, a German meteorologist named Alfred Wegener was studying the shapes of the continents and concluded that all the land pieces must once have been one huge super-continent.

His findings were violently ridiculed by the evolutionists of the day because what he was proclaiming was catastrophism.

Unfortunately for the skeptics, Alfred Wegener was right, and by the 1960's, his ideas were well accepted. Many, however, still tried to apply the uniformitarian model to continental drift. Continents were said to wander aimlessly, perhaps as icebergs do through the oceans.

This concept has since been rejected as Melvin Cook wrote:

" One can be sure that the continents did not simply wander aimlessly over the surface of the earth: exceedingly strong forces must be applied to cause them to move through the powerful ocean crust. In fact, when they do move it is only under a force sufficient to fracture and plastically deform massive rocks of extremely high strength, a process that cannot occur uniformly but only in certain sudden, explosion-like processes."

So what was this "exceedingly strong" and "explosion-like" process that initially cracked the continents and then forced them through the "powerful ocean crust"?

In Genesis, we read about the catastrophic Flood of Noah. Moses recorded, that apart from water falling from the sky, "all the fountains of the great deep burst open" (Gen. 7:11). "[A]ll the fountains of the deep" strongly suggest a global eruption of tremendous tectonic forces.

For many years the Flood of the Bible was ignored because it was catastrophic and did not therefore fit into the uniformitarian model. Today however, evolutionists happily speak of catastrophic events, such as comets destroying the dinosaurs, but it was not always this way.

It is interesting to note as time goes by, scientific discoveries simply affirm events as recorded in the Bible.



## 2. Young Earth

Good day sir, madam. Welcome to the all natural while-U-wait store. How may we help you today?

### A. Canyon While You Wait

When one visits the Grand Canyon in America, one is faced with a yawning chasm 200 miles long, up to 18 miles wide in places and as much as 1 mile deep. How did this natural wonder form, and how long did it take?

The evolutionary guesses range from hundreds of millions to as much as a billion years! However, such estimates are based on the uniformitarianism assumption and do not take catastrophic events, such as the Genesis Flood into account.

In 1980, a catastrophic event took place which has forever changed the way many geologists look at canyon formation. On May 18, Mt. St. Helens, in Washington State, USA exploded. The energy released was estimated to be equivalent to 500 WW2 Hiroshima atom bombs. In 6 minutes, 150 miles of forest was wiped out. Over the next 6 years, 600ft of sediment was laid down - That's a load of soil 200m high!

On March 19, 1982, some of the subsequent mudflows, formed a canyon 140 feet deep in ONE DAY! This new canyon is 1/40th the size of the Grand Canyon and was appropriately dubbed the "little Grand Canyon."

In the Genesis flood, the rain lasted forty days and nights, and the flood lasted about a year. If the Little Grand Canyon, which is 1/40th the size of the Grand Canyon could form in one day, then it is certainly possible for the Grand canyon to have formed if not within the 40 days and nights of rain, at least during the year long Flood.

### B. Stagmites and Stalactites

Stalagmites and stalactites are icicles, usually made of lime, that are said to need about 100 years to grow a single inch. Using these figures, it is only natural for people to assume that some Stalagmites and stalactites are tens of millions of years old. With evidence like this, how can the earth possibly be less than 10,000 years old as taught in the Bible?

But, there is growing evidence to support super quick growth of stalagmites and stalactites.

Entombed Bat!

In October 1953, The National Geographic magazine, published a photograph of a bat that had fallen onto a stalagmite in the Carlsbad caverns. The stalagmite had grown so quickly that it covered and preserved the bat before it had time to even decompose!

In 1975, J. Trout and a caving team noticed stalagmites growing behind the stalagmite with the entombed bat. According to 3 month old photo records, these stalagmites were new. The amazing fact is that one of these new stalagmites was 12 inches long! This gives this particular stalagmite an average growth rate of 4 inches per month - that is growth 4,800 times faster than the uniformitarian 1 inch per century theory!

#### Lincoln Memorial

Another amazing example of super fast stalagmite growth can be found growing from the basement ceiling of the Lincoln Memorial, in Washington DC. We know this memorial was built in 1923, but according to the uniformitarianism approach - the building must have been completed 6,000 years ago. That's about 4,000 years before Jesus was born!

#### Milwaukee Museum

The Milwaukee Public Museum has 6ft stalactites growing in an unused wing. According to the uniformitarianism assumption, the Museum must therefore have been built over 5000 B.C.

#### C. Hard Rock!

Petrification is a process where objects such as plant and animal matter are turned into stone over supposed millions of years. But, there is strong evidence to counter petrifications' need for millions or even thousands of years!

#### Techno-Dino

Max Han and his family found this petrified iron hammer near London, Texas. The rock in which this hammer was found, according to evolutionists, is about 140 million years old. Either the evolutionists' dating techniques are wrong, or the dinosaurs were a lot more technologically advanced than previously imagined!

#### Limestone Cowboy

In 1980 near Iraan, West Texas, USA, a rubber-soled cowboy boot was discovered in a dry river bed by Jerry Stone of the Corvette Oil company. Inside the boot were petrified human leg and foot bones. Gayland Leddy of Boot Town, Garland, Texas recognized the boot as the "number 10 stitch pattern" used by his uncle's boot company. Mr. Leddy believes the boot was made in the late 1950's. Leftovers

H.G. Labudda of Kingaroy, Australia has in his possession a perfectly petrified orange from a river in Gadyah. Although Gadyah is well-known for its oranges, oranges were not grown there until 1968.



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