

Beginning 31 - Activities

✓ **Further Understanding:** Investigation/Reasoning Skills

The Geologic Column

In school you may have studied the geologic column. What is the geologic column? The geologic column is the way people who believe in evolution date the sedimentary rock layers found around the earth and the age of the fossils that they contain.

Evolutionists use the column to support their theory that the earth is hundreds of millions of years old. They believe it must be that old to accommodate the evolution of basic matter into complex life forms. They hold to a theory of uniformitarianism.

What is uniformitarianism? Uniformitarianism is the belief that the present is the key to the past. It is a belief held by evolutionists that the events of the past were no different from those possible today. They believe the earth was formed by gradual processes over hundreds of millions of years. The geologic column was developed based on the idea of uniformitarianism.

Why wouldn't a person who holds to uniformitarianism accept the idea of a global flood?

The global flood was a catastrophic event that changed the face of the earth. Someone who holds to uniformitarianism would say it is a myth because nothing like it has happened or is happening today. They discount the fact that the past may have been very different from the present and that a catastrophic event like the flood could have formed the face of the earth rather than gradual processes over hundreds of millions of years.

Does the geologic column actually exist? A complete geologic column of the thickness represented and with the index fossils shown on charts does not actually exist any place on earth. In fact, only one percent or less of the earth's surface has all ten geological layers with most of them being very shallow.

In some places, layers that should be more recent underlie layers that are supposed to be older. The geological column is really a hypothetical (an idea not proven to be true) system based on selected outcroppings of rocks in Europe.

What does catastrophic mean? Involving sudden great change or damage. The worldwide flood would have been a catastrophic event.

What would be evidence of a worldwide flood? If there were a huge catastrophic event like the flood, one would expect to find lots of evidence to support it. There would be billions of fossils buried in sedimentary layers all around the world as tons of sediment (dirt, sand, etc.) would have been deposited on top of all the plants and animals that were wiped out everywhere on earth.

Does the evidence support a worldwide flood? There are lots of fossils all over the world. Most of the fossils are jumbled piles of bones and plants and sea life showing a quick burial. The most common fossils are of sea creatures that are broken into pieces and found in different rock layers in all areas of the earth. Many of them are

How would the flood have provided the right conditions for fossils to form? Remember that for fossils to form burial has to be rapid and deep in moist soil. The flood would have

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provided the perfect conditions for massive amounts of fossils to form and the uplifting of mountains at the end of the flood would explain their placement on mountains.

What do the fossils in the geologic column show? Since specific fossils are generally found sorted into different layers of rock evolutionists say that the fossils found in the sedimentary layers represent different ages or stages of the evolution of life on earth.

In order for evolution to be true there would have to be transitional forms between types of life as one thing changed into another. Why doesn't the geological record support evolution? There are no fossils of transitional forms (one animal changing into another) in the geologic record. All fossils in the geological record are fully formed. This supports creation as God created each type of animal after its own kind.

How does the flood offer a rational explanation for the layering of fossils in the sedimentary layers? As the waters began to flood the earth, different animals would have died at different times.

What would have been the first animals to die? Generally, the first animals to die would have been those that were immobile (couldn't move) and lived in the lowest places on earth. Those that were able to move and had some level of intelligence would have moved to higher ground to escape the water. Of these, the slowest moving and least intelligent animals would have died first.

Why wouldn't the column have many fossilized birds or mammals? There wouldn't be many fossilized birds or mammals as most of these would have moved to higher ground and instead of being buried would have floated in the water and rotted. [Look at the geologic column to see if this makes sense.]

What about the dates of the geologic column? The dating methods used to determine the age of rocks in the geologic column are not reliable. Remember that when scientists assume that something is old it causes them to interpret the evidence in a way that supports their theory.

Scientists agree that many species of animals were wiped out at one time in the earth's history. Many suggest that the earth was hit by an asteroid, which caused the climate to change.

Do you think an asteroid or a worldwide flood was the more likely cause of a change in the earth's climate and contributed to the mass extinction of dinosaurs and other animals?

The layers of sedimentary rock that cover the earth show that massive amounts of sediment were laid down by moving water all over the world. The continual upheaval and change to the earth's surface during the flood would have caused sediment to be deposited in different layers. So, too, would have the draining of the water from the earth's surface as the mountains were pushed up and the ocean bottoms sunk. This would have allowed the water to recede and settle, forming additional levels of sediment. Depending on what died first or was churned up at the time the sediment was laid down, different layers of sediment would contain different organisms.

How did coal and oil form? Around the earth there are huge deposits of coal and oil, both of which are formed from the burial of massive amounts of organic material under the right

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conditions. Evolutionists say that the coal and oil formations are hundreds of millions of years old. Again, scientists think they are old because they assume the earth is old. However, under the right conditions coal and oil can form in thousands, rather than millions of years. They have even been made in a laboratory setting. The flood would have caused the burial of huge amounts of organic matter (plants and sea life) and provided the necessary conditions for the formation of coal and oil.

- **Game:** Find the Olive Branch (Variation of Hide the Hanky)

As a reminder that Noah sent out a dove that came back with an olive branch once the waters receded, play find the olive branch.

Instructions: Use either a picture of an olive branch or a real olive branch and select one child to hide it while the others have their eyes covered and closed. Once it is hidden the children get up to search for it. Anyone who sees it sits down and waits for the others to find it. The one who saw it first gets to hide it next.