

Genesis

Noah and the Great Flood

(Genesis 6:1- 9:17)

INTRODUCTION

How do you feel when kids around you seem to be having a good time doing something wrong? (Discuss situations of negative peer pressure.) Does it make you want to join in at times? Sometimes it's very hard to keep on doing right when you seem to be the only one who loves the Lord and wants to please Him. But if you know the Lord Jesus as your Savior, God will help you to keep on doing right no matter what others do. A man in our lesson today loved God and stood up for what was right even though everyone else was doing wrong.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, we want to know You better and to love You more, open our ears this morning so that we might learn all we can about Your plan for our lives. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

MEMORY VERSE

When I see the rainbow in the clouds, I will remember the eternal covenant between God and every living creature on earth. (Gen 9:16)

LESSON

We've been studying through the book of Genesis. Adam and Eve had many children because they lived for hundreds of years (Adam lived 930 years). Soon there was a population explosion upon the earth. And as time went on, people drifted farther and farther away from God. They became selfish, hateful, and evil.

Genesis 6:5-6

Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

When the Lord God saw the extent of human wickedness, He was sorry He had made them. It filled His heart with pain. He decided to blot out from the face of the earth all mankind and the animals, too.

Genesis 6:8

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

Noah was a pleasure to the Lord. He was the only truly righteous man living on the earth at that time. He always tried to follow God's will. So, God warned Noah that He would destroy the world and instructed him to build a boat.

Genesis 6:14

Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.

Gopherwood is resinous wood, and he made it water tight by spreading tar on it.

Genesis 6:15-16

And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from

above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second and third decks.

The ark was as long as 1½ football fields, as tall as a four-story building, and as wide as a city block. Over 400 railroad box cars could fit on this boat; plenty of room for two of every kind of animal in the world.

It took 120 years (Genesis 6:3) for Noah to build the ark. While he was working on it his neighbors must have wondered what he was doing. Up to that point in time there had never been any rain and probably no clouds either. So, when Noah told them what God was going to do they must have thought he was crazy.

Genesis 6:17

And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die.

The people probably laughed at Noah and made fun of the boat he was building. But Noah continued to obey God. He knew that no matter what other people thought about him, it's important to obey God.

Has it ever been hard for you to obey God because you knew your friends didn't understand? Sometimes we have to make hard choices to do the right thing, even when all our friends want to do something else. It may seem easier to copy someone else's homework or cheat on a test like a lot of kids do, but what would be the right thing for you to do? Why? Or, it may seem easier to do a halfway job on your chores to get them done faster, especially if your friends do, but what would be the right thing for you to do? Why?

Others around you may not be doing what is right, and they may even think you're foolish. But God says to keep doing right and not give up. Noah did just that! People no doubt made fun of him and even hated him, but he continued to be faithful to God by doing right. Finally the day came to get in the ark.

Genesis 7:11-16

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah and Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark—they and every beast after its kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort. And they went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which is the breath of life. So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in.

God closed the big door of the ark.

Genesis 7:19-20

And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered.

This was no ordinary rainstorm. Water rose up from beneath the ground and came down from the heavens in torrents.

Remember that on the second day of creation God separated the waters below from the waters above to make a space for the sky? Well, it is at this point that the waters above the sky came down to flood the whole earth. The water rose up until it covered everything and everybody outside of the ark.

But Noah and his family and all the animals were safe inside the ark because they had followed God's directions. They were resting in God's love and care.

We can rest in God's love, too, when we obey Him. How do you know what His will is for your life? (*Pray, read the Bible, and get advice from godly people you know.*) God wants us to have a good life, but we must follow and obey His directions like Noah did. God always knows what is best for us. It can be hard to keep on doing what is right when others are doing wrong things, but remember God is with you every minute of the day. He will give you

strength, just like He did Noah, to keep on serving God and trusting Him year after year without quitting.

Genesis 7:24

And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.

The waters covered the earth for 150 days. That's five months of being cooped up in a boat with a lot of stinky animals!

Genesis 8:1-3

Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided. The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained. And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the water decreased.

When the rain finally stopped, Noah opened the window. The ark was surrounded by water so they couldn't leave the boat yet.

One day Noah set a raven free, then a dove. The dove came back with some fresh leaves in her beak, so Noah knew that plants were beginning to grow again. When Noah released another dove, it didn't come back, so Noah knew that it had found good food and a place to live.

Finally, it was time to get off the boat.

Genesis 8:15-17

Then God spoke to Noah, saying, "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth."

So from Noah's family and the animals that were put on the ark, the whole earth was repopulated. So you can say that we are all related to Noah. He was our great, great, great, great grandpa and we're all cousins!

Noah was so thankful to be alive and to be off the boat that the first thing he wanted to do was worship God.

Genesis 8:20-21

Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma. Then the Lord said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done."

What is your first reaction when something good happens to you? Do you want to thank God like Noah did? God was pleased with Noah's offering and made a promise to all mankind.

Genesis 9:14-16

It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.

Each time we see a rainbow, we can remember God's many promises to us. What is a promise God has made to you? (*He will never leave us, His love for us is everlasting, He will forgive our sins if we ask Him to...*) God has promised to help you to keep on doing right no matter what others do.

Noah's experience was written down for us in the Bible so that we might see how it applies to us. If you believe that Jesus paid the price for your sins, then you are *in Christ*—that is like getting into Noah's ark. By being a Christian, we become safe from Satan and the everlasting damnation of hell. Are you sure you are *in Christ*? Do you know for sure that you are saved from the penalty of your sins? There is only one place for you to be safe from God's punishment for sin. That place of safety is the Lord Jesus Christ.

God promised Noah that He would never destroy the earth by water again. But, the Bible tells us there is a day coming when He will destroy it by fire. We must trust and obey God, so that we won't be caught unaware when it happens.

Closing Prayer

Thank You God for inspiring Moses to write down what happened with Noah. There is so much for us to learn from his life. Just as You preserved Noah's life as You promised Him, so You will preserve our life as You have promised us. We want to always remember to trust and obey You in everything we do. And we always want to remember to thank You for all the good things that You do for us. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

LEARNING CENTERS

Imagination Station

(Craft Center)

Choose from the following suggested activities:

1. Let It Rain

Rain forms when growing cloud droplets become too heavy to remain in the cloud and, as a result, fall toward the earth's surface in the form of rain. But did you know that rain can also begin as ice crystals that collect to form large snowflakes? As the falling snow passes into warmer air, the flakes melt and collapse into raindrops.

Use raindrops to create beautiful and unique paintings you can frame and hang on a wall.

Materials:

- Water-soluble paint
- Paintbrush
- Markers
- Poster board
- Spray bottles

Procedure:

Use water-soluble paint or markers to make solid blocks of color on poster board. Then put the paper in the rain for a short time. (You may use squirt bottles, if it's not raining outside.) Watch as the rain "paints" your paper. Take the paper out of the rain when you think the painting is finished (before all the color is washed away). Experiment by making raindrop paintings in a light rain or drizzle, a steady rain, and a real downpour.

2. Rainbow Treats

Serve your Rainbow Treats garnished with whipped topping and rainbow sprinkles. This will surely bring a smile



and goes great with the Bible lesson on Noah and the Ark!

Materials:

- 6 small boxes of Jell-O in the following colors: purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, and red.
- Clear plastic cups
- Water

Procedure:

Start preparing the Rainbow Treats 6 days prior to serving, as follows:

- Day 1: Prepare the purple Jell-O, pour a small amount into each plastic cup. Refrigerate overnight to set.
- Day 2: Prepare the blue Jell-O and pour a small amount over the purple Jell-O in each cup. Refrigerate overnight to set.
- Day 3: Prepare the green Jell-O.
- Day 4: Prepare the yellow Jell-O.
- Day 5: Prepare the orange Jell-O.
- Day 6: Prepare the red Jell-O.

3. Make a Fossil

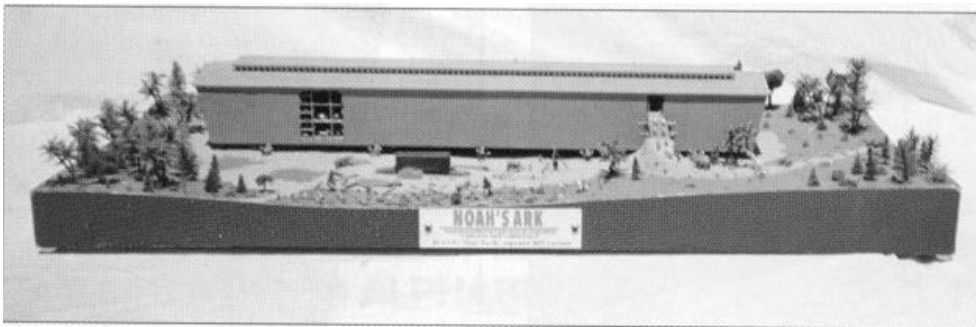
Mix plaster of Paris with a little water in a paper cup with a wide bottom.

Let it harden about five minutes — just enough for the child to place a shell into it. A scalloped type shell makes a nice print. But, there are various things found in fossils so if shells aren't available just use your imagination.

Let the "fossils" harden about twenty minutes

Have the children peel the paper off their "fossils".

4. Make a Model of the Ark



You can order the pattern for a visual presentation of Noah's Ark from the Institute for Creation Research, P.O. Box 2667, El Cajon, CA 92021. Have the pieces pre-cut and let the children assemble, paint and decorate.

5. Make a Promise Keeper Mobile

The rainbow was—and is—God's sign of the covenant he made with all life on earth (Gen 9:8-17). How cool that the Creator of the whole universe remembers His promise every time a rainbow appears!

Here's something to help you remember to live for God.

1. Cut a paper plate in half. Color or paint a rainbow on the plate half.
2. Cut large raindrop shapes from heavy paper. On each raindrop write a promise to God.
3. Tape lengths of yarn to the raindrops, then tape the yarn to the back of the rainbow.

4. Hang your rainbow in a window where you'll see it every day. Remember your promises, just like God remembers His.

Fun House

(Game Center)

Choose from one of the following game ideas:

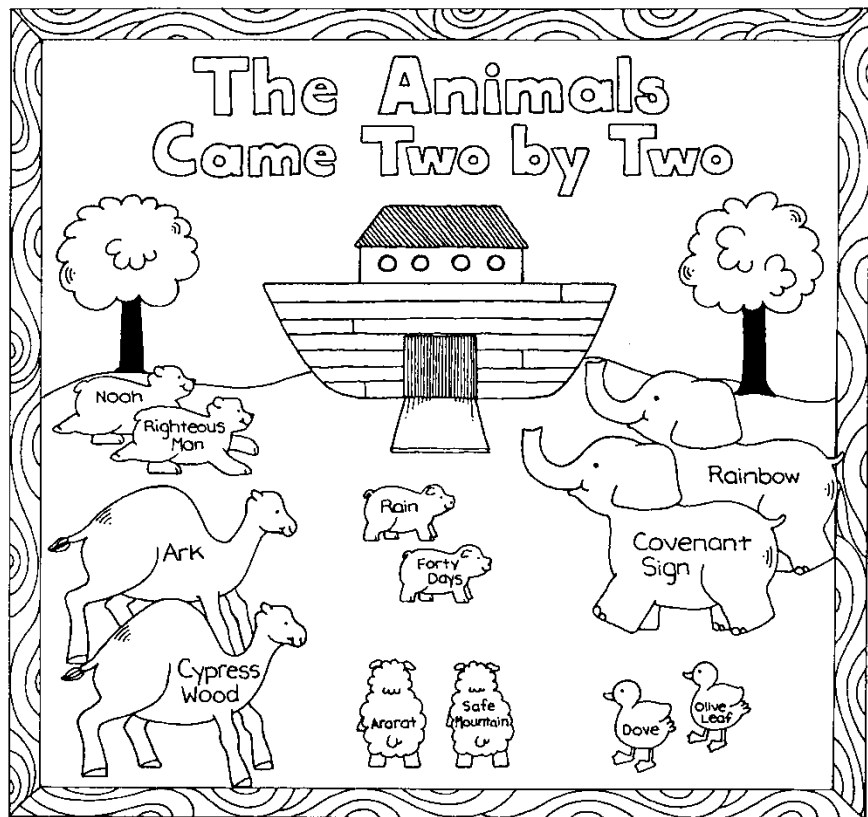
1. Animal Match Game

Object

To teach children the story of Noah

Procedure

Cover the bulletin board with white butcher paper or newsprint. Make letters on construction paper or print "The Animals Came Two by Two" and position it at the top center. Reproduce large ark and place it on the board as shown. Trees may be added. Before class make two copies of each animal. On one of the animals print "Noah" and on the matching animal print "Righteous Man." Continue with the remaining five sets of animals using the following title pairs: "Ark" and "Cypress Wood," "Rain" and "Forty Days," "Rainbow" and "Covenant Sign," "Dove" and "Olive Leaf," "Ararat" and "Safe Mountain." Before class, scatter the animals around the room.



Game Time

Instruct children to find the animals. When all twelve are found, have each child find the person who has the matching animal. Have children attach their pairs to the board with tacks or tape. Lead a discussion about the words on each matching pair and what they mean.

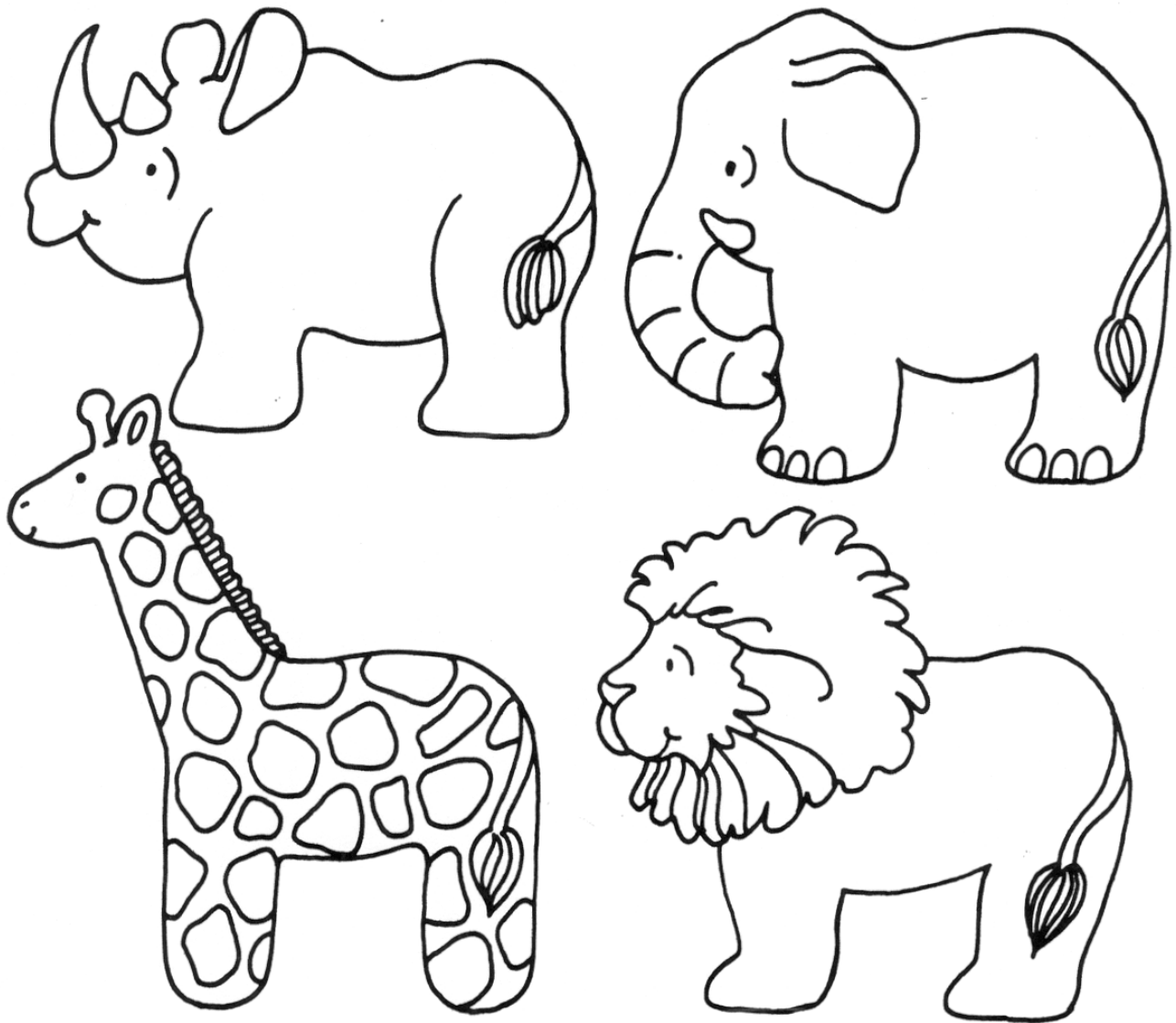
2. Noah's Ark Toss

Preparation

- Make two copies of each of the animals pictured on the next page.
- Color the animals and laminate them, if possible, then cut them out.
- Use rubber bands and/or paper clips to attach them to weighted cartons.
- Put a clothespin at the top of each carton and set the cartons in two rows.
- Make five rings to toss by cutting out sections of round ice-cream containers or other round containers.

Game Time

- Divide the children into two teams.
- If the player can answer a question about today's lesson correctly he gets a chance to toss the five rings.
- The player stands behind a line about six feet from the containers. If a ring lands around any of the clothespins on the animal cartons, the player wins 100 points for his team.
- Give candy to all, two candies for each on the winning team.

**Review Questions:**

1. What book in the Bible tells us about Noah? (Genesis)
2. How did God feel about the evil on the earth? (He was sorry He made humans.)
3. What is an Ark? (A large boat)
4. Who designed the Ark? (God)
5. How big was the Ark? (450 feet long; 400 railroad box cars could fit on this boat.)
6. Why did Noah find favor with God? (He lived his life in a way that pleased God.)

7. Did Noah ignore all the wicked people that lived around him? (No, he preached to them.)
8. What do you think Noah's neighbors thought about him? (That he was crazy.)
9. How did Noah ever find two of every kind of animal to bring on the Ark? (God brought them to the Ark.)
10. Were there dinosaurs on the Ark? (Yes; they could have been in eggs or they could have been babies.)
11. Who closed the door of the Ark?
12. How did Noah feel when he stepped back on land? (He worshipped God with thanksgiving.)
13. What does the rainbow mean? (A reminder of God's promise not to flood the earth again.)
14. How many doors did the Ark have? (One) And, Jesus said, "I am the door."
15. Did the Flood cover the entire earth? (Yes, it went 22 feet above the highest mountain.)
16. How many people survived the Flood? (8 – Noah and his 3 sons and their wives.)
17. The only safe place during the Flood was in the Ark. Where is the only safe place for us to be? (In Christ!)
18. How do you get "in Christ"? (By believing that Jesus paid the price for our sin.)
19. When we are "in Christ" what are we safe from? (Satan and the everlasting damnation of hell.)
20. What are some promises that God has made to us? (He will never leave us; His love for us is everlasting; He will forgive our sins if we ask Him to...)

God's Weird and Wonderful World

(Science Center)

Choose from the following suggested activities:

1. Discover Rainbows

Rainbows are made from sunlight hitting rain droplets that reflect the white light into its spectrum of colors. (Illustrate with a prism if possible.)

Discuss the fact that God gave us the rainbow as a sign of His promise that He would never again cut off all flesh by the waters of a flood. When God makes a promise, He always keeps it. We can put our trust in Him.

2. Discover Fossils

Evolutionists say that life started as very simple animals (like algae) and continuously evolved, over long periods of time, a little bit at a time, into very complex ones (like man). The fossil record is the basis for the evolutionist viewpoint.

If the fossil record is the basis for the evolutionist view, what do you think that the fossil record would have to show to "prove" the evolutionists theory? The fossil record would have to show examples of fossils with only slight changes between them as they got more complicated. (Teacher, use the white board to draw the evolutionary sequence, beginning with a simple celled creature, going through a worm, a coral, a fish, a frog, a dinosaur, an ape and a man. To encourage participation, ask the kids to suggest what might come next after you draw the first one.)

Observing Fossils

Fossils are the remains of plants and animals that become petrified and are preserved in rock. If you have some actual fossils to examine, note how some look like things that we can see today, and how some are like things that don't exist today.

What Fossil Evidence Would Show Us That Evolution Was the Right Theory?

A fossil record that shows simple plants and animals in very old rocks, and very complex plants and animals in very young rocks. In addition, many fossils show the slow change between the simple and the complex in the middle-aged rocks.

What Fossil Evidence Would Show Us That Creation Was the Right Theory?

Simple plant and animal fossils in very old rocks would generally look like simple plants and animals that we see today. Complex plants and animals in old rocks would be similar to complex plants and animals found today. There would be no fossils that showed a link between different plant and animal groups.

What Does the Fossil Record That We See Today Suggest?

First, the record lacks "transition" fossils that link different groups. See <http://emporium.turnpike.net/C/cs/evid1.htm> for a thorough discussion. Second, there are some good examples of both complex and simple fossils in the same geologic rock formations (Paloxi River formation, etc.). See <http://pathlights.com/.htm> for a thorough discussion.

Darwin was troubled about the lack of evidence in the fossil record to support his theory of evolution. He felt in time that intermediate fossils would be discovered as more fossils were found. But the opposite has in fact taken place. As time has gone by, millions of fossils have been found and yet there is still no evidence that one kind of plant or animal evolved into another. The more fossils we have, the less evidence there is for evolutionist. They are now changing their story from gradual evolution to spontaneous appearances of new life forms.

Additional Notes

See <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Delphi/4881/frameset.html> for a more comprehensive listing of anti-evolution arguments. This is part of the Creation Science Resource website.

Demonstrate How to Make a Carbon Fossil

Before you begin, show the children a real carbon fossil of a delicate leaf found on a rock. Then make carbon as follows:

- Hold a piece of aluminum foil about an inch above a candle flame until carbon from the flame coats the foil. (Caution them never to attempt this without an adult!)
- Place the foil carbon side up on the table and place a leaf on top of the carbon.
- Place a paper towel on top of the leaf and firmly press upon it so that the carbon adheres to the leaf.
- Carefully lift the leaf off and place it on a white piece of construction paper.
- Place a clean piece of paper towel on top of the leaf and press down so that the carbon leaves a nice print on the paper.

3. Discover How God Brought the Animals to the Ark

Key Points:

- Discuss possible ways of gathering all the animals. Since God does not give us details on this point, then we can only imagine what the possibilities are.
- Just as God made sure that all the animals were on the ark, so He has put mysterious instincts into animals of our day.
- How could all the animals have been cared for by Noah and his family? Do the children have any ideas as to how this could have been carried out?
- God has also made provisions for animals in our day to be able to withstand the weather and lack of available food.

Background Information

Due to the probable worldwide warm climate, animals were probably more widely distributed than they are today.

God may well have used supernatural intervention to bring the animals to the ark.

God may have used the ability of some animals to hibernate as one means of dealing with the tremendous

workload that Noah and his family would have faced.

Science Activity:

Take the children on an imagined migration route of a Canadian goose (or another creature found locally).

Make the migration route a set of stations where the children learn about the various stages of the Canadian goose's life. For example, the first stop explains where the geese are born, what the habitat is like, and so forth. "Migrate" to other stations that explain the various stages of a goose's life including the fact that they mate for life, where they have their young, where they go every winter, etc. End the migration route with the Canadian goose dying. Have the youngest children reenact the dying goose.

[For more expositional lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]