

Creation

Day #5 of Creation: Fish and Birds
(Genesis 1:20-23)

INTRODUCTION

Teacher, discuss the properties of fish and birds. Make a list of the children's suggestions. Talk about how God made fish to swim and breathe underwater, while birds can fly without the aid of machinery. Ask if Man can do these things. (*No!*) God has wisely created each thing uniquely and wonderfully. For example, every living thing that God created needs air. The lungs of the creatures that live on the land get all the oxygen they need from the air. God designed fish with special lungs than can get the air they need from the water.

OPENING PRAYER

Thank God for His word and power in creation.

MEMORY VERSE

"But ask ... the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ... or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? (Job 12:7-9)

LESSON

Today we're going to learn about how God created the fish and the birds on the fifth day of creation, but before we do, let's review what we've learned so far.

What did God create on the first day of creation? (*The heavens and the Earth, light and time*) Then, what did God create on the second day of creation? (*God separated the waters and created the atmosphere we call the sky.*) What did He create on the third day? (*The land, oceans, and the plants.*) What about the fourth day? (*The sun, moon, and stars.*)

After the fourth day of creation God had made water, soil, air, plus plants and fruits for food. He had also created the sun to give light and warmth. The earth was now ready to support animal life. So, God created Earth's first inhabitants—the animals that live in the sea and those that fly in the air.

Genesis 1:20

Then God said, "Let the waters swarm with fish and other life. Let the skies be filled with birds of every kind."

Once again, He simply commanded them all to come into being and they did!

Genesis 1:21

So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that scurries and swarms in the water, and every sort of bird—each producing offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.

All the sea creatures

The bible says that when God spoke, the sea was suddenly filled with *every kind* of creature that lives there—tiny ones called krill, small fish like sardines, medium-sized fish like salmon, bigger fish such as swordfish, and much larger creatures like whales. God also made jellyfish and eels, coral and crabs, octopuses and porpoises, and all the others too.

All the flying creatures

The bible also says that at God's command, He created *every kind* of flying creature on Day #5. Suddenly there were all sorts of flying creatures like parrots, pigeons, chickens, and hummingbirds and bats. At the same time God created flying insects like butterflies, bees and bugs. What a sight it must have been! Can you imagine the sights and the sounds? All of a sudden, the air was filled with flying creatures, all singing their various songs.

By the way, did you know that God made the flying creatures with different types of wings? Bird's wings are made of feathers; insects' wings are made of membranes like thin scales; bat's wings are made of skin stretched over their arm and hand bones.

According to their kind

God made each of these animals to reproduce offspring of the same kind. Some people who do not believe that God created say that one kind of animal evolved into another kind all by itself. But there is no evidence that one kind of animal ever changed into a different kind.

When we learned about vegetation, we talked about how a corn seed will always reproduce corn and never peas. Well, just like seeds always reproduce their own kind, so it is with the animal kingdom. A bird will never hatch a fish; a fish will never hatch a bird!

Some people say that fish evolved from worms and that birds evolved from dinosaurs and that whales evolved from an animal like a cow or from some other land animal that decided it wanted to start living in the sea and eating seaweed instead of grass. But God did not make the land animals until Day 6. The Bible says that God created plants first, then He created all of the sea life and birds *before* he created any of the land animals.

Genesis 1:22

Then God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply. Let the fish fill the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth."

God was pleased when he looked at what He had made on Day 5. Not only did He say it was good, He also blessed the fish and the birds, and commanded them to reproduce—each to make baby animals just like itself. He wanted the fish and the birds to have loads of babies so that the whole world would be filled with them.

Genesis 1:23

And evening passed and morning came, marking the fifth day.

God created the fish and the birds in one actual literal day. God was very pleased by everything that He created. Aren't you?

On Day 5, God simply gave the order that there should be living creatures in the sea and in the air, and they came into being. God's powerful Word was fulfilled exactly the way He said.

Closing Prayer

Thank You God for creating such an interesting world to live in. There are so many amazing types of birds and fish for us to enjoy. You could have made just one kind, but You made millions of different ones—all different shapes and sizes and colors. Thank You also for creating the world with order. It would be so disturbing if things didn't reproduce after their own kind. How would we know what to expect otherwise? God You are so big and powerful and clever. We just want to worship You and tell you how much we love You. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

LEARNING CENTERS

Imagination Station

(Craft Center)

Days of Creation

With a marker, divide a large paper plate into seven increments. In the seven spaces let the children draw an example of God's creation for that day. An arrow shaped pointer can be attached in the middle with a brad. Move the pointer to the seven segments while discussing the creation. Stickers can be used instead of drawings. Attach a yarn hanger to the top so it can be displayed at home.

Fun House

(Game Center)

What is Missing

Arrange creation visuals from Lesson One on the chalkboard ledge or table. Choose one child to cover his eyes while another child removes one visual. Have the first child open his eyes and describe which visual is missing. He also must say the day of Creation it represents. To make the game more difficult for older children, rearrange the remaining visuals before the child opens his eyes to see what is missing.

For an older group of children, have the entire group close their eyes while one child removes the visual. When the signal is given to open their eyes, the first child to hold up his hand gets to answer what is missing.

For very young children begin with visuals for days 1-3. Then add succeeding days one at a time as the children become more familiar with the game.

God's Weird and Wonderful World

(Science Center)

Choose from the following Science Lab activities:

1. Discuss the Properties of Feathers

People who don't believe in a Creator have no explanation for the remarkable design features of feathers. Some of your teachers may try to tell you that over billions of years a reptile's scales changed into feathers. But no fossil showing a transition from scale to feather has ever been found.

Look closely at a feather with a magnifying glass. Notice that each feather part has hundreds of hair-like barbs. When a feather is "zipped" up correctly it is waterproof. There are different kinds of feathers for different uses. Down feathers grow close to a bird's body to keep the bird warm. Flight feathers are designed aerodynamically. The shorter feather part is in front and cuts the wind; the air flows over the wider part easily. When a bird raises its wing, the feathers move apart to let the air through and reduce resistance. But on the downstroke the feathers close completely to help them lift up in the air. Also, a bird can vary the shape of its wings for more efficient take-off, flapping, gliding and landing.

Did you know that birds put on extra feathers in the fall to stay warmer during the winter? Some sparrows put on almost 400 more feathers.

Did you know that birds lose their flight feathers in pairs? They always have the same number of feathers on each wing so they aren't lop-sided!

God gave each bird just the right feathers in just the right places. God made all the birds and fish. The Bible tells us that He cares for each and every one, and He cares for you, too.

2. Learn About the Incredible Woodpecker

These amazingly designed birds are experts at bashing their heads against trees, and it's all for a purpose!

A woodpecker spends most of its time spiraling up tree trunks searching for insects. God designed it to climb vertical trunks and to maintain its position while pecking the tree. How? It has two backward-facing toes, sharp claws, and a stiff tail that has spines in it. So, a woodpecker can hang on with its backward-facing toes and prop itself up with its stiff tail as it uses its head like a hammer.

You can imagine how much energy a woodpecker uses up while it hunts for food. They eat as many as 2,000 ants in one day. That's a lot of pecking! Actually, woodpeckers are valuable in the control of insects and help limit the spread of tree diseases.

A woodpecker hammers wood at the rate of 15 to 16 times a second. That's nearly twice as fast as a submachine gun. The bird's head is traveling at more than twice the speed of a bullet.

The force on a woodpecker's head is 1,000 times the force of gravity. This is more than 250 times the force an astronaut experiences during a rocket liftoff!

What prevents the woodpecker from beating out its brains? God in His wisdom designed its head, beak, and neck in a special way.

Its head is built like a football helmet to withstand the crash. Both its head and beak have been cushioned against impact.

Its beak is stronger than most birds. Because it has to be strong enough to dig into the tree without folding up, its beak has a chisel tip.

God designed its nose to not be bothered by sawdust; it's a slit covered by fine wiry feathers!

Thus, God designed and created the woodpecker to withstand the enormous beating it inflicts on itself year in and year out, many thousands of times a day.

And that's not all! God gave the woodpecker an amazing tongue! After flaking off bark and drilling deep holes in the wood to find insect tunnels, it needs a long tongue to reach deep into the tree to get the insects out. Where does the woodpecker hold such a long tongue when its not in use? There isn't room inside its beak! Its tongue is not anchored in the back of its beak like ordinary birds because it's too long. God attached the woodpecker's tongue in its right nostril. When the woodpecker is not using its long tongue, it rolls it up and stores it in his nose!

If God had not designed woodpeckers with two backward facing toes, a stiff tail, cushioned head, stiff beak, and a long retractable tongue, they would have beaten out their brains or starved to death after the first day of creation. Didn't God design an incredible bird!

(This information was gleaned from Creation Ex Nihilo magazine; December 1995–February 1996, pg. 10)

3. Learn about the Hummingbird

The hummingbird is one of God's most amazing creatures. There are more than 300 species or kinds of this beautiful bird. They range in size from the tiny **bee hummingbird**, which is only about the length of an adult's little finger to the **giant hummingbird**, which can be up to 8.5 inches (the width of a magazine page).

Some of the best-known characteristics are:

- **Amazing ability to maneuver:** it can hover, fly backwards, sideways and even upside down! Plus, its wings can swivel in all directions from the shoulder.

- **Extremely rapid wing-beat:** 50-80 beats per second.
- **High speeds:** It can fly at speeds of more than 55 miles per hour. If you operated at this bird's energy level, you would burst into flames!
- **Food capacity:** This burns up so much energy, that a hummingbird must eat the equivalent of 1,300 hamburgers and drink 15 gallons of water a day!
- **Long bill:** God has equipped the hummingbird with needle-like bill which penetrates deep into flowers to extract nectar.
- **Special tongue:** God has also equipped them with a long, specially designed tongue which they use to lick their food at a rate of up to 13 licks per second. Their tongues are curled at the edges to form a straw. Where does this tiny bird store such a long tongue? The long tongue curls up and retracts to the back of its head.
- **Migratory behavior:** Hummingbirds migrate great distances. West coast hummingbirds fly from Alaska to South America each year. East coast hummingbirds must fly across the Gulf of Mexico. The adult birds leave on their journey two weeks before their young. How do the baby birds, who have never been to South America find their way? God shows them the way to go; He has built GPS into their brains!
- **Flight endurance:** Before they leave on this long journey they must store a layer of fat equal to half its body weight before setting off.
- **Energy storage:** To help them conserve their energy God causes them to go into a deep sleep for 12 hours every night.

(This information was gleaned from an article by Denis Dreves, "The Hummingbird: God's Tiny Miracle", Creation magazine December 1991 page 10-12.)

4. Discover if Birds Evolved from Dinosaurs

Some scientists claim that birds evolved from dinosaurs. If that happened, then feathers had to evolve from scales.

Examine the Evidence

Bring a whole chicken into Sunday School. If you can get one from a meat market with the head and feet still attached, this will make a big impression on the children! Discuss the various parts of the chicken and what they might be used for. Could it be a dinosaur? Talk about the similarities between chickens and dinosaurs: both have skulls with two openings. Some dinosaurs have legs that are upright and long like some birds. Most dinosaurs lay eggs like birds and both have blood vessels in their bones. However, similarity is no proof of evolution! It is more important to discuss the differences between birds and dinosaurs.

- All reptiles when on a good diet, never stop growing until they die. Birds, on the other hand, stop growing once they reach maturity.
- Reptiles are cold blooded; while birds are warm blooded and able to regulate their own temperature.
- All reptiles will eat meat, whereas many birds (hummingbirds, for example) never consume meat.
- Scales cover most reptiles, where scales are limited to the feet and legs on birds.
- Birds have feathers that are highly specialized for regulating temperature, giving buoyancy, insulation and providing the ability for flight. Reptiles do not have feathers.

- Reptile nests are usually burrowed in the earth and mud where they are heated by the sun or decomposition, rather than a parent sitting on them, as most bird eggs require. Birds largely construct intricate nests, usually in high places because of predators.
- All reptiles can swim; many species of birds cannot.
- Reptiles could not fly to keep themselves from dying when the floodwaters came during Noah's flood.
- Birds nurture their young; reptile rarely do.

Discuss the platypus and the anteater and help the kids realize that there are animals that have physical characteristics found in other unrelated animals. But there is no credible evidence that dinosaurs evolved into birds.

If birds evolved from dinosaurs, then feathers had to evolve from scales. Go to a local pet shop and see if you can get a snake skin that has just been shed. Collect some feathers and bring in some microscopes. Have children compare the skin and feathers under the magnification. There is an immense difference between reptile scales and bird's feathers. It would require a miracle for one to change into the other!

5. Discover how God Invented Jet Propulsion

Jet propulsion is commonly believed to be a modern breakthrough. The modern jet engine, in fact, dates only from the 1930's. However, the possibility of jet propulsion was demonstrated long ago.

Squid and octopus are amazingly fast-moving creatures. Squid have been recorded escaping from predators at an incredible 34-miles per hour. By squirting a strong jet of water from a tube, or funnel, squid propel themselves through the water at remarkable speeds. Muscles contract to force a narrow jet of water out through the funnel, and the squid rockets off backwards!

The backwards jet propulsion may seem an odd arrangement, but the squid's funnel is flexible, and can bend around 180 degrees in a U shape, allowing the creature to also move forward.

(This information was gleaned from Creation Ex Nihilo magazine; September-November 1995, page 26.)

6. Examine the concept of 'kind'

For younger children, describe the concept of kind using pictures or plastic toy animals. Let them sort and categorize.

7. Marvel at other weird and wonderful creations

Archerfish: known for their habit of preying on land-based insects and other small animals by shooting them down by spitting water from their specialized mouths. Archerfish are remarkably accurate in their shooting; an adult fish almost always hits the target on the first shot. They can bring down insects and other prey from up to 10 feet above the water's surface. Its lips just break the surface, squirting a jet of water at its victim.



Barreleye fish: Known as the fish with a transparent head. In this picture, the eyes are capped by bright green lenses. The two spots above the fish's mouth are olfactory organs (nostrils). They live at depths of 2,000 to 2,600 feet below the surface, so far down in the water that there is almost no light. Until recently researchers did not know about this creature's fluid-filled head because it was destroyed when the fish were brought up from the deep in fishing nets. But now they have a remotely operated vehicle that can go down into the deep waters where they can actually see these fish for the first time.

