

Genesis

Noah and the Great Flood

(Genesis 6:1- 9:17)

INTRODUCTION

Do you know what “peer pressure” is? [Teacher, discuss situations of negative peer pressure, such as music, clothes styles, makeup, vocabulary, gossip, choosing friends.] Standing up to peer pressure takes courage. 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 everything we think, say, and do to be pleasing to You. Help to be strong in our faith so that others will be drawn to have faith in You, too. 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.
(Genesis 9:16 NLT)*

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved... (John 10:9a)

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

The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.

God saw that everything mankind thought or imagined was totally evil and He was sorry He had ever made humans and put them on the earth. It broke His heart, so He decided to blot out the whole human race from the face of the earth and the animals, too.

Genesis 6:8

But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

Noah 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 gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch.

God told Noah to make a boat out of gopher wood which is sticky or tacky. Then He told Noah to cover it inside and out with tar (which is like the stuff they repair roads with) because it would make the boat water tight.

Genesis 6:15-16

This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. ¹⁶Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks.

God told Noah to make the boat 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. That's 1½ football fields long, as wide as a city block, and as tall as a four-story building. 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 about 75 years for Noah to build the ark. While he was working on it, his neighbors must have wondered what he was doing.

Genesis 6:17

For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die.

God told Noah, "Look! I am about to cover the earth with a flood that will destroy every living thing that breathes."

Up to that point in time there had not been any rain and probably no clouds either. So, when Noah told people what God was going to do, they must have thought he was crazy. They 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.

Ask: 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 your friends make fun of you. For example, it may seem easier to copy someone else's homework or cheat on a test like some kids do. Or, it may seem easier to do a halfway job on your chores to get them done faster.

Others around you may not be doing what is right, and they may even try to make you feel foolish for not wanting to join in with them. But God says to keep doing right and not give up. Remember, God is with you every minute of the day. He will give you the strength to make the right choices in life, just like He did Noah.

People no doubt made fun of him as he built the ark, but he continued to be faithful to God. Finally, the day came to get in the ark.

When Noah was 600 years old, all of a sudden, the underground waters erupted from the earth and the rain began to fall in mighty torrents.

Genesis 7:12-16

And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights. ¹³On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them entered the ark, ¹⁴they and

every beast, according to its kind, and all the livestock according to their kinds, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, according to its kind, and every bird, according to its kind, every winged creature. ¹⁵They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. ¹⁶And 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 so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. ²⁰The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep.

This was no ordinary rainstorm.

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 was at this point that the waters began to spurt up from beneath the ground and the waters above the sky began to come down in great torrents to flood the whole earth. The water rose up and covered even the highest mountain peaks on the earth more than 22 feet above the highest peak. Everything and everybody outside of the ark was covered with water.

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

We can rest in God's love, too, when we obey Him like Noah did.

Genesis 7:24

And the waters prevailed on the earth 150 days.

That's five months of being cooped up in a boat with a lot of stinky animals, isn't it?!

Genesis 8:1-3

But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided. ²The fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, ³and the waters receded from the earth continually. At the end of 150 days the waters had abated.

The underground waters stopped spurting up and the torrential rains stopped falling down. When the floodwaters began to recede, Noah opened the window to look out. He saw that the ark was surrounded by water so they couldn't leave the boat yet.

One day Noah set a dove free. The bird flew out and then returned with some fresh leaves in her beak, so Noah knew that plants were beginning to grow again. When Noah released another dove. This time the bird did not 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 said to Noah, ¹⁶"Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁷Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth."

From Noah's family and the animals 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.... grandpa and we're all cousins!

Let's find out what the first thing Noah did when he got off the boat:

Genesis 8:20

Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

Noah was so thankful to be alive and to be off the boat that the first thing he wanted to do was worship God. And, God was so pleased with Noah's offering, He made a promise to all mankind.

Genesis 9:14-16

When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."

God promised that He will never again destroy all life with a flood. He told Noah that every time He sees a rainbow, He will remember this promise. And each time we see a rainbow, we can remember God's many promises to us.

Ask: 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. Noah's ark is a picture of Jesus. Think of Jesus as the ark.

- Because of man's wickedness, God decided to blot out the whole human race from the face of the earth. When God said He was going to destroy the whole world, He invited Noah to "Come into the ark" (Gen 7:1). Only the people that got into the boat survived the great flood. In the same way, God invites us to come into Jesus, our ark, by trusting and believing in Him.
- God was with Noah and his family throughout that frightening year-long ordeal, comforting and protecting them. When we place our faith in Jesus as our Savior, God gives us the Holy Spirit to comfort and protect us our whole life through.
- The Ark had only one door that Noah, his family, and all the animals had to enter in order to be saved from the flood. Likewise, the only way we can be saved from eternal punishment is by coming to God through the only Door He has provided.

Jesus said, "*I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved...*" (John 10:9a)

Jesus also said, "*I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*" (John 14:6)

He is the only Door to eternal life. We must get in the boat with Jesus!

- After Noah entered the Ark, God Himself closed the door (Gen 7:16). Those people outside who chose not to enter the Ark's door were left to face the destruction of the flood.

Now, even though God promised Noah that He would never destroy the earth by water again, the Bible tells us there is a day coming when God will judge the sins of mankind with fire. Only those who place their faith in what Jesus did on the cross will survive God's judgement of sin.

There is only one place for you to be safe from God's punishment for sin. The only place of safety is the Lord Jesus Christ. You must place your faith in what Jesus did for us on the cross. He took our punishment for our sins so that we would not have to face God's judgement of sin. If you believe that, you are *in Christ*—that is like getting into Noah's ark.

We must trust and obey God, so that we won't be left outside the boat when that 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:

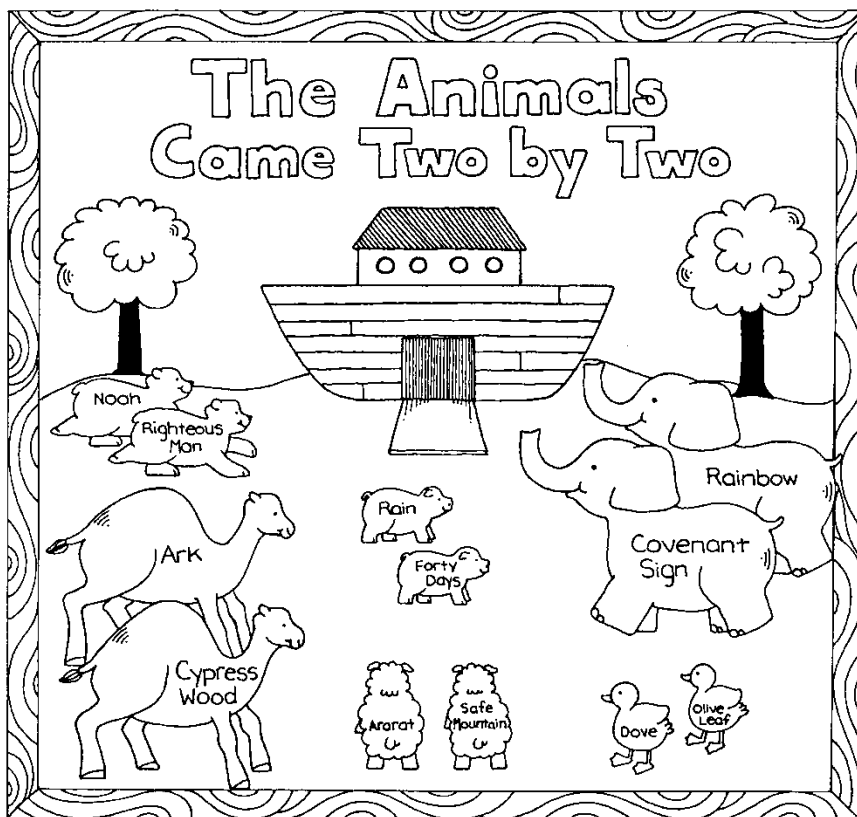
1. Animal Match Game

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

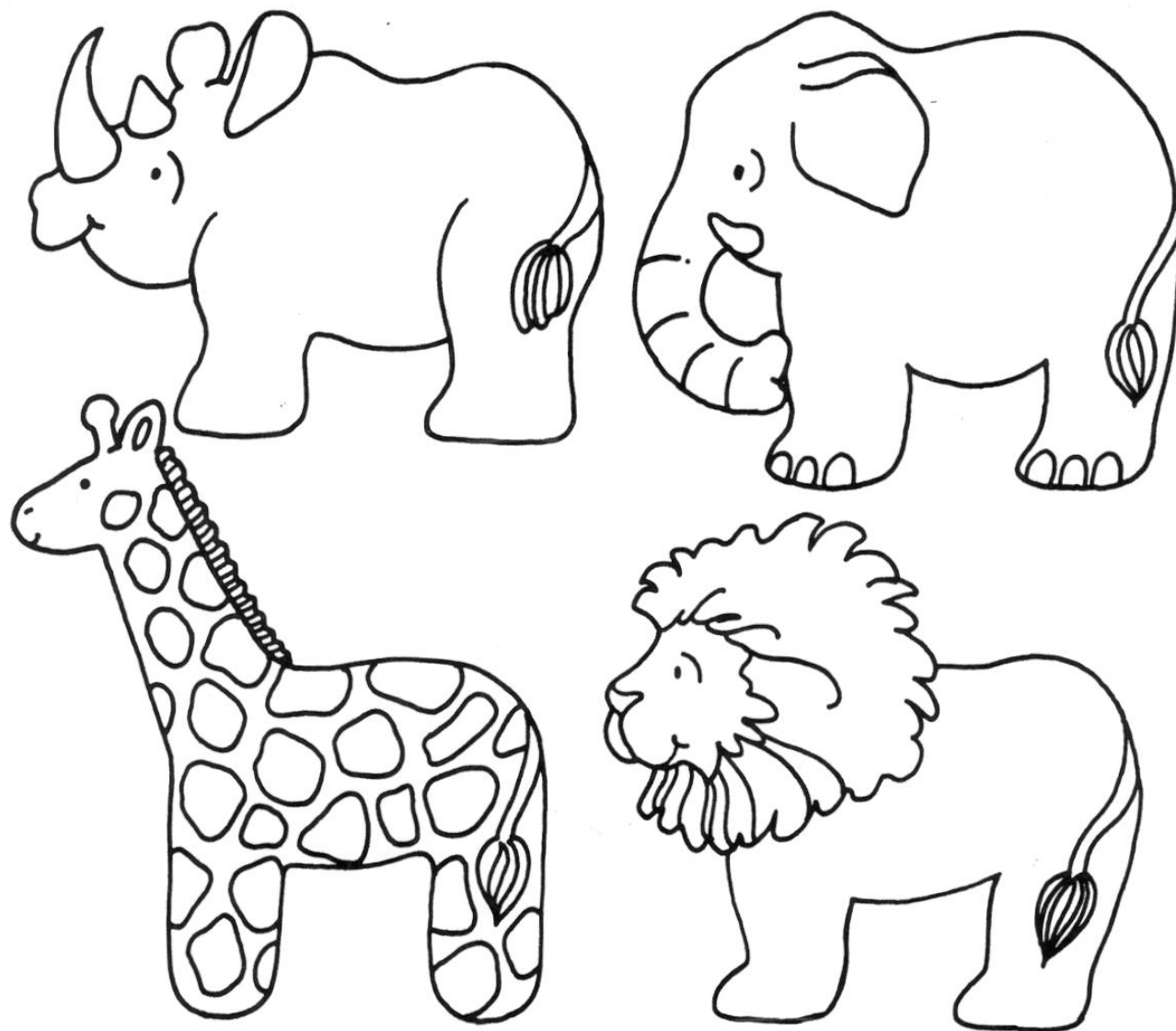
- Make two copies of each of the animals pictured on the next page.
- Color the animals and laminate them, if possible, then cut them out.
- Use rubber bands and/or paper clips to attach them to weighted cartons.
- Put a clothespin at the top of each carton and set the cartons in two rows.
- Make five 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>]

