

Title:
Living Fossils

Word Count:
637

Summary:

No doubt you have heard the claims from young earth creationists about living fossils. A "living fossil" is an organism that has remained relatively unchanged in appearance and biology over a long period of geological time. The claim by young earth creationists is that these living fossils are proof that the earth is young.

Keywords:

creation science, living, fossil, young, earth

Article Body:

No doubt you have heard the claims from young earth creationists about living fossils. A "living fossil" is an organism that has remained relatively unchanged in appearance and biology over a long period of geological time. The claim by young earth creationists is that these living fossils are proof that the earth is young.

I'm sure everyone is aware of the most famous living fossil, the coelacanth, the fish thought to be extinct for millions of years.

Determining an Organism's Life Span

How is a fossil's life range is determined? When an organism is found in the fossil record, paleontologists determine the age of the rock it was found in.

After this date range is published, another sample of this dinosaur is unearthed in a rock bed of a different age.

Scientists make this kind of adjustment all the time. New fossils are found, extending the known range of the organism.

There is no trick or deception on the part of the scientist...he/she is merely interpreting the data.

What happens when a fossil species is found to be alive, such as the coelacanth? It's known as a living fossil.

In the case of our dinosaur, if it was found alive today, naturally the young earth creationists would claim it as proof of a young earth.

The presence of a living fossil in no way is evidence for a young earth. Yes, there are fossils of organisms that have remained relatively unchanged over a long period of geological time.

When a "living fossil" is found, YECs naturally jump on it and proclaim it as proof of a young earth.

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