



GOD did it **FIRST!** JET PROPULSION

JET engines work by jet propulsion. They suck air in at one end, and force it out at a higher speed the other end. That's how jet aircraft fly. The first working jet engine was made in 1937, and the first jet plane flight was in Germany in 1939.

However, human engineers were not the first to use jet propulsion. Some living creatures and plants have been using it since they were created. Squids use jet propulsion to speed through the sea at 32 kilometres an hour. Inside their bodies is an elastic bag with muscles which squeeze a jet of water from a backward pointing nozzle.



Using jet propulsion, squids can swim at 32 kilometres an hour!

Some plants use jet propulsion to shoot their seeds far away from the plant. Fungi called puffballs shoot out millions of dustlike spores when raindrops fall on them. Only a few will grow, otherwise the earth would be covered in puffballs!

It took human intelligence and planning to design jet engines. Surely living things which use jet propulsion needed a designer too? We believe their Designer was God the Creator, who made everything to work perfectly from the beginning.



A jet aircraft in flight



Raindrops falling on this puffball forced a jet of air through a small hole, sending spores shooting out. These will produce more puffballs.

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AT HOME WITH GOD

WE have been learning about some of the amazing homes which animals build, places where they can live safely, and raise their young. This shows just how much God cares for the creatures He has made. However, God cares for us even more. Jesus said: "You are worth much more than the birds." (Matthew 6: 26).

Most of us are part of a family, and we feel safe in our homes, where we are secure and loved. Sadly, there are some people who have no homes or families. Whether we have an earthly family or not, God wants us all to be part of His family, but the wrong things we do shut us out. He sent Jesus, His Son, to earth to make it possible for us to be part of His wonderful family. Jesus died to pay for our sin. When we tell God we're sorry, He will forgive us, and accept us as His children.

Jesus came back to life again so that everyone who believes in Him can live with Him forever. He told His followers: "There are many rooms in my Father's house. After I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back. Then I will take you to be with me." (The Bible, John 14: 2-3).

If you are part of God's family now, through faith in Jesus, then you will also have a place waiting for you in heaven, where you will be at home with Him for ever!



Baby parakeets safe in their "home"

By Sarthak Shah: CC BY-SA 3.0



A home is a place where we belong, and feel safe and loved

PUZZLE ANSWERS

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE:

1. Extra birds. 2. Missing tree.
3. Fruit colour changed. 4. Rabbit facing other way. 5. Deer changed position. 6. Missing woodpecker.
7. Weasel changed position.
8. Flowers changed. 9. Butterfly moved. 10. Mouse appeared.

BIBLE VERSE:

I know every bird on the mountains. Every living thing in the fields is mine. (Psalm 50: 11)

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HOME, SWEET HOME!

Some of God's creatures are really skilful home-makers!

SOME WONDERFUL NEST-BUILDERS

Most birds build nests, and some of them use some wonderfully clever designs. Bowerbirds (left) actually decorate their nest with colourful objects. Some of the most amazing nests are made by Weaverbirds (right). They weave pieces of grass together to make a strong safe nest in which to hatch their eggs and raise their young. Think what would have happened if they had to learn how to do it gradually.



Bower birds build nests of branches, then decorate them to attract a mate, using colourful objects such as flowers, leaves, berries, or even bits of plastic or glass



Two Weaverbirds with their nest

Harvinder Chandigarh CC BY-SA 4.0

BUSY BEAVER BUILDERS

Beavers are amazing creatures that spend a lot of time in the water. They build safe homes called "lodges" from mud, sticks, rocks and grass. They cut down trees, using special "chisel" teeth, then they push the sticks into the mud at the bottom of the stream or pond, and build their lodge around it.

They build their lodge well away from the bank, and when it is finished, the only way in is through an underwater entrance. This keeps the beavers safe from any other creatures that may try to harm them. They also build dams from sticks and mud.

Beavers were specially created by God, who gave them those special teeth, and also the ability to build their safe homes. They would never have survived if they had to learn how to do this gradually.



Beavers gathering materials



This beavers' lodge may look like a pile of mud, sticks, rocks and grass, but it is really a wonderfully designed, safe home.



Weaver Ants (above) pull leaves together to make a nest, then they use their larvae (young) like needles. The larvae produce silk, which is used as a thread!

Wikipedia photo: CC BY-SA

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

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BUILDERS IN THE SEA

HAVE you ever seen seashells lying on a beach? You may even have collected some. Did you know that every shell was once the home of a sea creature? Without their shell to protect them, shellfish would easily get hurt, and find it difficult to survive.

Most shellfish build their shells from a mineral called *calcium carbonate* – the same mineral from which eggshells and stalactites are made, as well as limestone rocks. Scientists still don't fully understand how shellfish take this mineral from the sea, mix it with a protein, and then cement it in layers to make their shell. As they grow, they make their shell larger by adding more layers. Some shellfish have spiral shells, and many come in beautiful colours.

Shellfish are really well designed, and we don't believe they could have gradually evolved the ability to build their shells. They needed this protection from the beginning, so it had to be just right, just as builders need to have the right mix of sand and cement to make sure it sets hard. Geologists have found lots of fossils of shellfish, which are just like living shellfish, so there's no evidence for evolution. We believe they were created by God with their shells already formed.



Builders use cement when they construct buildings



Seashells come in many shapes and sizes



A living clam



A fossil clam — there's no evidence they evolved

NATURE NOTES by the editor

There was an old ash tree in the field behind my office that was a meeting-place for crows. Every morning there were several of them in its branches. We could see them clearly because the tree was dead. The tree blew down in an autumn storm (left), so the crows lost their meeting-place. However, we did have plenty of firewood to keep us warm in the winter.



A closer look at the fallen tree revealed that insects had made their home in its dead branches. There were also signs that woodpeckers had been busy, no doubt looking for insects. Lots of insects live in dead wood, and many are helpful to gardeners. So it's a good idea to leave a few dead logs in a corner of the garden, because many insects love a "rotten" place to live. Lots of animals make use of dead trees, too, taking shelter or building nests in their hollow trunks, like the owl on the right.

In some ways, we are like that old ash tree. We may live a long time on earth, but one day our life here will end. The good news is that for those who put their faith in God's Son, Jesus, who came to life after He died, there is a new life in heaven waiting when this life is over, where we can live with Him for ever. — Geoff Chapman



BUILDING WITH MUD

MANY different kinds of animals, birds and insects build their nests and homes out of mud. This means picking up tiny bits of mud with their beaks or mouths, then cementing them together to build a hard and strong structure. Swallows stick mud to a wall or inside a roof, then lay their eggs and hatch their young in it. They often use their nests year after year.



Baby barn swallows sitting safely in a nest built from mud by their parents.



Potter wasps build pot-shaped nests

Termites are tiny insects, yet they build huge mud nests up to 3 metres (10 feet) tall, where thousands of termites live together in safety.

None of these creatures could have "evolved" the skills to build these amazing homes. They would have fallen apart before they got it right! God gave them their skills and the instincts to use them.



A huge termites' nest



Ovenbirds build dome-shaped nests from clay, leaves, plants, bark, lined with animal hair.-

COSY AND SAFE



Polar bear cubs leaving the den where they were born. Inside the den under the snow the temperature can be as high as 4 C, even when it is bitterly cold outside.

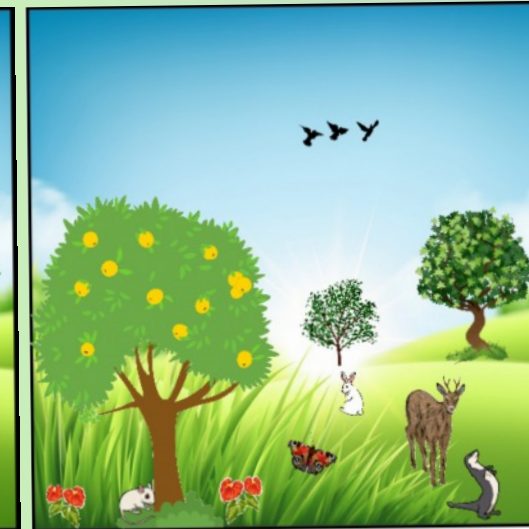
A BORROWED HOME



Hermit crabs have no shell of their own, yet they need to protect their bodies. So they "borrow" a shell that once belonged to a shellfish. As they grow, they "move house" to a larger shell. If they needed to learn to do this gradually, how would they have survived?

PUZZLE CORNER

Can you spot the **ten** differences between the two pictures below?



Beginning with the **third** letter, cross out every **third** letter to read a verse from the Bible

I khnouw edvesry
cbikrd rong thye
msoucnpaiwnsh.
Evoerey lqivminig
tahiling xin
uthcefdieuldhs ifs
mginae.

(Answers on the next page)