

## Comparison of Young Earth Creationism, Old Earth Creationism, and Theistic Evolution

	Young Earth Creationism (YEC)	Old Earth Creationism (OEC)	Theistic Evolution (TE) or Evolutionary Creation
Leading proponents	Ken Ham/John Morris	Hugh Ross	Francis Collins
Organization	Answers in Genesis/ICR	Reasons To Believe (RTB)	BioLogos
Websites	www.answersingenesis.org & www.icr.org	www.reasons.org	www.biologos.org
Scripture and Science	YEC is the only proper reading of Scripture. The record of nature is incorrectly interpreted by all scientists if it reveals an old earth.	Scripture and the record of nature are both from God and must agree. The OEC interpretation of scripture agrees with most of science and numerous evidences of an old universe and earth.	Scripture is not meant to be scientific and therefore should be used only for spiritual guidance.
Creation of the Universe and Earth	Creation was in 6 literal 24-hour days.	In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. God used the "Big Bang" to create the entire physical universe. As we study "Big Bang" physics, the extreme fine tuning clearly points to God so men are without excuse (Romans 1:20). During the six long creation days, God fashioned the Earth in preparation for man - the culmination of His creation.	God engineered and fine-tuned the physics of the universe starting with the Big Bang. This highlights God's awesome power, wisdom, and great love for mankind. God then let creation unfold naturally and generally did not intervene again until the infusing of an evolved hominid with the "imago Dei", and later the incarnation of Jesus.
Age of Universe / Earth	Approximately 6,000 to 10,000 years.	Universe: approximately 13.73 billion years. Earth: 4.5662 billion years. The Hebrew word for day, "Yom", has multiple definitions, including 12 hours, 24 hours, and a long period of time (era). It is impossible for all events after the creation of Adam and Eve to occur in just 24 hours when considering Genesis 2.	Universe: approximately 13.73 billion years. Earth: 4.5662 billion years. Genesis 1 to 11 may be allegorical.
Origin of life	In days 3, 5, and 6, God created the plants, sea creatures, birds, and animals in three 24-hour days.	In Genesis 1:2, the Spirit of God hovered over the face of the deep to create very complex single-celled organisms in a biologic instant very early in Earth's history. God used them to prepare the Earth for plants, sea creatures, birds, and animals, which He also created individually within the last 600 million years.	The origin of life is a mystery and God may have created life through direct intervention or He may have done it through natural processes.
Adam	God created Adam as a new creation. Neanderthals and other human-like hominids were descendants of Adam. <sup>1</sup>	God created Adam as a new creation. Neanderthals and hominids preceded Adam but were separately created and were never human and did not have a spirit.	Although diverse regarding beliefs on this issue, TE's generally doubt the historicity of Adam and Eve, that Genesis 1-11 are historical narrative, and/or that the human race began with a single couple. Adam was a descendant of a hominid. <sup>2</sup>
Astronomy	God created a mature universe with the appearance of age. Light was created in transit, or had instantaneous speed in one direction, or was orders of magnitudes faster in the past.	Galaxies can be seen over 13 billion light years away. Their light had to travel 13 billion years to be visible from earth. Since we are looking back in time, we can almost see back to the creation event.	Galaxies can be seen over 13 billion light years away. Their light had to travel 13 billion years to be visible from earth. Since we are looking back in time, we can almost see back to the creation event.
Physics	The laws of physics changed at the fall of man. The speed of light must have been orders of magnitude faster in the past. God withdrew some of His sustaining power after Adam's fall.	Jeremiah 33:25 states the laws of heaven and earth are fixed. If light were faster in the past, the sun would have vaporized the earth $E=mc^2$ . When we look at stars, we are looking back in time. Stars confirm the laws were fixed.	The laws governing the natural world have not changed since creation. If light were faster in the past, the sun would have vaporized the earth $E=mc^2$ . When we look at stars, we are looking back in time. Stars confirm the laws were fixed.
Radiometric dating	YEC R.A.T.E. Study concludes radiometric dating method is sound. However radioactive decay must have been a thousand or a million times faster in the past. This likely happened during Noah's flood.	There are over forty different radiometric dating techniques using different isotopes including carbon. Tree rings, ice cores, and volcanic eruptions verify radiometric dating. Bible states the laws of heaven and earth are fixed. If radioactive decay was faster in the past, the earth would have melted.	There are over forty different radiometric dating techniques using different isotopes including carbon. Tree rings, ice cores, and volcanic eruptions verify radiometric dating. If radioactive decay was faster in the past, the earth would have melted.

Death	All death including animal death occurred only after Adam sinned.	Romans 5:12 states that through Adam "death came to <b>all men</b> ". Animals were already dying prior to that. Psalm 104:19-28 states God provides food for the carnivores and calls it good. Scripture does not refer to animal death as a result of sin. Sharks, eagles, and lions ate their normal prey before Adam.	Animals and hominids died prior to Adam's sin. However, since the first human was Adam, a hominid upon which God impressed the "imago Dei", no human death occurred before Adam's sin. <sup>3</sup>
Flood	Noah's flood was global and responsible for most of the geological features and the most of the fossil record. During the flood, the single world supercontinent broke up and formed the mountains and continents we have today via catastrophic plate tectonics. Magnetic reversals bands on the ocean floor were caused by the heating and cooling of magma during this flood/tectonic event. <sup>4</sup>	Noah's flood was local but wiped out all mankind and all animals which mankind had corrupted. Polar bears and kangaroos did not need to be wiped out. Geology also shows incremental processes of sedimentation, uplift, and erosion. There are too many fossils and too much biomass to have been laid down by one flood event. Since "day 3" of earth's history, continental drift has been going on.	Data from various scientific disciplines clearly show the flood could not have been global. The local flood probably destroyed all of mankind save those on the ark. The lessons from the flood are primarily theological. <sup>5</sup>
Evolution	Microevolution occurs within species. After Adam sinned, changes in the teeth, claws, and digestive systems caused herbivores to become carnivores by normal variation of the information already present in their DNA. The species on Noah's ark included, for example, one bear type and one horse type, from which all bears and horses, zebras, etc., are descended by natural variation. <sup>6</sup>	Microevolution occurs within species. God intervened many times on earth to create life and renew the face of the earth (Psalm 104:30). God also intervened to compensate for the sun's changing luminosity and for the changing characteristics of the earth.	All life micro and macro evolved from a common ancestor. The Cambrian explosion and the Permian extinction repopulation were due to an unexplained natural event. Common descent explains the presence of all life on earth; God's intervention may not be required.
Sun, Moon, and Stars	On creation day 4, the sun, moon, and stars were created after the earth, land, and plants.	The frame of reference in Genesis 1 is the surface of the earth where the Spirit of God hovers. Genesis 1:1 states sun and stars were created in the beginning, but they could not be seen, first due to the opaque, and then translucent atmosphere of the early earth. After God transformed the atmosphere to transparent on day 4, the sun moon and stars could be clearly seen. The Hebrew word used in 1:16 is "asa" (create from existing material), which is different from "bara" (created for the first time).	Genesis 1 is not a science textbook. The sun existed before the earth exactly as the scientists tell us.
Dinosaurs	Dinosaurs co-existed with man and fifty dinosaur kinds were with Noah on the ark as young babies. They went extinct after the flood due to changes in habitat. <i>T.rex</i> was a herbivore before the fall. The behemoth and Leviathan mentioned in Job 40-41 were dinosaurs. <sup>7</sup>	Dinosaurs roamed the earth around 65 to 250 million years ago and went extinct according to God's plan. The fossil record shows hundreds of dinosaur species—too many to be living all at one time. The behemoth and Leviathan in Job 40-41 may have been the hippopotamus and crocodile, both of which are responsible for more deaths in some parts of Africa than all other large animals combined.	Dinosaurs roamed the earth around 65 to 250 million years ago and went extinct. The fossil record shows hundreds of dinosaur species—too many to be living all at one time. Dinosaurs later evolved into birds.

<sup>1</sup><http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/kw/cousin-neanderthal>

<sup>2</sup><http://biologos.org/blog/does-genetics-point-to-a-single-primal-couple>

<sup>3</sup><http://biologos.org/questions/death-before-the-fall>.

<sup>4</sup>[http://medias.answersingenesis.org/pdf/90-4-037\\_rodina.pdf?e=1327640400&h=9f79d363c8e430377921b48d14d8b707](http://medias.answersingenesis.org/pdf/90-4-037_rodina.pdf?e=1327640400&h=9f79d363c8e430377921b48d14d8b707) from Answers Magazine Volume 2 No.2

<sup>5</sup><http://biologos.org/questions/genesis-flood>

<sup>6</sup>[http://www.answersingenesis.org/contents/379/pp\\_66-68.pdf](http://www.answersingenesis.org/contents/379/pp_66-68.pdf) and <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/aid/v3/n1/zonkeys-ligers-wholphins>

<sup>7</sup><http://creation.com/images/pdfs/cabook/chapter13.pdf>

<sup>7</sup>The "Genesis Flood", John Whitcomb & Henry Morris, page 66-69 (in particular, Figure 4 on page 67 shows zebras and horses evolving from a single horse-like pair on Noah's ark)

<sup>7</sup><http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v5/n2/dinosaurs-ark> and <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/nab/what-happened-to-the-dinosaurs>