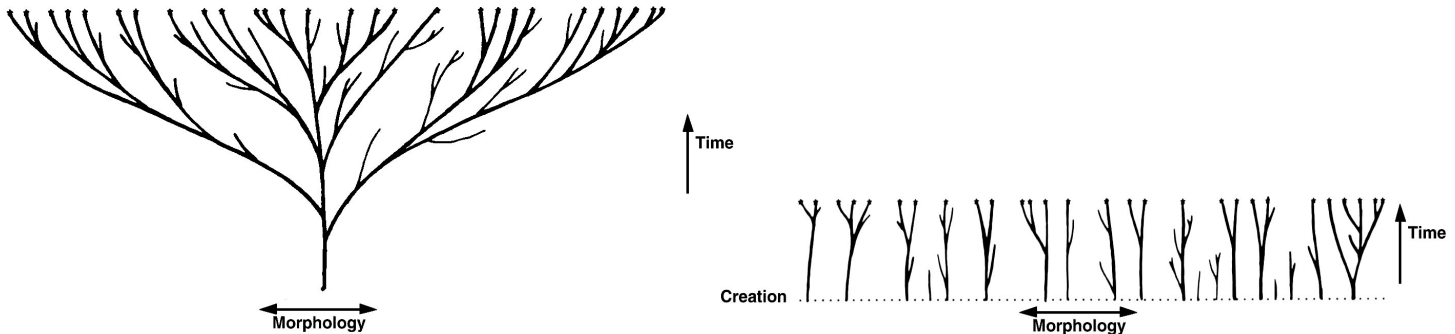


Kinds of Critters

On the fifth and sixth days of the creation week, God created many different kinds of animals. On day five, all of the flying and sea creatures were created to fill the waters and the sky according to their kinds. On day six, all of the land-dwelling creatures were created according to their kinds to multiply and fill the Earth.



Rather than an evolutionary tree of life where all of the organisms on the earth share a common ancestor, the biblical explanation would be more like an orchard of life. Each of the distinct kinds of creatures that God made began with an amazing amount of variety programmed into them and likely even various expressions of that variety in the animals he created. From there, these characteristics were expressed in different individuals as they multiplied and filled the Earth—each according to its kind and never crossing those God-given boundaries.

This activity will include two parts. First, you can do a little exercise to think about some of the interesting creatures God created. Then, you can look at some of the animals we see today and organize them into created kinds.

Five or Six?

For each of the creatures listed below, think about the categories from Genesis 1:20–28 and decide which day of the creation week they were created on. Write 5 or 6 on the line next to each.

___ Bats

___ Hummingbirds

___ Tyrannosaurs

___ Tuna

___ Dogs

___ Lizards

___ Platypus

___ Cows

___ Crows

___ Camels

___ Alligators

___ Seals

___ Butterflies

___ Deer

___ Whales

___ Lobster

___ Pterodactyls

___ Plesiosaurs

Created Kinds

Use the list below and organize the creatures into created kinds based on what you know about these animals.

Wolf, Leopard, Camel, Coyote, Llama, Tiger, Cougar, Jackal, Bobcat, Alpaca, Lion, Black Lab, Housecat

Kinds of Critters Answer Key

Let's look at the list of creatures and talk about some of the more interesting critters. Most of them are pretty obvious, but a few are a little tricky.

5 Bats	5 Lobster	6 Deer	5 Seals
5 Tuna	5 Hummingbirds	5 Pterodactyls	5 Whales
5/6 Platypus	6 Dogs	6 Tyrannosaurs	5 Plesiosaurs
6 Camels	6 Cows	6 Lizards	
5/6 Butterflies	6 Alligators	5 Crows	

- ? Let's start with the platypus. Who can explain where they placed it and why? *Discuss the answers, noting that a platypus is primarily a water creature but spends some time on land. It is probably a day six creation, but we can't be certain.*
- ? Butterflies present another interesting question. Who can explain their reasoning for how they categorized this creature? *Allow discussion. Since this is a winged creature in its adult form, it was likely created on day five, but some might suggest it is a creeping thing that was created on day six.*

If time allows discuss other creatures that make it hard to determine which day they were created on: penguins and ostriches are birds that can't fly; many insects have flying, water, and land forms.

Just because we can't nail down every detail of the days on which the various creatures were created does not mean that the Bible is wrong or untrustworthy. It just means that our understanding is incomplete.

However, as we noted previously, there is a huge discrepancy in the evolutionary explanation and the Bible. For example, whales would be a day five creation according to the Bible, but the creatures they allegedly evolved from were a day six creation. Evolutionists teach that mammals evolved from a reptile-like ancestor and then evolved into whales after millions of years. You can't just line up the biblical order with the evolutionary view and try to show how they are parallel—they are opposite one another in many ways.

Let's look at the created kinds next. We talked about this briefly with the plants last week, but let's apply it to the animals today.

We know that the created kinds reproduce "according to their kinds." So, we should be able to use the ability of different species to interbreed as one way to determine if they are in the same created kind. This is called hybridization. A hybrid is an animal that is produced from parents of different species.

- ? What is a mule? *The offspring of a male donkey and a female horse; a hinny is produced from a male horse and a female donkey.*
- ? What can we conclude about horses and mules? *They must be part of the same kind—the created horse kind.*
- ? What other animals do you think would be in this kind? *Wild asses, zebras, and wild horses.*
- ? Looking at the animals listed at the bottom of the sheet, how many different kinds did you separate the animals into? *Most will probably have four groups: dogs, cats, camels, and llamas.*

I grouped them into three groups: dogs, cats, and camelids. In the dog kind we would have wolves, coyotes, jackals, and black labs. In the cat kind would be leopards, tigers, cougars, bobcats, lions, and housecats.

Surprisingly to many, camels and llamas can actually interbreed! Based on this and other criteria, we can consider them part of the same created kind along with alpacas. In fact, scientists who study classification group them all together in the family Camelidae.