First, it is important to understand that not every "species" of animal was on the Ark. Today's idea of a "species" did not exist when Moses wrote the book of Genesis. Instead, he used the word "kinds" when telling Noah what to bring on the Ark (Genesis 6:20)—the same word that was used to describe what God made during the Creation week (1:11,21,24). The word "kind" would be closer to our word "family" or "genus" when classifying animal groups. So Noah would have probably had representatives of the single dog kind, for example—not representatives of each dog species (the coyotes, wolves, domestic dogs, jackals, etc.).

Also, we must keep in mind that not even all of the kinds of life we find on Earth were on the Ark. For example, only those plants that were needed to feed the passengers on the Ark were brought—not representatives of all of the plant kinds. The swimming creatures were not onboard, of course, nor many insects, invertebrates, fungi, bacteria, or protozoa—all of which are included in the 11 million species that are said to be alive on the Earth.

When it's all said and done, there were probably only a few thousand animals on the Ark, not millions nor even hundreds of thousands. The Ark was a football field and a half long, at least, and at least 75 feet wide and 45 feet tall—an enormous ship. John Woodmorappe did a study to determine whether the Ark would have been large enough to house 16,000 animals—representatives of each "kind" of creatures that would have probably been on the Ark. He took into account the space needed for food, water, waste disposal, heating, air, and lighting. He found that the size of the Ark was more than what was needed to house that many animals on such a large vessel. And what's more, if the "cubit" (which was the unit of length that Moses used to describe the size of the Ark) was longer than 18 inches (what is often assumed to be the length of a cubit), the Ark quickly becomes even larger and more spacious.

But wait a minute…what about the dinosaurs? How could the Ark have been large enough to hold all the dinosaurs, and especially, the sauropods, like Apatosaurus? Or the large theropod dinosaurs, like T-Rex? Keep in mind two things: first, the average size of an adult dinosaur was about the size of a rhinoceros; and second, the Bible does not say how old the animals were that were on the Ark. Were you as big as you are now when you were born? It is very likely that the animals on the Ark were young, maybe even little babies. Why? Besides the fact that they would take up less space, need less food, and make less waste, it is also important to remember that the animals on the Ark would have to leave the Ark and have enough time to spread out over the Earth and reproduce after the Flood. If they were already adult animals, they would not have nearly as much time to disperse and repopulate the Earth before they died.

The bottom line is that there is no reason to disbelieve what the Bible says when it tells us the story of Noah and the Ark. The Ark was large enough to hold the passengers that God sent to Noah to put on the Ark. Obviously, since God knew what He wanted on the Ark, He knew exactly how large it needed to be to house that many animals. The dimensions He gave to Noah made sure there was enough space for everything with a ticket to board.

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IN A DEBATE WITH A CREATIONIST, EVOLUTIONIST BILL NYE (THE “SCIENCE GUY”) ARGUED THAT A WOODEN BOAT AS LARGE as the Ark would sink—and especially a large, wooden ship built by an amateur like Noah. So, he said, the story of Noah and the Ark cannot be true. As proof for his claim, he talked about a large wooden ship that was built by professionals in the early 1900s—the Wyoming. The Wyoming was not even as large as the Ark, and yet the length of the wooden planks from which it was made twisted and bent so much while on the ocean that it finally sank. Does the sinking of the Wyoming disprove Noah’s Ark? Was Noah too much of an amateur to even make such a vessel?

First we have to keep in mind that there were about 1,650 years between Creation and the Flood. It is very possible that boats were already being built before the time of Noah, and therefore, that Noah was not an amateur. Since people in the pre-Flood world lived longer than we do today (Genesis 5), their wooden boat-making abilities could have been amazing. Even if Noah was not much of a boat builder, there is every reason to believe he could have hired help. Also, when we consider the fact that Noah was 600 years old when the Flood came, it is easy to imagine that he could have learned how to build boats better than anyone today, even if he only started learning when he was 500. That said, it is also likely that God gave Noah more specific directions than Moses recorded, telling Noah exactly how He wanted the Ark built. Noah did not have to be an amazing engineer. He just had to be able to follow God’s instructions.

Second, even if Noah was an amazing ship builder, does the Wyoming prove that the Ark would have sunk? First, the Wyoming and the Ark are not a good comparison from an engineering standpoint. While the Wyoming was certainly large, it also had six masts and several sails. Like wind yanking your arm when you are holding an umbrella in a storm, wind can create a lot of force on a ship when it hits large sails, causing the ship’s wooden boards to twist and bend, eventually causing leaks and board buckling. The Ark, however, would not have had sails to worry about, since it did not have anywhere it needed to go! It just needed to float.

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER:

• We know from archaeological discoveries that ancient man, in the years immediately following the Flood, was able to create large, wooden ships that could resist twisting and buckling by creating special joints that allow boards to resist such movement, called mortise and tenon joints.

• We do not know the exact identity of “gopher wood” (the wood Noah used to build the Ark). Several known species of trees are mentioned by Moses in Scripture, but nobody knows what gopher wood was. It could have been a strong tree that existed in the pre-Flood world that is now extinct, but which was perfect for use in building the Ark.

• In spite of the fact that the Wyoming sank, it stayed afloat for 15 years before doing so. The Ark only needed to stay afloat for about one year.

Bill Nye’s claims are incorrect. The Ark was seaworthy! Interestingly, recently designed super jumbo barges have a length to width ratio (290 to 50) very similar to that to the Ark (300 to 50). Apparently Someone knew what He was doing when designing the Ark. There is no reason to doubt that the Flood happened. Sadly, almost everybody in Noah’s day had Bill Nye’s skeptical attitude about the Flood. You can only imagine what they were thinking the moment they saw the Flood waters coming and realized Noah was right. But it was too late for them to repent.
TRUE OR FALSE

1. ____ A wooden boat as large as the Ark would sink—and especially a large, wooden ship built by an amateur like Noah.
2. ____ There were about 1,650 years between Creation and the Flood.
3. ____ Noah was too much of an amateur to build the Ark. He simply could not have done it.
4. ____ It is very possible that boats were already being built before the time of Noah.
5. ____ Noah built his Ark with three sails.
6. ____ The size of Noah’s Ark is detailed in the book of Exodus.
7. ____ Most people in Noah’s day were very righteous.
8. ____ Today’s idea of a “species” did not exist when Moses wrote the book of Genesis.
9. ____ The biblical word “kind” and the more modern term “species” refer to the same thing.

1. ____ A large wooden ship built by professionals in the early 1900s that eventually sank
2. ____ Was instructed by God to build a large wooden boat thousands of years ago
3. ____ The kind of wood Noah used when building the Ark
4. ____ Book of the Bible in which we read about Noah’s Ark and the Flood
5. ____ A biblical word that would be closer to our word “family” or “genus” when classifying animal groups.
6. ____ What Noah built
7. ____ Often referred to as the “father of evolution”
8. ____ Apparently provide over half of the oxygen we breathe
9. ____ Eat only plants
10. ____ A kind of sauropod

Dear Digger Doug,

How did certain animals such as kangaroos get to places like Australia after the Flood?

Dear reader,

That is a great question. Since there is so much water surrounding Australia and other islands, how could land-living animals have made it there after the Flood? There are several different explanations for how this could have happened. First, there probably would have been huge collections of floating debris, plants, and trees after the Flood. These big “logmats” could have carried animals from land, across vast waters, to islands. Second, just after the Flood, the continents may not have been as far away from each other as they are now. They could have started moving due to the “fountains of the deep” breaking up during the Flood. They most likely would have been moving apart much faster than they are today, and the animals could have gone to them before they moved very far apart. Third, it could be that there was much more water frozen at the ice caps in the years immediately after the Flood, making the oceans shallower than they are today. These shallower waters would have made it easier for animals to move to places like Australia. Many years after the Flood, the frozen water in the ice caps would have begun to melt, causing deeper oceans and bringing about the greater separation of the continents that we see today. Those are three good ideas about how the land animals could have made it to islands and continents such as Australia.

1. Write a paragraph about why it is reasonable to believe that Noah fit so many different animals on the Ark.
2. Explain how plants could have survived the Flood.

A. Gopher
B. Ark
C. Kind
D. Herbivores
E. Charles Darwin
F. Genesis
G. Noah
H. Wyoming
I. Ocean Plants
J. Apatosaurus

What are you reading Doug?

A. Book about whales

Did you know that blue whales spend the winter months in the warmer parts of the world. They go to warmer waters during the spring and summer, where they can feed in the warmer waters and develop their babies?

It’s just more proof that evolution just doesn’t happen, since only God could’ve given them the instinct to go to and from the same places every year.

Too bad we don’t have anything like that. Where exactly are we?

Maybe this wasn’t a good day for deep sea fishing. I know I shouldn’t have left my GIFS at home.

I know where you guys are... you’re in my way!
SOME PEOPLE WHO HAVE TROUBLE BELIEVING THAT THE FLOOD ACTUALLY HAPPENED ASK HOW IT COULD BE THAT the plants of the Earth could survive since they were completely underwater for several months during the Flood. We do not read that the plants were carried onto the Ark “two-by-two.” How could they have survived?

It is true that most of the plants on the Earth probably would have died in the Flood, but it is also true that Noah could have brought seeds onto the Ark. After all, God told him to bring onto the Ark “of all food that is eaten” for his family and for the animals (Genesis 6:21), and Genesis 1:29-30 and 9:3 seem to tell us that both humans and animals were meant to be herbivores (eat only plants) before the Flood. So the food Noah brought onto the Ark would have been plants. It is also true that most of the world’s plant life is underwater and is able to survive well there.

Scientists think that well over half of the oxygen we breathe is from ocean plants.

We also must consider that when the plants on the Earth were killed in the Flood, many of their remains, including their seeds, would have floated on the surface of the waters. After the waters receded, the seeds would have been able to grow again. Studies have been done on seeds to figure out if they could survive after being in salt water for long periods of time—including a study by the father of evolution, Charles Darwin. Sure enough, the seeds were able to grow again.

The Bible tells us of a Flood that covered the entire Earth thousands of years ago. Many arguments have been made trying to prove that such an event could not have happened. When we study those arguments, however, we always find that the Bible can and should be trusted.