

Are There "LEFTOVERS"

of Evolution?

KYLE BUTT

ave you ever seen a birthday balloon hanging on someone's mailbox—a balloon that once had helium in it, but had been there so long that the helium had leaked out? The poor balloon sagged to the ground, all wrinkled and good for nothing. It once was a

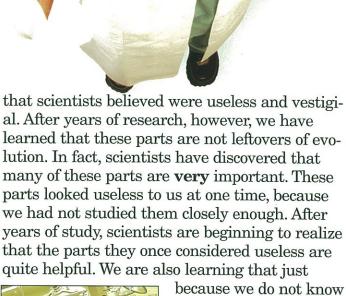
> very useful, floating balloon. Now it is a useless, wrinkly mess of rubber.

> > Now think with me about the theory of evolution. According to evolution, animals and humans have been evolving for millions of years. Supposedly, they started out very simple, but over millions of years, have progressed into the complex creatures we see today. If this really did happen, the

theory of evolution says that we should find some "leftover" structures that once were used but are not used anymore, just like the saggy, useless balloon. The "leftover" structures might be body organs or parts that were used "millions of years ago" by an animal or human, but now the creature has changed so much that the structure is no longer needed. Evolutionists call these leftovers "vestigial" organs.

A vestige is a piece or part left by something. For instance, after a war, old land mines accidentally left in a field would be a vestige of the war. Since evolutionists believe that evolution actually happened, they believe that there are leftover pieces or parts of it—vestiges. That is why evolutionists call certain body parts vestigial: they think the parts are leftovers from evolution.

There is one problem with this idea of vestigial parts: it is absolutely false! At one time, there was a list of over 100 parts of the human body





what a body part does, that does not mean it is useless. God designed the body perfectly. There are no leftovers of evolution. As the psalmist wrote, humans are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14).

The **Appendix** and the Tonsils: Vestigial?

NATHANIEL NELSON

ave you ever had your tonsils taken out? How about your appendix? These parts of your body can cause a lot of pain when something goes wrong with them. When it's your tonsils, you might feel like you have a sore throat. When it's your appendix, you might feel like you have a really bad stomachache. Either way, these two little organs in your body may seem to be more trouble than they're worth!

Many scientists in the past have said that the tonsils and the appendix were vestigialuseless leftovers of evolution. They said that our evolutionary ancestors might have used them, but we don't need them anymore. Because of this "discovery," scientists tried to say that evolution was true. After more study, though, scien-

tists have actually found that both of these "unimportant" organs do more than was once thought.

The appendix is a worm-shaped organ that is found just below your belly button, and slightly to the right. Today, when you get a cold, you can fight it off easi-

ly, and it goes away fairly quickly. But when you were first born, it was more difficult for your body to fight off even a simple cold! We now know that your appendix helped guard you from all kinds of microscopic germs that might have tried to enter your body while you were a very small child. Even as you get

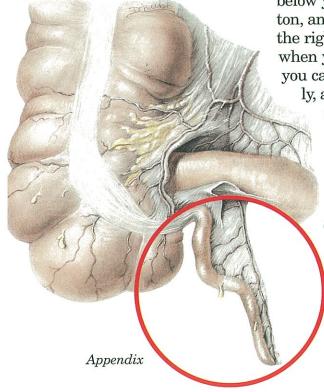
older, your appendix has

special tissue inside of it that continues to fight off germs for vou. Plus, researchers have dis-

> covered that the appendix helps fight certain types of cancer cells.

Your tonsils are two round, white spots that can be found in the back of your throat, one on each side. Like the appendix, most peo-

ple thought that the tonsils were evidence of evolution because they supposedly didn't do anything. Scientists now know that tonsils actually do the same thing as the appendix—fight off germs! Learning more about the appendix and tonsils helps us to understand that our bodies are not accidents formed by evolution. Tonsils and the appendix are not leftovers of evolution, but are important body parts designed and created by God.



No Bones **About It!**

TAYLOR RICHARDSON

'ou are at the dentist's office getting a regular checkup. The dentist comes in and tells you that your wisdom teeth will

> need to be removed. You ask why they need to be removed, and what they

are used for?

Wisdom teeth (the third row of molars) are one of the most controversial of all the so-called vestigial structures. **Evolutionists** believe that wisdom teeth developed thousands of years ago, when human diets consisted mostly of raw and unprocessed food

that required the extra chewing and grinding power of a third set of molars. Today. some evolutionists call wisdom teeth vestigial structures because they say that the human jaw is getting smaller. and wisdom teeth are no longer needed. Some people experience problems with their wisdom teeth growing improperly, and the teeth have to be removed. However, many people have healthy, useful wisdom teeth. Research in recent years has shown that wisdom teeth have the same chewing function as other teeth.

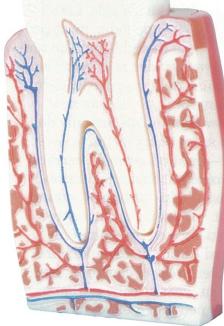
Scientists also have found that wisdom teeth often will not damage the position of other teeth in the mouth.

Another so-called vestigial structure in the human body is the coccyx. The coccyx is attached to the lower end of the backbone, and consists of three to five (usually four) fused vertebrae. Evolutionists believe this is an undeveloped tail, and use it as "proof" that humans came from creatures like monkeys. Supposedly, the coccyx serves no other purpose. These evolu-

tionists also say that if the living body had really

been created, it would have no useless organs in it, like the coccyx. We now know, however, that the coccyx has a purpose that is very important in human development. The coccyx serves as a point of attachment for several pelvic muscles that help us stand up. Like the shocks on a car, the coccyx also is used as a shock absorber when we sit down. Without it, we would not be able to sit very well

Wisdom teeth and the coccyx are not vestigial at all—they both have specific purposes, and point to the design of a Creator.



or comfortably.

Snake Legs, Whale Legs, and Evolutionists: All "Stumped"

MATTHEW VANHORN

hales are amazing creatures. The smallest whales are only eight and a half feet long, while the biggest whale, the 110-footlong blue whale, is bigger than any of the dinosaurs were! Whales are unique, in that they are marine mammals (most mammals live on land). Whales cause big problems for evolutionists, because evolution says that all mammals evolved on land and then moved into the ocean, after they evolved the special features required for underwater life. Evolutionists support their idea by pointing out that some whales have tiny "legs" that were supposedly once used for walking, but are of no use anymore. Scientists claim that the legs of whales are "leftovers" of evolution.

Hillary Mayell wrote in National Geographic that today's sperm whales have vestigial hind legs. But the legs that Mrs. Mayell claimed are useless actually do have a purpose. The tiny hind legs of the whale help it to reproduce. Evolutionists themselves are forced to admit this. The fact is, God created things to serve a purpose, and the whales' "legs" are no exception.

Evolutionists often try to find what they want to find, and many times end up ignoring the actual facts. This is what some scientists do concerning snake "legs." Snakes



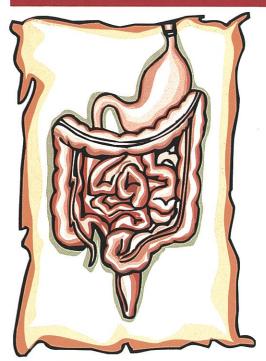
have what appear to be the "stump" of legs toward the back of their bodies. Evolutionary scientists claim that snakes were once lizards, but due to the processes of evolution, they lost their legs, and now they are left with nothing but short. useless limbs that simply "stick out." This is untrue.

Scientists have discovered

that, like the whale, the snakes' "legs" aid in their reproduction. But also, snakes use these short legs in fighting. Amazing! These "vestigial" organs are not vestigial at all. They all serve a purpose. Evolution couldn't make everything "just right." But God, the Great Designer, leaves nothing off, and has nothing left over.

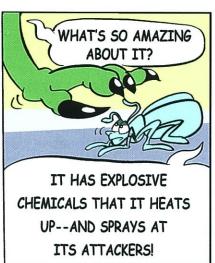


TRUE OR FALSE

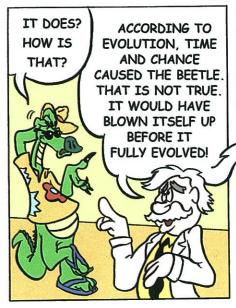


- 1. **T F** Evolutionists believe that humans have body parts that are left over from evolution.
- 2. **T F** Human body hair does not have an important function.
- 3. T F The 110-foot-long blue whale is bigger than any of the dinosaurs.
- 4. **T F** Scientists are beginning to realize that the parts they once considered useless are quite helpful.
- 5. **T F** The tiny "legs" of a whale are vestigial.
- 6. **T F** The tonsils, like the appendix, help fight off germs.
- 7. **T F** Human body hair acts like a kind of radar to help detect motion.
- 8. **T** F The appendix allows germs to enter the human body.
- 9. **T F** The coccyx acts like a shock absorber when we sit down.











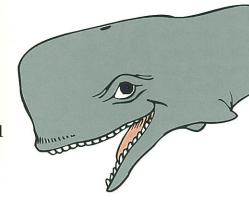
THAT'S TRUE ... SO HOW

DOES IT WORK?



MATCHING

- 1. ____ A piece or part left by something
- 2. Plays a very important role in the protection of skin
- 3. Two round white spots found in the back of your throat
- 4. ____ Author who wrote that sperm whales have vestigial hind legs
- 5. ____ Another name for vestigial
- 6. Worm-shaped organ found below your belly button
- 7. ____ A marine mammal that causes problems for evolutionists
- Attached to the lower end of the backbone
 - A. Whales
 - B. Body hair
 - C. Appendix
 - D. Coccyx
 - E. Vestige
 - F. Hillary Mayell
 - G. Leftover
 - H. Tonsils



FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. At one time, scientists believed that there were				
	over vestigia	l organs.		
2.	. No can be called vestigial unless it can be proved that it has no function.			
3.	Researchers have discovered that thehelps fight certain types of cancer cells.			
4.	The smallest and a half feet long.	are only eight		

are one of the most controversial of all the so-called vestigial structures.

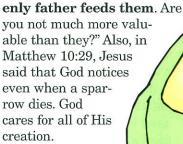
Dear Digger Doug, Can pets go to heaven? —Tasha Sallee, Morris, IL.

Dear Tasha,

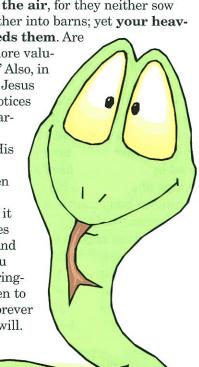
Thanks for your question. The fact is, animals are different from people. When God made Adam and Eve, He made them in His own image (Genesis 1:26-27). That means (at least partly) that God made people with the ability to

choose between right and wrong. He also gave Adam and Eve (and every human since then) souls that will live forever (read Ecclesiastes 12:7). The souls of the righteous will live forever with God in heaven (Matthew 25:46). Since animals neither have souls, nor the ability to choose to obey God, they will not go to heaven, just like plants or bugs that don't have souls.

That being said, just because animals will not go to heaven does not mean that God does not care for animals. In Matthew 6:25-26 Jesus said, "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heav-



It is sad when an animal dies, especially when it is a pet. God does care, however. And He'll care for you even more by bringing you to heaven to live with Him forever if you obey His will.





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A LASINATION

TAYLOR REEVES

an you tell the difference between the amount of body hair humans have, and the amount some animals have? According to evolution, humans evolved from creatures like apes, and human body hair was "left over" on our bodies through this process. Evolutionists believe that human body hair is of little use. Our supposed ancestors used their thick coat of hair for warmth and protection, but humans no longer have that thick coat of hair. The little bit of body hair that humans do have is viewed by many evolutionists as a vestige of evolution. Is it true that human body hair is a "leftover" of evolution?

No structure can be called vestigial unless it can be proven that it has absolutely no function. Human body hair, however, does have some important functions, and so it cannot be labeled as

vestigial. Let's look at some of the things body hair does for us. First, body hair plays a very important role in the protection of the skin. Body hair functions to warm the skin, and to protect the skin from germs. Hair also can act as a kind of radar, letting us know when something is crawling on us. For instance, sometimes a tick will get on a person and go undetected for a while. Yet, if that tick moves a leg or arm hair too much, we can feel the movement and get rid of the tick.

The latest theory proposed by evolutionists says that humans have lost all of this hair "to beat the bugs." Evolutionists say that humans somehow reduced the amount of hair on their bodies in an effort to get rid of the biting bugs and flies, because they would not have enough hair to "cling to." Although getting rid of this hair might reduce the amount of

attacking bugs, it also would make us more likely to scratch, cut, or damage our skin. In truth, we did not evolve from creatures like apes. And we did not lose most of our body hair in the process. Continual medical discoveries have solved most of the former mysteries of certain body parts, like body hair. It is not leftover or useless, but has many helpful functions. God designed humans with the right amount of body hair in the first place.

ANSWERS

TRUE OR FALSE: 1. T; 2. F; 3. T; 4. T; 5. F; 6. T; 7. T; 8. F; 9. T. FILL IN THE BLANKS: 1. 100; 2. structure; 3. appendix; 4. whales; 5. wisdom teeth.

MATCHING: 1. E (Vestige); 2. B (Body hair); 3. H (Tonsils); 4. F (Hillary Mayell); 5. G (Leftover); 6. C (Appendix); 7. A (Whales); 8. D (Coccyx).