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Exploring the Creation/Evolution Controversy

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The Age of the Earth

"Antiquitas sæculi juvenus mundi."
[The age of antiquity is the youth of the world.]

- Francis Bacon,
The Advancement of Learning [1605]

[The Age of the Earth](#)

The Earth is accepted by scientists to be around 4.5 billion years old. But how do they know the Earth is this old? Some of the lines of evidence for an ancient Earth are presented.

[The Geological Time Scale](#)

Few discussions in geology or evolution can occur without reference to geologic time. In this article, the standard time scale used by geologists is depicted and described. See also Niel Brandt's [Evolutionary and Geological Timelines](#).

[Radiometric Dating and the Geological Time Scale](#)

Radiometric dating and stratigraphic principles are combined to establish the conventional geological time scale. Scientists apply these principles to date rocks, which can then be used to assign ages to fossils.

[Changing Views of the History of the Earth](#)

How did we go from thinking Earth was a young planet to the realization that it is ancient, with a four and a half billion year history?

[Isochron Dating Methods](#)

The isochron radiometric dating technique (and related ones) is widely used in isotope geology, and does not fall prey to many common creationist criticisms of radiometric dating. This essay introduces the technique and shows why it is so reliable.

[An Evaluation of the ICR Grand Canyon Research Project](#)

This essay discusses the ICR's Grand Canyon Dating Project, as proposed and executed by the ICR's Steve Austin. Austin has obtained some bad Rb-Sr isochron dates, although there are several serious questions regarding his methodology.

Geochronology according to creationist John Woodmorappe

John Woodmorappe has examined numerous studies of radiometric dating in the scientific literature and concludes that radiometric dating techniques are invalid. This essay, however, raises serious questions about Woodmorappe's methods.

How Good Are Those Young-Earth Arguments? A Close Look at Dr. Hovind's List of Young-Earth Arguments and Other Claims

A detailed debunking of the young-earth arguments used by Kent Hovind and other young-earth creationists.

Age of the Earth: Debate between Chris Stassen and Bob Bales

This document is the result of an attempted "formal" Usenet debate, with orderly turns between speakers, length limits, and a predetermined topic (the age of the earth). The participants were Bob Bales and Chris Stassen, both high-profile talk.origins participants at the time of the debate.

A Debate between Duane Gish and Hugh Ross

A transcript of a radio talk show hosted by Dr. James Dobson featuring Hugh Russ, an old-earth Biblical cosmologist, and Duane Gish, the young-earthier of the ICR. The exchange is enlightening and covers such topics as the age of the universe and the flood.

The Decay of c-decay

Light arriving from galaxies billions of light years away attests to the ancient age of the universe. Some young-earth creationists have tried to explain this evidence away by claiming that the speed of light has changed substantially.

Creation Science and the Earth's Magnetic Field

Creationists have long argued that the earth's magnetic field proves that the earth cannot be more than 10000 years old. This article looks in great detail at the argument and thoroughly debunks it.

Meteorite Dust and the Age of the Earth

It is argued that both the Earth and Moon should be covered with a great layer of space dust if the Earth were as old as the standard models imply. As usual, creationists base their argument on faulty data and unwarranted extrapolations.

The Recession of the Moon and the Age of the Earth-Moon System

One of the common arguments made in support of a young Earth is that the Earth-moon system

could not be billions of years old. This article examines the physics of the system and shows why the creationists are wrong.

Polonium Halo FAQs

Scientists examine the claim that creationist Robert Gentry's polonium haloes are evidence for a young earth. The evidence suggests that Gentry's argument is mistaken.

The Solar FAQ: Solar Neutrinos and Other Solar Oddities

Nuclear fusion is the only process reasonably capable of powering the sun, and one product of this fusion is invisible particles called 'neutrinos'. But why don't we observe as many solar neutrinos as theory would predict?

Debunking Gentry's "New Redshift Interpretation" Cosmology

Young-earth creationist Robert Gentry has offered a theory to replace the standard Big Bang cosmological model of the universe, but his model is flawed by a number of deficiencies, errors and inconsistencies.

Dating with Icecores

A discussion of the methods for determining the ages of ancient ice cores. Ice cores found in Antarctica date back about 160,000 years, presenting somewhat of a problem for young-earth creationists and catastrophists.

Various Interpretations of Genesis

Genesis can be interpreted in such a way that it does not conflict with scientific fact. This short article describes a few of the more common such interpretations.

Supernovae, Supernova Remnants and Young Earth Creationism

Young-earth creationists are occasionally heard to claim that, if the universe is as old as mainstream science holds it is, we should see far more supernova remnants - the cinders of exploded stars - than we actually do. This article discusses supernova physics at length and explains why these claims are faulty.

Carbon-14 in Coal Deposits

Some creationists have claimed that anomalous amounts of radioactive carbon-14 in ancient coal deposits indicates that standard dating techniques, and by extension possibly the geologic timescale, are flawed. This essay explains the real reason C-14 is found in coal.

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