

Reconciling Science and the Bible

Lesson 6: Proofs of the Existence of God: The Argument from Logic

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Lessons: Reconciling Science and the Bible

1. 7 days of creation
2. In the Beginning (the Big Bang)
3. Did dinosaurs really exist? How old is the Earth?
4. The Existence of God: The Ontological Argument
5. The Existence of God: The Anthropological Argument
6. The Existence of God: The Argument from Logic
7. **The Existence of God: The Argument from Intelligent Design**
8. What is truth? Is the Bible true and can you trust it?
9. Was Jesus a REAL person?
10. Why does God allow evil to exist?
11. Is there life after death?
12. Is God multidimensional?
13. Living an intentional life!



Consider this Mountain in South Dakota

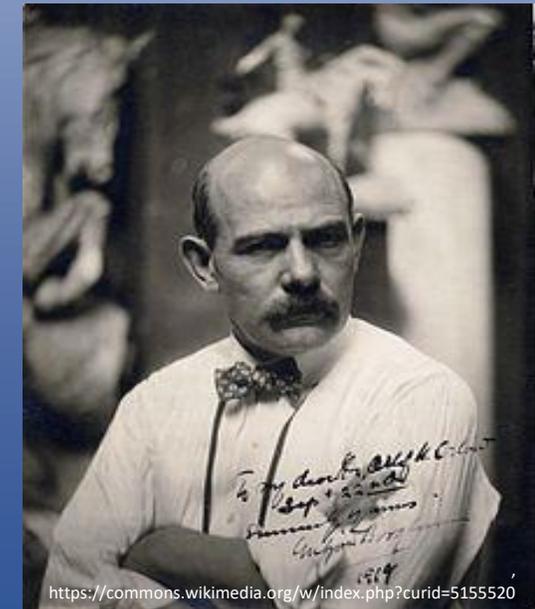


- Was this mountain made by natural geological forces?
 - Earthquakes
 - Volcanos
 - Tides
 - Wind
 - Rain
 - Lightening
 - Erosion
 - Snow
 - Ice

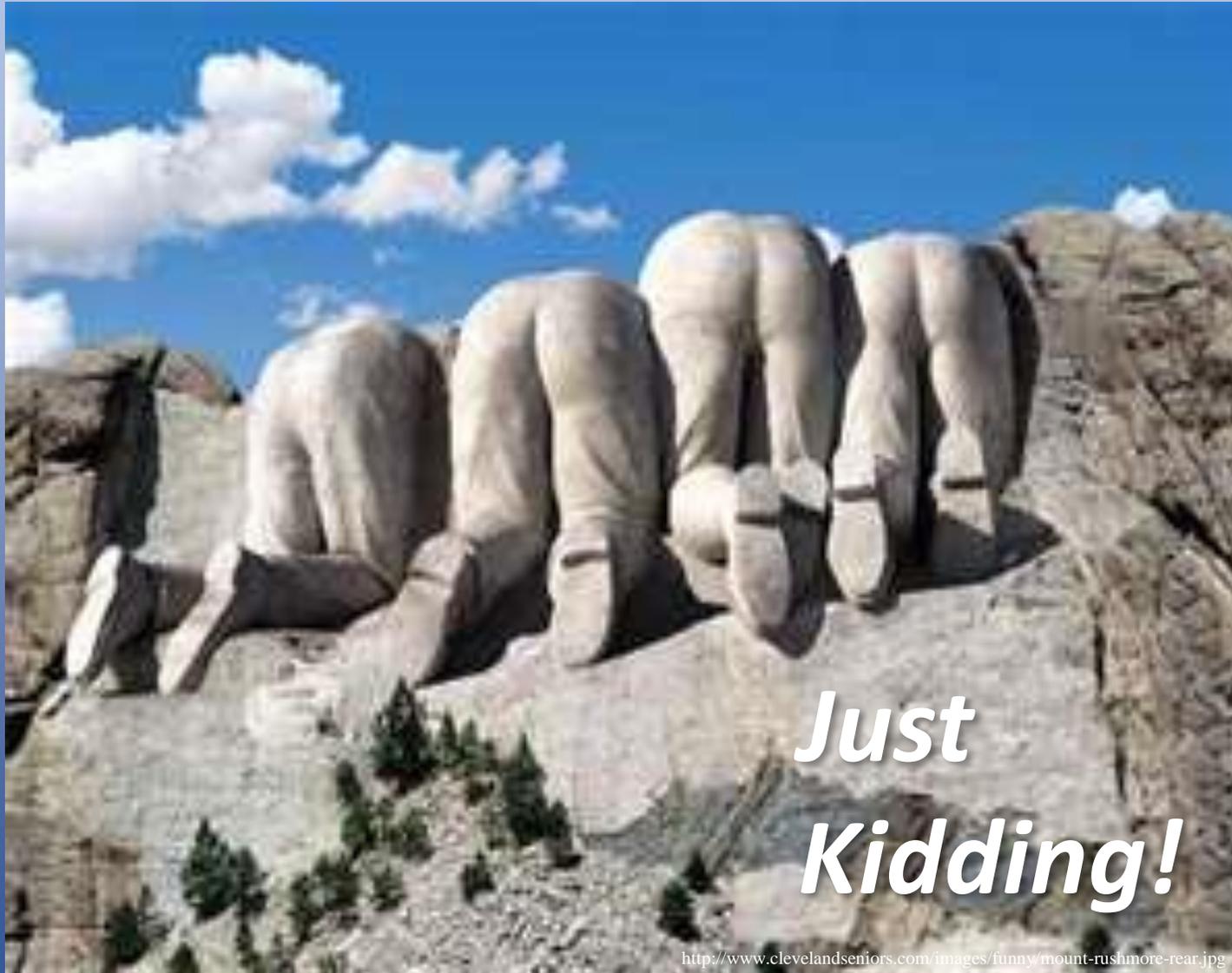
Consider this Mountain in South Dakota



- It would be silly to think that natural forces made this mountain!
- John Borglum designed and then oversaw the work to chisel out these faces in the 1930's

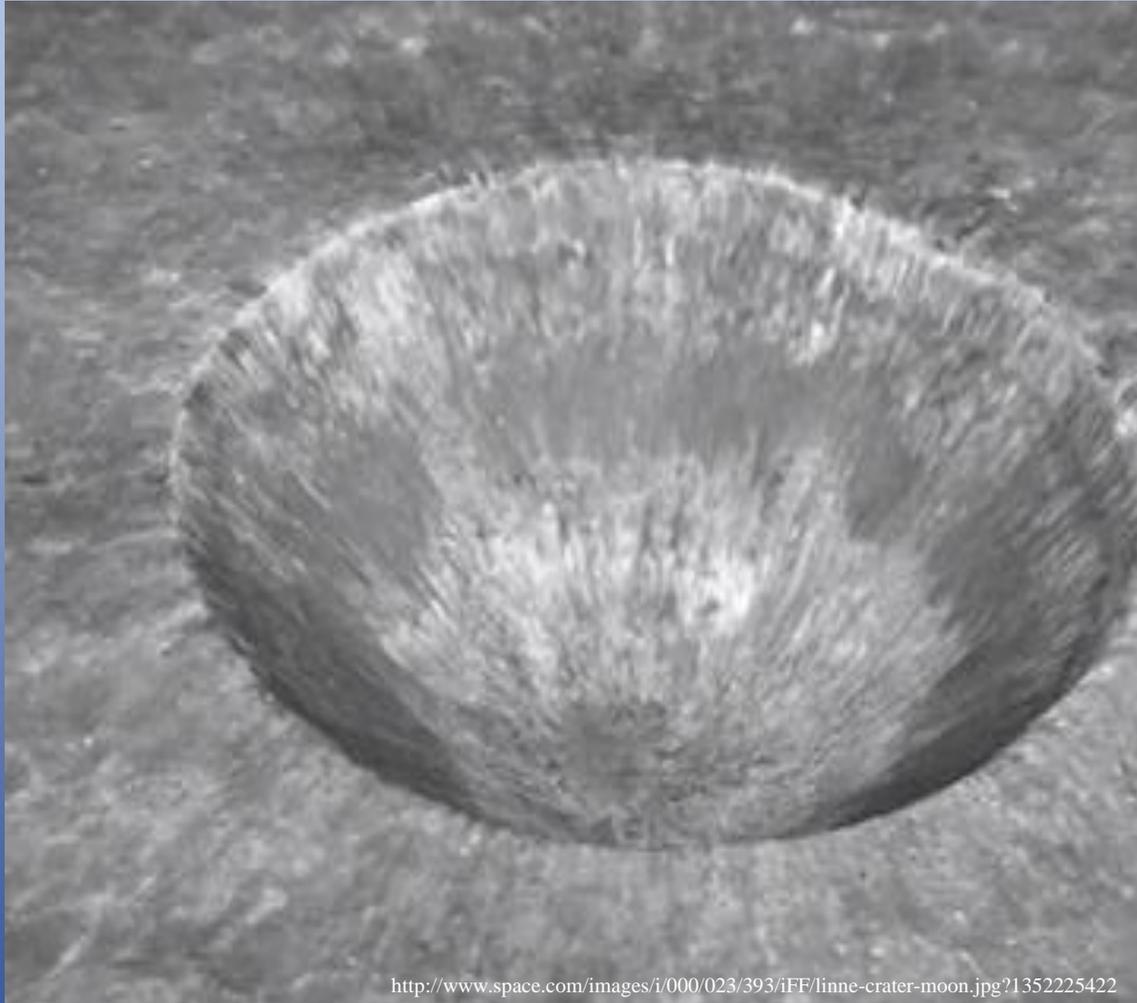


Here's the Back Side...



<http://www.clevelandseniors.com/images/funny/mount-rushmore-rear.jpg>

Science Got This One Wrong!



- In the early 1600's , Johannes Kepler observed these depressions through telescopes
- There were many and they were arranged so specifically, almost carefully
- He concluded they were made by the Endymionides or “moon people” as fortifications for their towns
- “They are artificial and produced by some architectural mind”
- Later we discovered they were created by asteroid/meteoroid strikes

Mark Brake, Alien Life Imagined: Communicating the Science and Culture of Astrobiology, Cambridge University Press, 2013

Victoria Harbor, Vancouver Island, British Columbia

- When you arrive at the waterfront in Victoria Harbor in Canada, a huge WELCOME sign greets you.
- A well-tended garden of flowers on the side of the point leading into the harbor visible from the numerous cruise ships.
- Upon seeing these flowers, would you have immediately thought they were created by normal botanical processes without any human help...they just showed up this way?



https://adventuresofdandgj.files.wordpress.com/2015/07/dkn_welcometovictoria3.jpg

Stone Mountain Park, Georgia



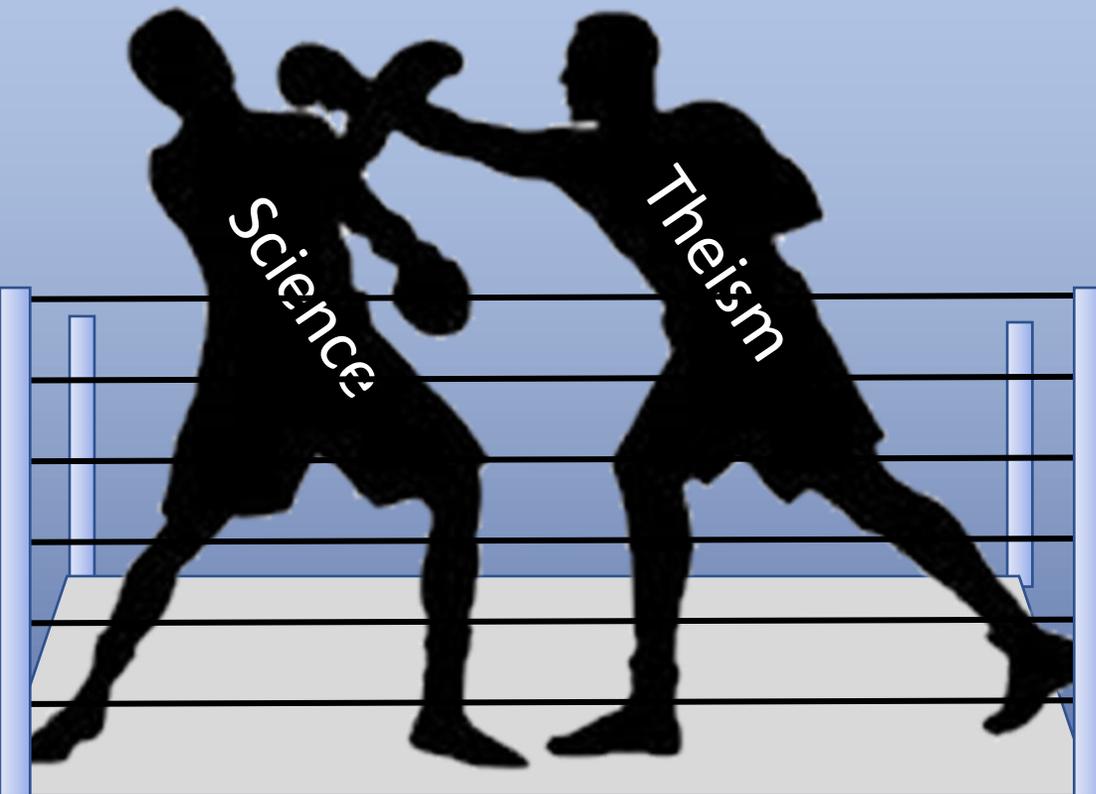
https://a0.muscache.com/im/pictures/83d562e9-09d8-449b-baf5-7ea30fc909b3.jpg?aki_policy=xx_large

- If you just drove into the park and had never seen or heard of the Stone Mountain Confederate Monument...
- Would you have thought how magnificent the process of erosion really is?
- Or, would you immediately recognize it as hand-made?

This is the Idea Behind “Intelligent Design”

- In such grand monuments as Mount Rushmore, the Welcome sign of flowers in British Columbia, and the mountain carvings in Stone Mountain Georgia...
- It is EASY to see how there were designers and creators for each of them
- Intelligent Design advocates ask is it possible to make the same assumption (*there was a designer*) by looking at some of the marvels in nature and in the development animal species, including humans?

Science vs Creationism



Evolution
Science
Test and predict
Big Bang & Evolution
Simple to Complex
A long time is required
(Time is on our side!)

Creationism (ID)
“Pseudo-science”
The Bible says...
Creation & Global Flood
Fully Formed Creatures
2nd Law of Thermodynamics
(Entropy always increases)

Science & Evolution vs Intelligent Design

William Paley, Natural Theology, 1802

In crossing a heath, suppose I pitched my foot against a stone and were asked how the stone came to be there; I might possibly answer, that it may have been there forever.

But suppose I had found a watch upon the ground...I should hardly think the watch might have always been there.

There must have existed, at some time, and at some place or other, someone who formed the watch for the purpose which we find it actually to answer; who comprehended its construction, and designed its use.

Every indication of contrivance, every manifestation of design, which existed in the watch, exists in the works of nature; with the difference, on the side of nature, of being greater or more, and that in a degree which exceeds all computation.



Principles of Intelligent Design

- Specified Complexity

- It cannot exist in patterns formed by “unguided processes” (as in evolution)
- Yet, it can be found in living things (a bacterium, for example)
- So, there must have been some guidance in the formation of living things
- This “guidance” is indicative of intelligence (God)
- Evolution and Natural Selection will never be able to create high specified complexity
- Specified complexity is a marker for the design by an Intelligent Creator

- Irreducible Complexity

- A single system is irreducibly complex if the parts that contribute to it are all required for the system to continue to work. If any of the parts are taken out the system fails.
- The Irreducibly complex entity, then, could **not** have been created through evolution
- The human eyeball, for example, is irreducibly complex...It could not have evolved
- Therefore, it had to have been created by a designer (God)

Evolution is numerous, minor, successive steps



Preface

"If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down."

Charles Darwin, Origin of Species

With this statement, and like any good scientist, Charles Darwin provided a means by which his theory of evolution could be falsified. The claim from Intelligent Design advocates is that irreducibly complex systems falsify the theory of evolution and natural selection.

Specified Complexity

- Some things are specific, but not complex
- Others are complex but not specific
- And others are both specific and complex

Complex but not Specified



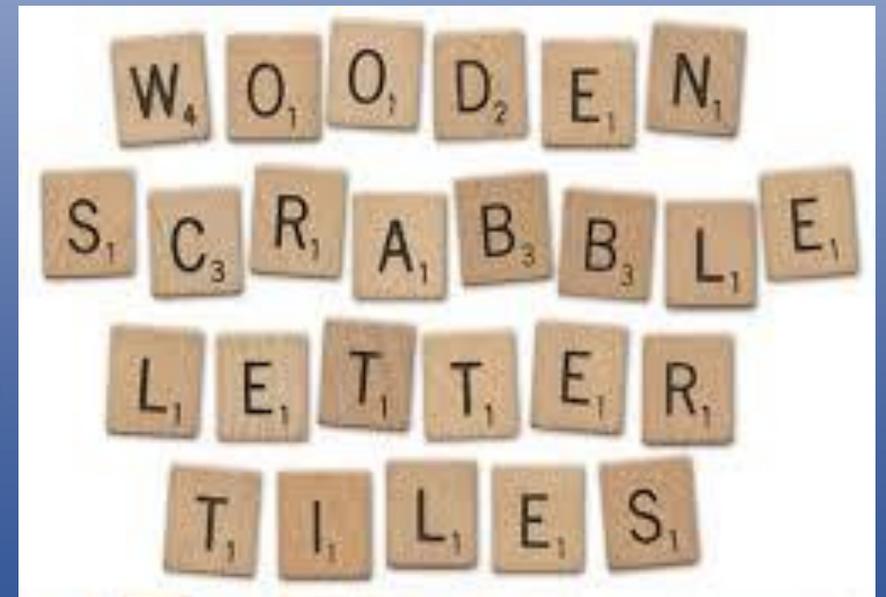
<https://connecticuthistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Scrabble-610x445.jpg>

Specified but not Complex



(unless this means "hand")

Complex and Specified



<http://www.fuzzimo.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/fzm-Wooden-Scrabble-Letter-Tiles-01.jpg>

More Specific Complexity Examples

F

Falkn xiz, Itwokn
nook bulnnae
qcerelipj. Qrtx
pmzq.

From the fairest creatures
we desire increase, that
thereby beauty's rose
might never die...

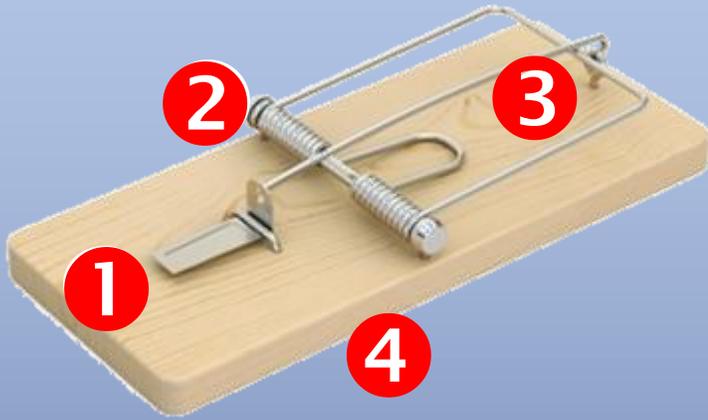
Shakespeare, Sonnet 1

↑
Specific &
Not Complex

↑
Not Specific &
Complex

↑
Specific &
Complex

Irreducibly Complex Systems



There are 4 parts in a mousetrap

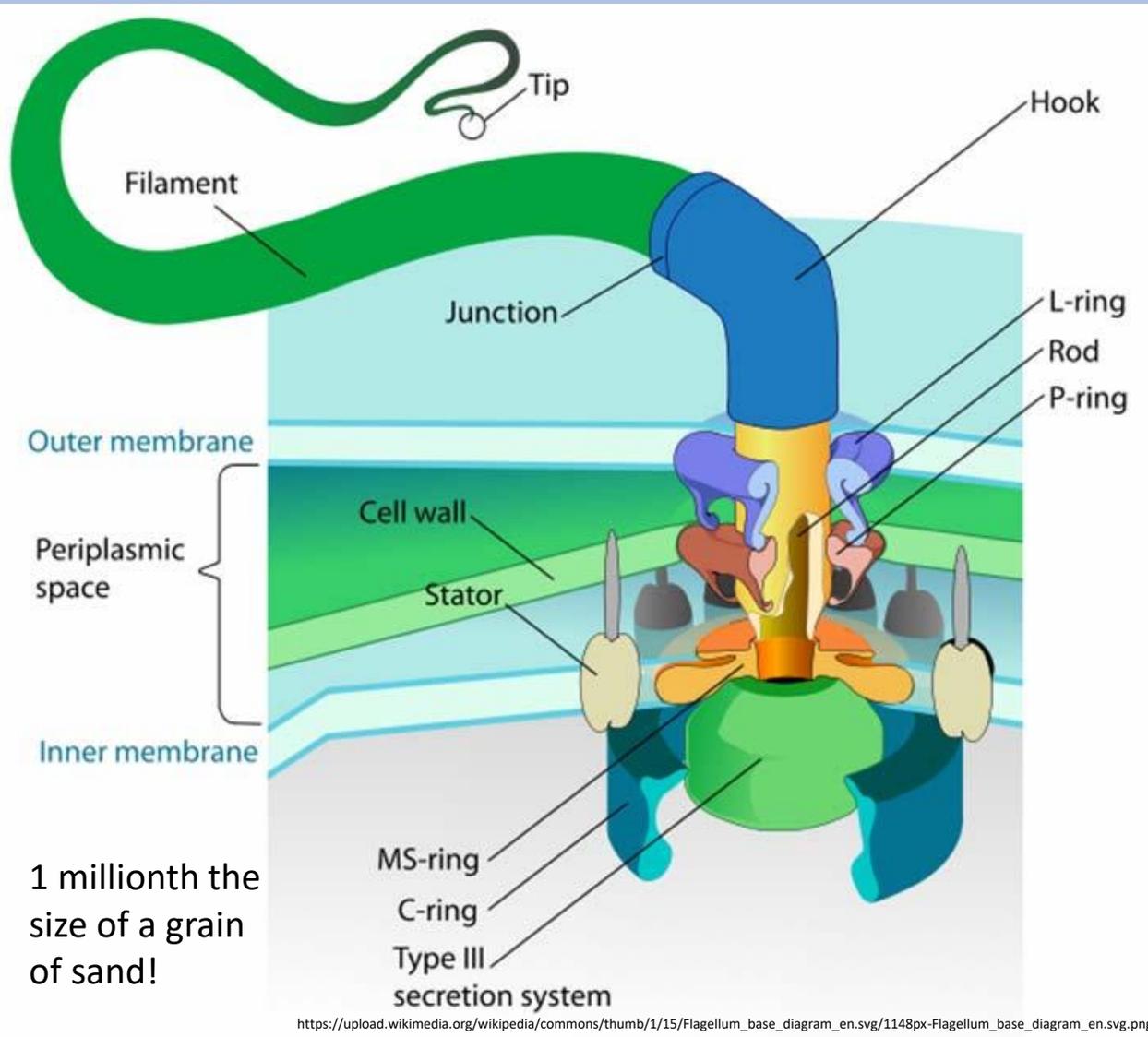
- 1) Catch where bait is added
- 2) Spring
- 3) Hold-down wire rod attached to Catch
- 4) Wooden or plastic base

Could any part of this machine be removed without causing the entire device not to work?

A system that has been stripped down to its most necessary parts and which if any of the parts are removed causes the system to cease functioning, then is **irreducibly complex**. In this state, the system *cannot have evolved on its own* to combine into the mechanisms we see today.

Behe, Michael J., 1952-. Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution. New York :Free Press, 2006.

Bacteria



- It has an Electric Motor!
 - Stator
 - Flagellum
 - L-shaped Hook Mechanism
- Functions:
 - Flagellum spins with many RPMs
 - Stops and reverses in $\frac{1}{4}$ of a turn!
- These could not have developed through evolution (gradual successive steps)
- Evolution could not have built the three elements in isolation and then combined them to work
- There must have been Intelligent Design

Human Eye

To suppose that the eye...could have been formed by natural selection seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest possible degree.

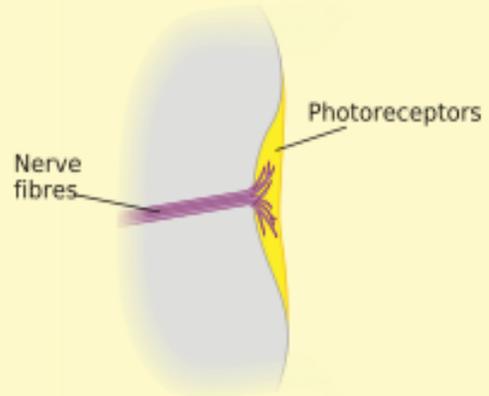
Yet, reason tells me, that if numerous gradations from a perfect and complex eye into one very imperfect and simple, each grade being useful to its possessor, can be shown to exist...then the difficulty of believing that a perfect and complex eye could be formed by Natural Selection...can hardly be considered real.

Charles Darwin (1809-1882)

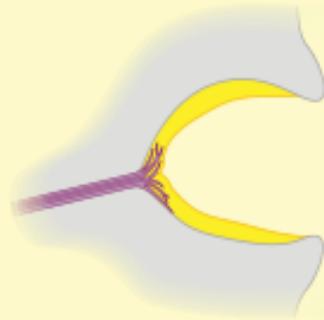
**But
the eye
did evolve
according
to
Evolution!**

Evolution of the Human Eye

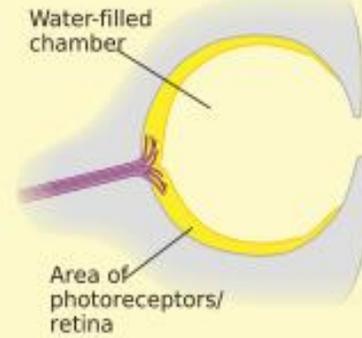
1 Region of photosensitive cells



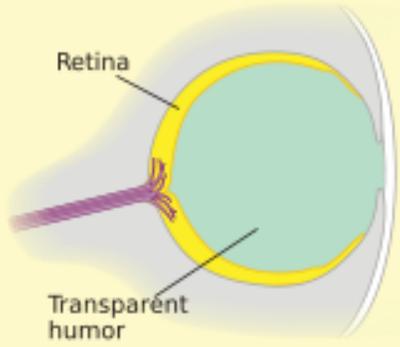
2 Depressed/folded area allows limited directional sensitivity



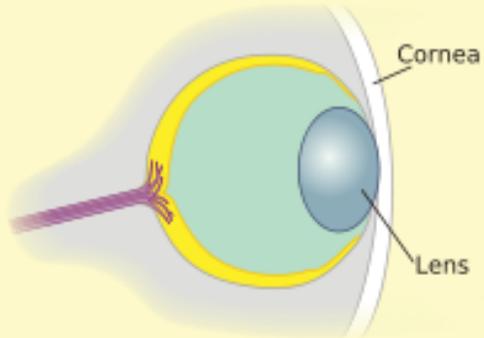
3 "Pinhole" eye allows finer directional sensitivity and limited imaging



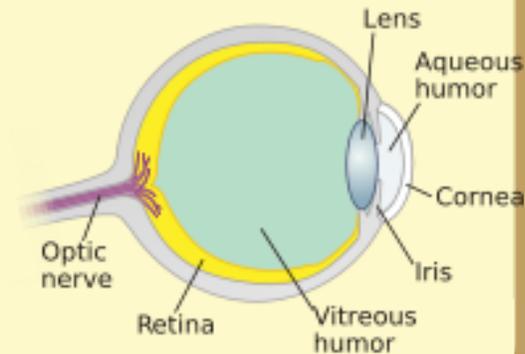
4 Transparent humor develops in enclosed chamber



5 Distinct lens develops



6 Iris and separate cornea develop



Science's View of Intelligent Design

- It promotes itself as Science but is considered by Scientists to be “Pseudo-science”
- It offers no premise that can be tested (repeatable, observable, or falsifiable) and so is not truly scientific
- In *Kitzmiller v. Dover*, the court ruled that intelligent design was a religious and creationist position, finding that God and intelligent design were both distinct from the material that should be covered in a science class.
- ID proponents have tried to couch their hypotheses in scientific terms to remove God from the discussion, but beneath it all, God is the “intelligent designer”

It is Hard to See How to Reconcile ID and Science

- If you take an Intelligent Design approach to explaining creation, you are directly confronting science and arguing against evolution
- Science rejects the mission and goals of the Institute for Creation Research, founded in 1970 by Dr. Henry Morris in Dallas, Texas as being a thinly veiled religious organization, not true science
- The courts recognize Intelligent Design as a form of theology and deemed it inappropriate for classroom study
- However, the discussion of what is required for true evolution has certainly been challenged by this group
- This site has helpful information and a bibliography on the relevant topics related to Intelligent Design: Evolution News and Science Today
https://evolutionnews.org/2012/11/why_intelligent1/