

# ON A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

## VOLUME ONE: SERIES INTRODUCTION

### PART TWO: DISCUSSION GUIDE

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Class / Block \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Using the arguments presented in the DVD, and your own research, answer the following questions and be ready to discuss them in class. Label and staple extra paper if required.

#### PART TWO: ARGUMENT AND DEBATE

1. What's the difference between an argument (such as Paley's argument that structure, design and functionality means there has to be a designer) and a theory? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Which theory on the spectrum graph makes the most sense to you and why? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why is the YEC (Young Earth Creationism) perspective taken by one of the debaters? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is circular logic? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Give an example of circular logic from your own life (for example: "The Bible is God's word, because the Bible says it is." "Evolution worked; we're here, aren't we?"). \_\_\_\_\_

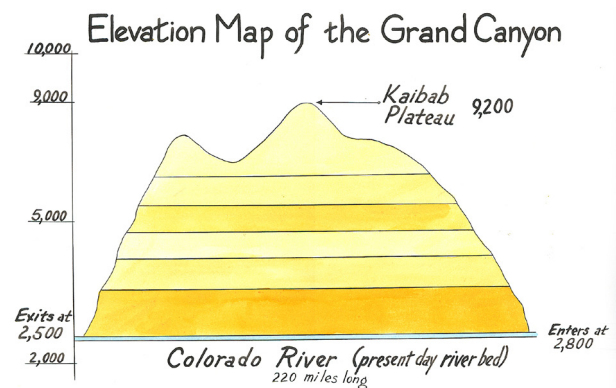
#### GRAND CANYON

\* Mr. E believes the Colorado River slowly eroded and carved out the Grand Canyon over millions of years.

\* Mr. C believes a huge lake, created by the flood, burst over the top carving the Grand Canyon within a few months or years.

6. Which explanation of how the Grand Canyon was formed makes more sense to you? What evidence was most compelling? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What experiment could you perform to test the theory you prefer? \_\_\_\_\_





## DINOSAURS & DIRT

\* Mr. E claims that the dinosaurs were destroyed 65 million years ago by an ELE (extinction level event). Mr. E states that this could have been an asteroid that hit near the Yucatan Peninsula.

\* Mr. C claims most dinosaurs were buried in the flood. Those that survived were called dragons and appear in legends, art and literature around the world.

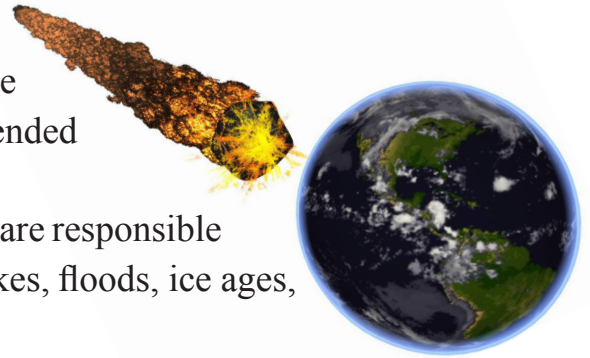
8. Which explanation of how the dinosaurs became extinct makes more sense and why? \_\_\_\_\_

9. What experiment could you perform to test the explanation you prefer? \_\_\_\_\_

## ASSUMPTIONS & YOU AND ME

\* Uniformitarianism states that “the present is the key to the past.” Current rates of erosion, growth, etc... can be extended into the past to help us understand how we got here.

\* Catastrophism holds that dramatic and short-lived events are responsible for the world as we know it. Events such as meteorite strikes, floods, ice ages, etc... drastically and quickly changed the earth.



10. Are these theories antithetical (do they have to conflict)? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Can you think of ways to use each assumption in your daily life?

(**Uniformitarianism:** Bob’s hair is 10 inches long. It grows at 1/2 inch a month, so that picture of him bald must be at least 20 months old.) (**Catastrophism:** The 10 foot sink hole was created in 3 hours. A waterline may have burst since there hasn’t been any recent flooding.)

Can you find a problem and a strength in each man’s argument about decay rates and change?

12. Mr. C argues that decay rates can change, while life doesn’t evolve into different species.

Problem: \_\_\_\_\_

Strength: \_\_\_\_\_

13. Mr. E argues that math/physics doesn’t change, but that biology does change.

Problem: \_\_\_\_\_

Strength: \_\_\_\_\_



## THE CREATOR OF OCCAM'S RAZOR

\* Mr. E argues that Occam's Razor (the simplest explanation is probably the right one) supports evolution. In his opinion, appealing to a supernatural creator only pushes the question of origins further back (Where did God come from?).

\* Mr. C counters that a god is a simpler explanation. In his opinion, since 95% of humans believe in some form of religion, this points to an unlock code placed in mankind by a god.

14. Which argument do you **disagree** with more and why? \_\_\_\_\_

## FINAL WEIGH IN & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

15. From what you've heard and seen in the debate, which theory makes more sense to you now? Explain why. What evidence did you find most compelling? \_\_\_\_\_

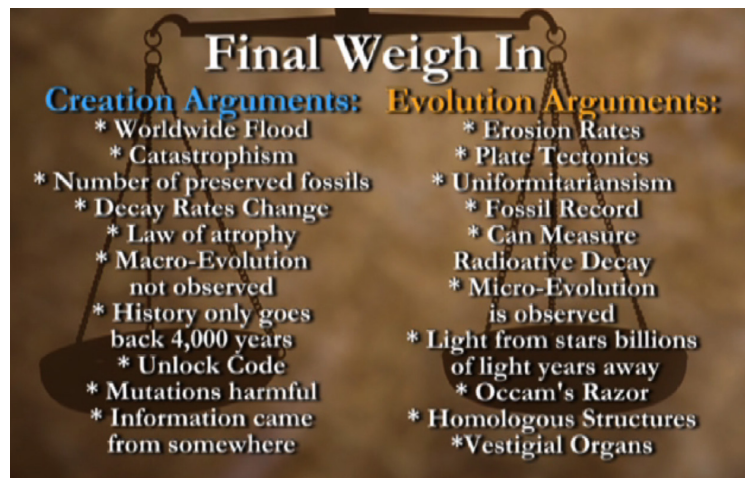
16. What are three questions you have about the science involved in the debate on origins?

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

17. What areas of science would you like to research and learn more about? \_\_\_\_\_



**“DO YOU WANT TO BE RIGHT, OR DO YOU WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH?”**

18. How objective were you when watching this video? Were you rooting for the side that you already agreed with (see question #2), or were you really wanting to know the truth? \_\_\_\_\_

19. Would you be willing to give each theory an honest examination or have you already made up your mind? \_\_\_\_\_

20. Do you think this video was biased? If so, which theory did it favor and how did it tip the scales toward its theory? \_\_\_\_\_

Regarding the last question and any others, go to [www.catacombfilms.com](http://www.catacombfilms.com) and give us your thoughts so we can make future volumes as balanced as possible.