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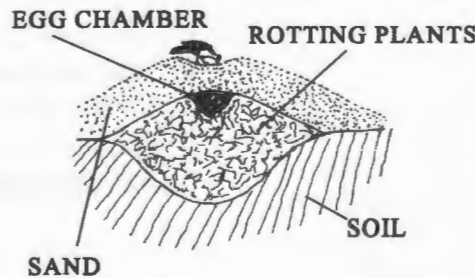
will remove sand so that the heat of the sun can warm up the mound. The Mallee Fowl keeps the nest within 1° F of 92° F at all times.

The female will visit the nest every few days until she has laid from 6 to 30 eggs. The eggs hatch out in about 9 weeks. As soon as the last egg is laid the first chick begins to hatch. Each chick has to find it's own way to the surface. They may struggle anywhere from 2 to 15 hours, digging themselves out. As soon as they heave themselves out of the mound, they totter to shade in the bushes where they rest for a day. Within 1 hour of hatching, the chicks can run and flutter. Within 24 hours of hatching they can fly! The baby birds have no contact with their parents. They are on their own as soon as they hatch.

THE MALLEE FOWL

The Mallee Fowl (also known as the Incubator Bird) is a mound building bird of Australia that belongs to a small group of birds called megapods (big-footed birds). About the size of a chicken, the Mallee Fowl is a very busy worker. In the fall of the year the male (father) begins to dig a hole about three feet deep. After getting the hole dug, he piles leaves and twigs into the pit. After each rain he buries the vegetation with sand, sealing in the moisture. The mound he builds can be up to 35 feet across and up to 15 feet high. He may move up to 3 tons of material (about the same weight as 6 to 8 cars) to build a mound. As the wet vegetation decays, it produces heat. So as the leaves and twigs rot, the pile warms up.

The Mallee Fowl keeps checking the temperature by pushing his heat-sensitive beak and tongue into the mound. It may take up to 4 months for the mound to reach the right temperature (about 92° F). When it is warm enough, the male digs an egg laying chamber. Over a period of many days, the female (mother) lays eggs in the nest chamber. After each egg is laid, the male covers it with sand. He continually tests the nest temperature with his bill, and adjusts the insulating layer of sand to raise or lower the temperature. If the nest is getting too hot because of the rotting plants, he removes sand from the egg chamber to let it cool down. If the sun is making the nest too hot, he adds sand for insulation. If the nest is getting too cold, he



The parents rest for 1 to 2 months and then start the whole process all over again. The male Mallee Fowl may spend up to 11 months just taking care of the nest! That is dedication!

When Mallee Fowl mature at 2 years of age, they find mates and start their own nests. How do they know to do that? They were never taught by their parents. No one taught them that as soon as they hatched, they needed to dig their way out of a mound of rotting vegetation and sand. No one taught them which way was up. How do they know to find shelter in the shade as soon as they are out? How do they know that they need to eat seeds to live? How do they know that their beak and tongue are heat sensitive and can be used to measure 92° F (the needed temperature to hatch their eggs)? How do they know to add sand or remove it to keep a steady temperature? How do they know that burying plants causes them to rot? How do they know that rotting vegetation causes heat?

The way they know is called instinct. Instinct is knowledge programmed before birth. Where did this programming come from? Men cannot explain it. Evolution cannot explain it. Such wisdom demands an intelligent beginning. Such intelligence calls for a Creator. **"O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches."** (Ps. 104:24 KJV) God made instinct!

WORD SEARCH

Look for the words hidden in the puzzle below from words in the word list. The hidden words might be up and down, sideways, or slanted (not backwards). All words are from the story "Mallee Fowl."

C L P N E S E A B E M O U N D T E A
 L H L B E E I N S T I N C T H D I L
 T N A C A M I N T T T F C A I E C U
 F H N M H K O T S I N F E D N I O H
 H E T T B I A I F U N T N E C N H Y
 B O S M F E C W S O L A C I U I E S
 B O T N E E R K I T S A H D B V G D
 H I U O E G O T E S U U T A A U G O
 E A R L T T A V A N D R I I T V D N
 A J L D O T I P E O C O E T O C D H
 T A N C E T E N O N D R M E R N H F
 M K L G I I U R T D R O E X I E F N
 O U E S S N O T E M P E R A T U R E
 C V N E M N E S S R T I S I T E O E
 T E I A K N O W L E D G E C F O E M
 S S F L U T T E R E H T D H F O R R
 H H T M E B E A K F D E C A Y L W R
 E O P O D I E M P R O G R A M A Y L



WORD LIST

BEAK	FOWL	MOISTURE
BIRD	HATCH	MOUND
CHAMBER	HEAT	PLANTS
CHICKEN	INCUBATOR	PROGRAM
CREATOR	INSTINCT	SAND
DECAY	INSULATION	SENSITIVE
EGG	KNOWLEDGE	FLUTTER
MALLEE	TOTTER	WISDOM
MEGAPOD	VEGETATION	
TEMPERATURE	FLY	

ASK EUGENE

Dear Eugene: I ♥ u! I have a question. Why is the earth round? My mom explained it to me, but I didn't understand because (it) appears to be flat! What do you say? I like Kids Think and Believe! I have 2 jokes for you. (See joke section.) I'm six years old! I lost 3 teeth! Dad pulled two and mom did one! I have one loose! Love Pavia **[a note from Pavia's mom: Pavia's tithe from some "lost tooth" money is included in our check. You really are a blessing to us all and to our home school group - we copy Kids Think and Believe for our newsletter! Everyone loves it!]**



Dear Pavia: I'm sure glad you and your family enjoy Kids T&B. It takes a lot of time and work to write, so when I get letters like yours it perks me up. Why is the earth round? Well if it was square , we would bump around a lot every time the earth rotated around a corner. If the earth was shaped like a triangle , we would really get a wild ride! Thump, thump, thump! One idea about why the earth is round is that gravity is pulling equally on all parts of the earth, thus giving it a round shape. The earth is not perfectly round. It bulges around the middle (along the equator) because of centrifugal force (the same force that tries to throw you off of a merry-go-round). As I get older, I am also beginning to bulge around the middle--not because I'm spinning, but because of eating too many donuts! To show that the earth is round like a ball, look outside. You can't see past the horizon. That is because the Earth curves down away from you. If the world was flat you could see from where you live to Australia (you would need a good telescope though!) Love ya, Eugene!

PAVIA'S JOKES

1. What do you call a sad garden of cauliflower and watermelon? A: Melancholy
2. What do you call a talkative person who eats cheese? A: Cheddar Box

ANSWERS

C L P N E S E A B E M O U N D T E A
 L H L B E E I N S T I N C T H D I L
 T N A C A M I N T T T F C A I E C U
 F H N M H K O T S I N F E D N I O H
 H E T T B I A I F U N T N E C N H Y
 B O S M F E C W S O L A C I U I E S
 B O T N E E R K I T S A H D B V G D
 H I U O E G O T E S U U T A A U G O
 E A R L T T A V A N D R I I T V D N
 A J L D O T I P E O C O E T O C D H
 T A N C E T E N O N D R M E R N H F
 M K L G I I U R T D R O E X I E F N
 O U E S S N O T E M P E R A T U R E
 C V N E M N E S S R T I S I T E O E
 T E I A K N O W L E D G E C F O E M
 S S F L U T T E R E H T D H F O R R
 H H T M E B E A K F D E C A Y L W R
 E O P O D I E M P R O G R A M A Y L

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