hairlike bristles (setae) on the pads. That was very interesting, but it still didn’t explain how the Gecko could walk across glass. The question was still unanswered until the electron scanning microscope was invented. By magnifying the bristles up to 35,000 times, scientists were able to see tiny spatula-shaped prongs, which act like little suction cups. When the Gecko climbs, the tiny hairs are brought in close contact with the surface, and weak forces between the molecules form a temporary bond. In other words, the spatula sticks. One hair has little holding power, but there may be more than a million tiny bristles per toe (half a billion per foot), resulting in remarkable holding power. Some people have even claimed to have sneaked up on a Gecko stuck to a glass window, and tried to snatch him off. The glass broke!

To make sure the hairlike bristles makes good contact with the surface, the Geckos have a complex internal mechanism in the toe. A pad (lamella) is the most outside portion of a design called a scansor. Inside the scansor is a large maze of blood vessels. These are connected to a sinus, a small blood reservoir (like a balloon) beneath the bones of the toe. The Gecko can shut off the blood in the toe from the rest of the body by a series of valves. When the Gecko pushes onto the bones of the toe above the sinus, it pressurizes the maze of vessels, causing them to expand. He puffs up his pads using blood pressure! In this way as many bristles as possible are able to touch the surface and stick. The Gecko has muscles and tendons in each toe that allow him to stick each toe independently of others.

The way the Gecko’s feet stick to surfaces poses a special problem when he is walking. In order to lift a foot a Gecko must depressurize its blood sinus and the maze of blood vessels and break the weak bonds that hold the hairs to the surface. It rolls the toes up from the tip toward the base, thus forcing blood back toward the foot and peeling the hairs away from the surface. Try that sometime! The Gecko’s toes are designed so that the joints bend or curl upward. All this happens with every single step the gecko takes!

Could any of these special designs of the Gecko have happened by chance and accident? Did the Gecko evolve just a couple of bristles with tiny suction cups, and over millions of years add more? Until he had millions per toe, those bristles would have been useless, so why did
he evolve them in the first place? Without the special valve system and sinus in the toes, the tiny hairs and pads would not work properly. The valve system is useless without the sinus, which is useless without the hairs, which is useless without... Understand the problem? The only answer that seems to make any sense, is that it is a design that was created to work together. A design created by God!

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GECKOS (all words are from The Grand Design Of A Gecko. Answers at end of page)

ACROSS
1 Well designed lizard
3 Another word for wiggly
7 Number of hairs on each foot of Gecko
8 Tiny little hole

DOWN
1 What you see through in windows
2 Pads are outside of this design
3 Reservoir for blood
4 Pads on Geckos feet
5 Lid of a room
6 Number of hairlike bristles on each toe of Gecko

ASK EUGENE
Dear Eugene: I believe that God made us but I have a question. In ancient Egypt some of the skulls we found were shaped like this. We also found some giant boulders that were perfectly round. How did they get this way? Especially hundreds of years ago. We found so many odd things. If humans do not change with time, how did the skulls get this way? LeeAnna Tallman (11 yrs.).

Dear LeeAnna: The shape of a skull can be caused several ways. The first would be genetically. If the genes that you receive from your parents when you are conceived are altered in some way, your skull might be elongated. If you look at people today you will notice that there are a lot of different skull shapes (and body features). Some skulls are deformed by disease. Hydrocephalus (water in the head) can expand the skull size. A student in England with hydrocephalus had his head scanned. He had virtually no brain at all! Yet he had an IQ of 126, which meant he was smarter than the average person! Sometimes skulls can be deliberately deformed. A South American tribe used to bind the heads of royal babies to reshape their skulls to be like cones. The “coneheads” were the ruling class. In North America, some Native Americans used to bind a board to the back of an infant’s head. You could tell what tribe a “flathead” belonged to just by his skull shape.

Perfectly round stones have also been found in Costa Rica. Some are 7 feet in diameter, weigh about 12-tons, and are carved in solid granite. Whoever carved them were skilled craftsmen.

We find ancient civilizations in Egypt, China, Crete, Greece, Mexico, Mesopotamia, Italy, South America, and many other locations. These civilizations were highly advanced. These ancient civilizations are a real problem for evolution. If we evolved from primitive man, where did all this ancient technology come from? Watch for a future Kids Think and Believe Too on ancient civilizations. Love Ya, Eugene

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ANSWERS

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