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 By Lanny and Marilyn Johnson

DATING METHODS...

PUT TO THE TEST

Some scientists tell us that radioactive dating methods are scientifically accurate and prove that the earth is billions of years old. However, as we learned in the last issue of *Kids Think and Believe Too*, these methods are based on guesses.

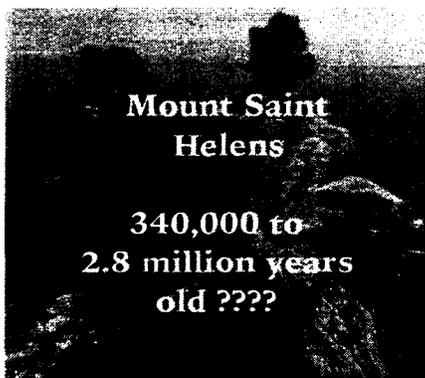
Only rocks that have been very hot and liquid-like at one time (such as igneous or metamorphic) can be dated using radioactive methods. Some of these rocks contain radioactive minerals that give off their energy over time (radioactive decay) at a rate that can be measured.

The best way to know if these dating methods work is to test them on rocks that we know the age of. This has been done. Here are just a few examples

that show there are problems with these radioactive dating methods

A. Using the Potassium-Argon method, volcanic lava rocks of the

Kaupelehu Flow, from Hualalai Volcano, in Hawaii were dated to be 140 million to 3 billion years old. However, the rocks were taken



from an eruption that happened in 1801!¹

B. Igneous rocks in the bottom of the Grand Canyon were dated millions of years younger than lava

flows on top of the canyon. The top flows had to have been younger; not only were they on top, but they flowed down into the canyon after the canyon was formed!²

C. In Washington, Mount St. Helens blew its top in 1980. In 1982 it blew again and a lava dome began to form in the crater. In 1999, rocks from the lava dome were tested using radioactive dating methods. This should have shown the rocks to be 17 years old, or at least very young. However, the dates indicated the rocks were 340,000 to 2.8 million years old!³

Another dating method that you hear a lot about is Carbon 14 (C-14). C-14 dating can only be used to date things that were once alive. Simply put, C-14 comes from nitrogen that was bombarded with cosmic radiation.

This radioactive C-14 falls to the earth where it is absorbed by plants. Animals eat these plants and also breathe in C-14. When a plant or

animal dies, it no longer absorbs C-14. The Carbon 14 begins to lose its energy and change back into nitrogen at a rate that can be measured. This tells us how long ago something died. Once more, the only way to test if the Carbon 14 methods work is to date something of known age and see how it matches up. This has been done.

A. Mollusks (clams) were dated as dying 2,300 years ago. The problem was, the mollusks were still alive!⁴

B. Fresh sealskins were dated as dying 1,300 years ago!⁵

C. Living snails passing away 27,000 years ago!⁶

D. One part of a baby mammoth

was dated as dying 26,000 years ago while another part met its maker 40,000 years ago. Yet, wood found along side the baby mammoth was tested as passing away 10,000 years ago.⁷

These are only a few of many examples but, as you can see, radioisotope and C-14 dating methods are very inaccurate. They give us false answers. If you cannot get the right dates from things of known age, then how can you expect to get the right dates from things of unknown age?



¹ John D. Morris, *The Young Earth*, (Master Books, Green Forest, AR, 2000) pg. 55.

² Steven A. Austin, *Grand Canyon, Monument to Catastrophe*, (Institute for Creation Research, Santee, CA, 1994) pg. 126.

³ Keith Swenson, Radio-dating in Rubble, *Creation ex nihilo* (Vol. 23 No. 3, June-August 2001) pgs. 23-25.

⁴ *Science*, Vol. 141, 1963, pgs. 634-637.

⁵ *Antarctic Journal*, Vol. 6, Sept.-Oct., 1971, pg. 211.

⁶ *Science*, Vol. 224, 1984, pgs. 58-61.

⁷ *Ibid.*, pg. 3

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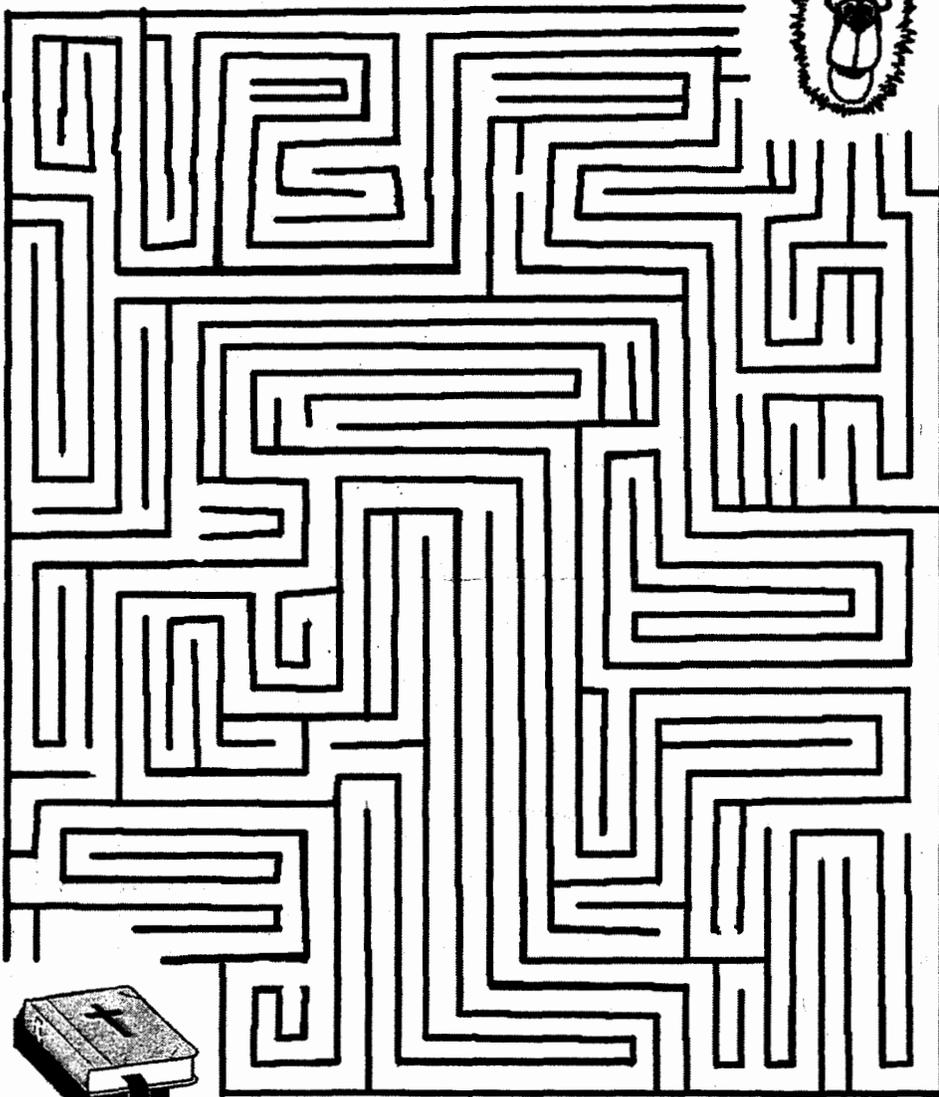
SILLY RIDDLES
(Answers at bottom)

- A. What has a face but cannot see?
- B. What has a mouth but cannot talk?
- C. What has ears but cannot hear?
- D. What has teeth but cannot eat?
- E. What has a head but cannot think?
- F. What has a tongue but cannot talk?
- G. What has three feet but cannot walk?
- H. What has four eyes but cannot see?



Help me find my way thru the maze to get to the source of all truth...
The Bible!

Send Letters to:
Eugene, C/O
Alpha Omega Institute,
PO Box 4343, Grand Junction,
CO, 81502
Send emails to:
eugene@discovercreation.org



- A A clock
- B A river
- C Corn
- D A comb
- E A match
- F A shoe
- G A yardstick
- H Mississippi

