

Young Earth Creationism: Key Arguments & Context

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Background

For most of **ancient civilizations and human history**, people held to a **young Earth** — only a few thousand years old — based on biblical genealogies and traditional interpretations. This view was dominant across cultures influenced by Judaism and Christianity.

The first major pivot came during the **Scientific Revolution (1500s–1600s)**, when thinkers like Copernicus, Galileo, Kepler, and Newton began explaining the universe through **natural laws**. While most still believed in a Creator, reliance on **Scripture for natural history declined**. This shift laid the groundwork for modern science's acceptance of **deep time** and **evolution** — and the later revival of Young Earth Creationism as a counterpoint.

Young Earth Creationism is a **call back to scriptural authority**, reasserting the biblical timeline in contrast to secular interpretations of nature.

7 Arguments Supporting Young Earth Creationism

1. Biblical Chronology and Genealogies

- Genesis 5 lists the ages from Adam to Noah.
- Genesis 11 continues from Noah's son Shem to Abraham.
- These genealogies provide a continuous timeline.
- Archbishop James Ussher (1581–1656) calculated creation at **4004 BC**.
- This makes the Earth about **6,000 years old today**.
- Genesis 10, the "Table of Nations," shows how humanity spread after the Flood.

Source: [Answers in Genesis – Biblical Chronology](#)

2. "Appearance of Youth" in Earth's Features

- **Magnetic field decay**: Weakens too quickly to be billions of years old.
- **Comets**: Short-period comets burn out in less than 10,000 years.
- **Ocean salinity**: Oceans are not salty enough for billions of years of accumulation.

Source: [Institute for Creation Research – Evidence for a Young World](#)

3. Soft Tissue in Fossils and Dinosaur Bones

- Proteins, collagen, and soft tissue found in dinosaur bones.
- Such materials cannot last for tens of millions of years.

- Their existence proves fossils are thousands of years old.

Source: [Creation Ministries International – Dinosaur Soft Tissue](#)

4. Carbon-14 in Ancient Samples

- Carbon-14 decays completely within ~100,000 years.
- Measurable C-14 is found in coal, diamonds, and fossils.
- These samples cannot be millions of years old.
- Evidence shows they are only thousands of years old.

Source: [Answers in Genesis – Radiocarbon Dating](#)

5. Global Flood Model and Rapid Geologic Processes

- **Noah's Flood** explains the geologic record.
- **Rapid burial** produced massive fossil beds.
- **Thick sedimentary layers** formed catastrophically.
- **Polystrate fossils** confirm rapid deposition.

Source: Whitcomb & Morris, *The Genesis Flood* (1961)

6. Human History Appears Short

- Recorded history only extends back several thousand years.
- Archaeology shows early civilizations (Egypt, Sumer, China) appear suddenly.
- These cultures arise around 3000–4000 BC.
- This aligns with Ussher's chronology, not evolutionary timelines.

Source: [Answers in Genesis – Ancient Civilizations](#)

7. Challenges to Evolutionary Mechanisms

- **Irreducible complexity:** Systems like the bacterial flagellum cannot evolve gradually.
- **Fossil record:** Transitional forms are rare or disputed.
- **Genetics:** Mutations degrade genetic information; they do not create new complexity.

Source: Michael Behe, *Darwin's Black Box* (1996); [ICR – Evolution Problems](#)