

intelligent agency, with their distinctive features already intact—fish with fins and scales, birds with feathers, beaks, and wings, etc. Some scientists have arrived at this view since fossil forms first appear in the rock record with their distinctive features intact, and apparently fully functional, rather than gradually developing. No creatures with a partial wing or partial eye are known. Should we close our minds to the possibility that the various types of plants and animals were intelligently designed? This alternative suggests that a reasonable natural cause explanation for origins may never be found, and that intelligent design best fits the data.

the way the limbs are connected. 2. Increased mobility of the head. 3. Fusing of the palate. 4. Improved musculature of the jaw. 5. Migration of the articular and the quadrate bones from the back of the reptile's jaws toward the middle ear (where in the mammal they would be transformed into auditory ossicles). It is the simultaneous movement of several traits, says Hopson, that clearly infers that the Therapsids are a continuous lineage to the mammal. (Of course, fossils can't record the potentially vast differences in systems like the reproductive and circulatory systems, nor the organs, glands, and other soft tissues they control.)

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