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# ANTENNA



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Greetings,

In recent times I have been seeing reports of some schools in America adding a new science to the curriculum – ID or Intelligent Design. What is ID? It is an alternate theory to evolution.

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## Intelligent Design

Before I go further, this article might offend some people. These are my ideas and are not necessarily those of ANZAAS in general.

ID is the belief that all life on earth was the result of an off worldly designer. Does that sounds familiar <cough> Genesis <cough>? The proponents say it might be GOD, a group of Gods, or even aliens – depends on who you talk too.

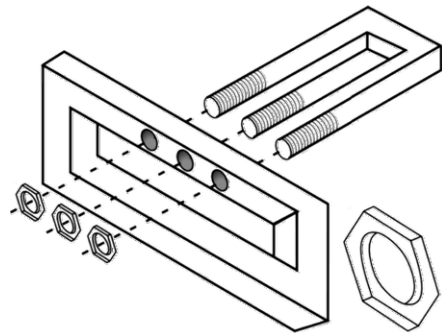
Some schools in America now teach ID in science / biology classes alongside evolution, as a valid alternative. It is under the guise of giving people all the theories available.

But does it even get to the theory stage? Let us use that tried and true way of deciding.

1. Observe some aspect of the universe.
2. Invent a tentative description, called a hypothesis, that is consistent with what you have observed.
3. Use the hypothesis to make predictions.
4. Test those predictions by experiments or further observations and modify the hypothesis in the light of your results.
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 until there are no discrepancies between theory and experiment and/or observation.

- 1 Well ID covers the Universe – lets just stay within the confines of earth.
- 2 Hmmm, GOD and / or Aliens. Yes that is Inventive, but ultimately unprovable without some other proof that either exists under scientific scrutiny. At least from my perspective.

- 3 Here I have been unable to find any predictions from searches. Perhaps I didn't search enough, or there are none to be found.
- 4 Tests? ID doesn't have any tests. ID says we exist because we are created.
- 5 Without 3 and 4 ID cant get to this point and be classed as a Theory.



For me this image illustrates ID. At first glance it seems to be valid, but upon closer inspection, it just doesn't fit together.

ID doesn't allow for self-correction, evolution does. Evolution is a theory, based on fossils and their locations, Gallipolis finches, centuries of exploration. Are dinosaurs the result of failed trials by the entities behind ID? ID doesn't cover Dinosaurs – at least not in the documents I have read.

Sciences in general is self-correcting. At one stage the earth was flat and was the centre of the universe. Now the world is round, proven by nothing less then space exploration, and far from being the centre of the universe, the earth is at the edge of a fairly ordinary galaxy, that galaxy somewhere between the true centre of the universe and its edge.

Do your own searches, come to your own conclusions, but for me ID just doesn't make sense as a science.

Despite the above, I'm all for having ID discussed, but not in a science class. Use ID perhaps to introduce Theological classes back to schools, and learn about Religions of the world. That I think will give more people a tolerance for other cultures of the earth.

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Old chemists never die, they just fail to react.

Old chemists never die, they just lose their reflexes

## Youth ANZAAS 2006

2006 is the 60<sup>th</sup> year of Youth ANZAAS, and is to be held in Adelaide, which was the first venue for the first YA. If you wish to know a general overview:

<http://www.anzaas.org.au/youth.html>

Have a chat with your science teacher / Principal to endorse your application. A date has not been set for 2006, but all YA's are done when all states/territories are on school holidays.

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## Google Earth

I came across this recently <http://earth.google.com> It's a brilliant program. You can zoom in from space to anywhere on earth. It uses real satellite images, to create the earth the details of cities are amazing. Some areas like the Grand Canyon can be seen in topographical format (Hills look like hills, valleys look like valleys). It is meant for broadband level, but I guess if your very patient, dialup will work as well. I note that the higher detailed areas only extend a short distance from a city centre. In the case of Adelaide its 10Km.

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## Google Mail

In recent times, I have found an easy to use, large storage online E-Mail service. Capacity is 2Gb, yes that's Gigabytes. If you want to try it out send me an email, as to enter it, requires an invitation.

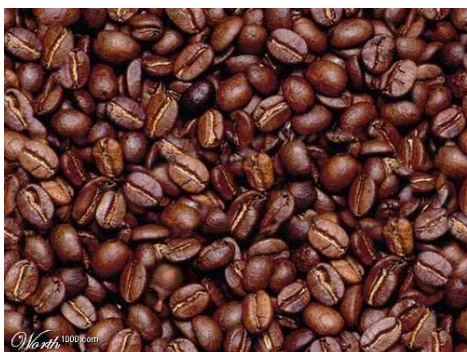
As you might have noticed the new contact email is now a Gmail account. This is in part because the previous contact was my personal address and I have since changed ISP. So made this one as a permanent address for contacts.

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## Beans

Here we have a picture of coffee beans – or is it?

Somewhere is a face. Can you find it?



## Previous editions

Previous editions can be found at:

<http://www.anzaas.org.au/antennae.html>

Perhaps the most compelling reason to look is because they are in color. I have to do all my pictures and illustrations in Greyscale so the printing of images comes out correctly.

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## Submissions

If you wish to submit articles, jokes, ideas, theories, science stories, please use the e-mail address from this newsletter. I'll check the address periodically and will reply that I have received it when I have read it.

This is a chance to be published internationally.

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## National Science week

National Science Week 2005 as come and gone, as far as I know all went well, some events were packed out others not. I encourage you to be a voice for science, and during next years events, get out there and participate, bring family and friends.

<http://www.scienceweek.info.au/>

Sign up for the newsletter, it might be too late for 2005, but you will be kept informed of 2006 events, so you wont miss any events you would like to see.

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## The day of the final

It was time for the final and the student depending upon getting at least one right answer on the chemistry test.

The question was "If h<sub>2</sub>o is water, what is h<sub>2</sub>o<sub>4</sub>?"

This was a quick question for most, but it took the student some thinking time.

Finally, he wrote down his answer: For drinking, washing, and cleaning.

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## Enlightenment

Q: How many pre-med students does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A: One hundred; one to change the lightbulb, the other ninety-nine to stand around wondering why they weren't chosen.