

CREATION MOMENTS

Proclaiming Evidence for Truth

THIS WEEK'S CREATION MOMENT

The Greatest Deep-Sea Divers



And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind. – Genesis 1:21a

Even though it's a mammal and not a fish, the Weddell seal of the Antarctic is one of the greatest deep-sea divers in the world.

Weighing up to 1,200 pounds, the Weddell seal can cruise under water for up to 70 minutes. It is able to reach depths as great as 1,600 feet. For comparison, the record for a human being is a 13-minute, 43-second dive down to 282 feet.

Humans are not designed to handle the pressure changes involved in diving to great depths. If humans stay too deep for too long and then return to the surface too quickly, they may die. The rapid change in pressure causes nitrogen to come out of solution in the blood. The result is a potentially fatal condition known as the "bends."

Weddell seals don't have to worry about this because their blood doesn't have dissolved nitrogen. Scientists are trying to learn just how the Weddell seals' lungs prevent this. However, the unique design of the Weddell seal doesn't stop with its lungs. The Weddell seal is able to withstand pressures up to 750 pounds per square inch. Those pressures on us would cause us to have epileptic seizures.

What science is learning about the complex and unique designs of the Weddell seals make the evolutionary claims that these seals came from land-living mammals increasingly difficult to believe. Yet, they illustrate the great wisdom of our Creator!

Ref: Browne, Malcolm W. 1984. "Antarctica: life's tenuous toehold." *Discover*, Mar. p. 44. Photo: Weddell seal. Courtesy of Jerzysrzelecki. (CC-BY-3.0 UNPORTED)

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