

Reading Comprehension Questions

**for
Denyse O'Leary's**

By Design or by Chance?

By

Claude Robert LeBlanc



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Assignment 6: Chapter 3, pp. 41-47

Name: _____ Seat: _____

Date: _____ Period: _____

CHAPTER 3: THE BEST ARGUMENTS FOR DESIGN

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1. What good news from the *HMS Cyclops* did Thomas Huxley have to share with fellow supporters of Darwin's theory in 1868?
2. Who was Ernst Haeckel? What was he best known for?
3. Why was the timing of Huxley's find perfect for Darwin's theory that natural selection explained life on earth?
4. Why wasn't Huxley troubled about how such a simple life form as *Bathybius* would get started?

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5. What did Huxley write to Haeckel, to persuade him to accept the find?
6. Did Haeckel believe that cells were complex? Explain.
7. What did Darwin's colleagues believe they had solved?
8. What news did the *HMS Challenger* find out about *Bathybius haeckelii* in 1872?
9. How did Huxley respond to the news? Did he accept the situation as a scientist should?

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10. What does physicist Paul Davies think of the debacle regarding *Bathylabus haeckelii*?

Bathylabus: The Sequel!

11. What, specifically, did Stanley L. Miller and Harold C. Urey form in 1953?

12. What did many people believe Miller and Urey had finally discovered?

13. What two assumptions did Miller and Urey make about the early earth's atmosphere that are not considered likely today?

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14. What does Davies say is wrong with Miller and Urey's approach? How does he think a cell is best thought of?

15. What question does the author ask about life in the universe, after quoting Davies?

16. What are origin of life researchers now studying, to understand early life on earth?

17. What huge challenge do origin of life researchers face?

Jellies Sure Get More Respect Now

18. What had Huxley, and Miller and Urey, and all other scientists assumed about cells? Why?

19. From what do cells build their machinery?

20. Why are the workings of cells invisible to the eye?

21. What is biochemistry?

22. What have scientists found out about cells using the tools of biochemistry?

23. How can we picture the way cells work? Give two suggestions.

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So It All Just Sort of... Started to Happen One Day?

24. What have we already seen about the origin of the universe, and what do the numbers (statistics) reasonably suggest?

25. What do design advocates consider their strongest argument?

26. What problem regarding life forms was Fred Hoyle aware of?

27. What did Hoyle admit, against his preferences, regarding life forms?

28. To what did Hoyle compare Darwin's belief that life just happened?

29. Regarding life forms, what did Hoyle never find?

Or Maybe It Is an Intelligent Design?

30. What two things about cells does biochemist Michael Behe, author of *Darwin's Black Box*, argue that Darwin's theory doesn't account for?

31. Is a complex molecule the smallest *independent* unit of life?

32. Every life form consists of either one or a highly connected nation of what unit of life?

33. How does Davies describe a simple bacterium?

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34. What does Behe mean when he says some of the machinery in cells is “irreducibly complex?”
35. Why can't cells just use a simpler system than their complex machinery?
36. What would happen to a creature with a simpler arrangement (mechanism)?

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37. Why do cells need to be complex? Don't the things they need for life just happen naturally? Explain.

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38. Why does Behe believe that a cell works the way it does?
39. According to Behe, what will science never understand, as long as it excludes design?
40. What did science historian Thomas Woodward say about the significance of Behe's dissent?
41. What did philosopher of evolution Michael Ruse say about Behe's views?
42. What do we need to keep in mind about Darwinism to understand Ruse's (and others') objections to Behe's views?
43. In terms of accepting his ideas, does it make a difference to Darwinists that Behe is not a creationist and accepts a role for evolution? Explain.

Short Answer: (about 50 words) Why do you think there was so much opposition to Behe's views. Was only science at stake? Explain.

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