

23rd April

Memory Verses

Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth:
and the heavens are the work of thy hands.
They shall perish,
but **thou shalt endure**:
yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment;
as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed.

Psalm 102:25-6

Something to read aloud

Today is St George's Day. We looked at a picture of George and the Dragon by Raphael on 6th of April and it is certainly a popular theme in art. The legend of George and the dragon stretches back into history becoming muddled and tangled as it does so. However, in all the changes the *dragon* remains – even if George himself is no longer in the story!

George and the Dragon is not the only story involving dragons that has come down to us from Medieval times and before. King Morvidus, ruler of the ancient Celts, died trying to defend his realm against a dragon from the sea, the villages of Bures and Warmington in both lay claim to a dragon that killed a shepherd and ate sheep in the middle ages, and the hero of the epic poem *Beowulf* (c.700-1000AD) was celebrated for dealing with a creature that has definite dragon-like characteristics. Northumberland legend tells of the Laidly Worm, a reptilian monster, and the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle states that in 793 AD “fiery dragons were seen flying in the sky” – a fact that observers took as a portent of the start of raids by Vikings in their dragon-prowed longships. And these are just dragons of the British Isles!



In fact, cultures all round the world from China to Scandinavia have stories of dragons. They are almost always scary, scaly, reptilian creatures and they usually have long tails and often wings. Sometimes they breathe fire, sometimes they fly and sometimes they are associated with water or marshes.

What were these creatures? It is unlikely that such similar creatures were just made up all over the world. Could there be some animal, or group of animals, which our ancestors battled to extinction because of the danger they posed?

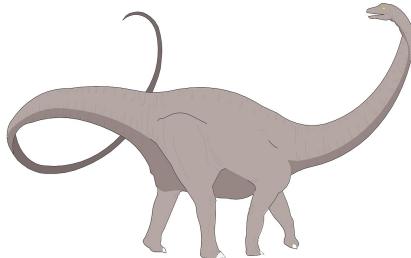
The answer is a resounding “yes!” And here is the intriguing explanation of the mystery which baffles believers in evolution but which makes perfect sense to those of us who accept the Bible’s account of creation and the chrono-genealogies of Genesis. We know that all land animals were made on day 6 of creation. Dinosaurs were therefore created then too. Creatures similar to dinosaurs but dwelling in the sea, such as plesiosaurs, were created on day 5 along with the fish, whales and other marine creatures. Flying creatures such as pterodactyls were also made on day 5. So – dinosaurs and men existed together from the beginning. The word dinosaur was not invented until 1842 when palaeontologist, Richard Owen, used it describe some huge reptilian remains he had found. Before that, in English at any rate, such a creature would be called a dragon!¹

¹If this idea is new to you you will find some very useful information here: <https://creation.com/dinosaur-questions->

It follows from all this that dinosaurs were on board the ark. God probably brought young dinosaurs to Noah as they would take up less space and have a longer life ahead of them in which to reproduce after the flood.

After the fall, dinosaurs (along with many other larger animals) had developed carnivorous habits and became dangerous to people. Although the conditions after the flood were probably not very good for dinosaurs they seem to have lived on, often in isolated places, well into the middle ages. Those that survived sometimes became a menace to villages – just as wolves, tigers, elephants and crocodiles can be in some parts of the world today – carrying off livestock and even people. Those who had the courage and skill to rid a community of such dangerous beasts were regarded as heroes, just as in the nineteenth century those who shot tigers and elephants were regarded as benefactors. This is where George and others like him come into the story.

Since the word dinosaur is a nineteenth century invention you will not find it in the 1611 Authorised Version translation of the Bible. You will find the word dragon though – 34 times when I looked for it in an online concordance! Often dragons are mentioned along with other fierce animals still alive today such as lions. Not only are dragons specifically mentioned in the Bible but there is also a description of a beast called behemoth:



Behold now behemoth, which I made with thee; he eateth grass as an ox.

Lo now, his strength is in his loins, and his force is in the navel of his belly.

He moveth his tail like a cedar: the sinews of his stones are wrapped together.

His bones are as strong pieces of brass; his bones are like bars of iron.

He is the chief of the ways of God: he that made him can make his sword to approach unto him.

Surely the mountains bring him forth food, where all the beasts of the field play.

He lieth under the shady trees, in the covert of the reed, and fens.

The shady trees cover him with their shadow; the willows of the brook compass him about.

Behold, he drinketh up a river; and hasteth not: he trusteth that he can draw up Jordan into his mouth.

He taketh it with his eyes: his nose pierceth through snares.

(Job 40:15-24)²

This reads like a description of some sort of Sauropod dinosaur.

Something to make

If you have access to a printer you can print out the four pieces that make up the diplodocus dinosaur template. If not, you may be able to draw something similar. Each piece 1-3 has a tab at the left-hand side. This can be attached to the next numbered piece to construct a dinosaur. The model should stand up if folded along the tab edges. You can use the pieces as templates round which to draw. You can colour or paint your diplodocus dinosaur in any way you wish. One thing we do not really know about dinosaurs is what colour they were! If you have a model soldier or similar Lego figure you could stand it beside the dinosaur to represent George.

and-answers.

2 For more information see <https://creation.com/could-behemoth-have-been-a-dinosaur>.

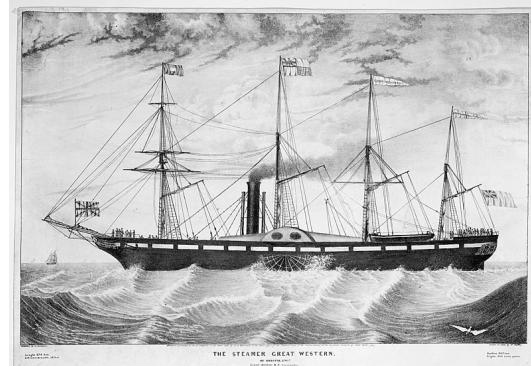


Instructions for making this super dinosaur money box are on the Optional Resources files.

Brunel again!

Do you remember reading about Isambard Kingdom Brunel on 9th April? In 1838 his ship *The Great Western* crossed the Atlantic for the first time, docking in New York on 23rd April.

For two years *The Great Western* was the largest passenger ship in the world and sailed back and forth across the Atlantic for eight years until she was sold and went on to other work.



Brunel and his friends were not the only people thinking of designing a ship that could make regular trips across the Atlantic but other people thought that Brunel's design was too large. The resistance of the water to such a large vessel, they thought, would result in too much fuel being used by the steam engines. However, the important engineering principle that Brunel grasped and which assured him of success was this:

the carrying capacity of a ship increases as the *cube* of its dimensions;
the water resistance only increases as the *square* of its dimensions.

This meant that large ships were actually *more* fuel efficient. You can see from this how important maths is to engineers.

Great Western was built of wood strapped with iron. You can see from the picture that it had paddle wheels and also sails. The sails gave extra power but also helped, if the weather was rough, to keep the ship even so that both the paddle-wheels remained in the water.

Something to make³

To make your own boat with an rubber band motor find:
An empty plastic container such as the kind meat comes in from the supermarket

3 lolly sticks or crafts sticks

waterproof glue

scissors

a rubber band

Method

Glue a lolly-stick upright to each side of the plastic container. Make sure it is firmly stuck and the glue is dry before you go on.

Cut the third lolly-stick in half. Stretch the rubber band over the end of the two lolly sticks and wind the half lolly stick up in the band.

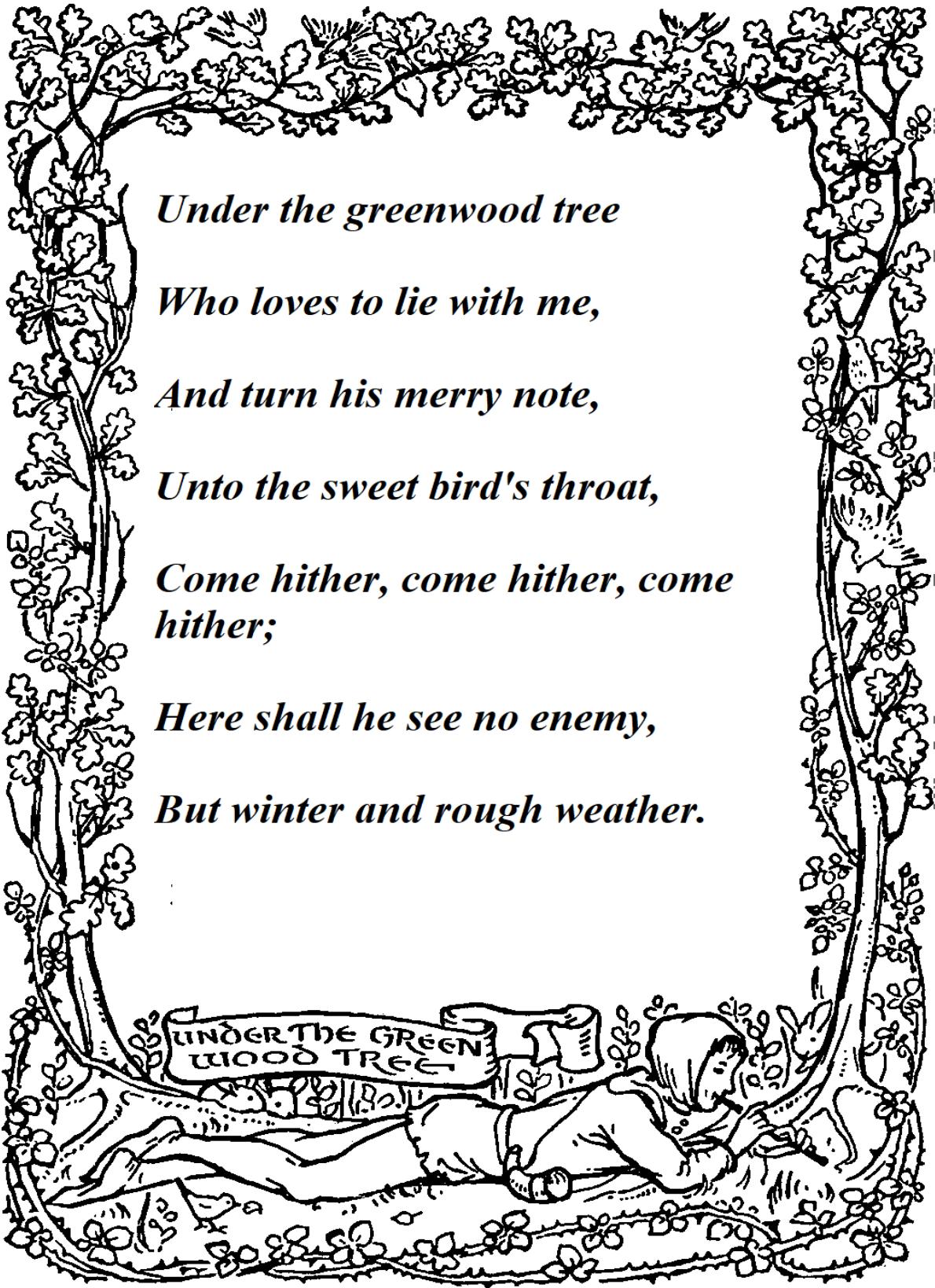
Place the boat in a tub of water and let go!

Instead of rubber bands the *Great Western* had two steam engines which together produced 175 horse power.

A poem to read

Today is also the day that William Shakespeare died in 1616. This little poem comes from his play *As You Like It* and you will see how he imitates the thrush's song in one of the lines. It is a very easy poem to learn by heart so if you began a poetry memorisation programme on 5th January (if not look at that lesson and begin one now) you could include it. I have printed it with a border (from a very old edition of the play) which has all sorts of little birds and animals peeping out of it. You might enjoy colouring it if you are able to print it out. If not, you could write out the poem and draw your own border.

³ Another method can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nPg7Ivcm32g>



*Under the greenwood tree
Who loves to lie with me,
And turn his merry note,
Unto the sweet bird's throat,
Come hither, come hither, come
hither;
Here shall he see no enemy,
But winter and rough weather.*

UNDER THE GREEN
WOOD TREE