

**Aim:** Questions and answers about the ark: God's plans for the ark were perfect. Where all the animals did come from, how they fit on the ark and how they have produced the variety of animals we see today? And where did all the water come from?

If your teacher told you that you had to design and build a working parachute – or something that you've never made before. Do you think you could do it? Do you think you could get it right the first time? How might you feel when you go to try it?

You would almost certainly need to do some experiments to see what works best and then some practice runs – maybe use a bucket filled with rocks instead of a real person, just in case it didn't work. And you would probably be worried and nervous, wondering if it will work.

Imagine how Noah must have felt. He was building the largest boat ever built; it wasn't anywhere near the water, and chances are, no one had ever seen a flood. No wonder people thought he was crazy. Thankfully, Noah didn't have to design the ark – God gave him the plans for it, and when God gives plans – the plans are always perfect.

*From [worldwideflood.com/ark/hull\\_form/hull\\_optimization.htm](http://worldwideflood.com/ark/hull_form/hull_optimization.htm):*

*"Noah's Ark was the focus of a major 1993 scientific study headed by Dr. Seon Hong at the world-class ship research center KRISO, based in Daejeon, South Korea... The research team found that the proportions of Noah's Ark carefully balanced the conflicting demands of stability (resistance to capsizing), comfort ("seakeeping"), and strength. In fact, the Ark has the same proportions as a modern cargo ship."*

Now we'll look at some of the questions that people have about the ark and the flood. (Or ask if they have any questions)

#### **How could all the animals fit in the ark?**

- The ark was big – 300 x 50 x 30 cubits, approx 137m long x 23m wide x 14m high. (If possible compare it to something near your church or home.)
- The animals didn't have to be full grown, they were probably young adults.
- There are hundreds of different dog breeds in the world today, but that doesn't mean that Noah had two of each of them in the ark. In fact it is possible that all of the different types of dogs we have today may have come from one pair of dogs on the ark. Even today, when mongrel dogs (dogs of mixed up breeds) have puppies, you'll find the puppies can look quite different from each other; they'll be different colours and different sizes etc. The different breeds we have today came about because people selected dogs that were similar to breed together – they wanted to make dogs that were good for specific jobs like herding or guarding etc. It also happens naturally, when a small group of animals live together, and the place they live can also affect them, eg. Long haired dogs survive better in a cold place, eventually creating a long haired breed.
- How did Noah know which animals to take? Genesis 6:20 says that the animals come to Noah; God chose the animals and told them to go to the ark.

**How did the animals get to the ark?** We don't know what the world looked like before the flood – we do know that it was totally changed afterwards. Maybe there was only one really big country before the flood, or maybe the countries were joined together. Even today animals sometimes fly or swim long distances and the animals back then were much healthier than they are today, so they might have flown or swam. Also, God told Noah 120 years before the flood was to happen, He could have told the animals to start coming then, or He might have told their parents or grandparents to start coming.

**How did they feed all the animals?** Noah and his family had 120 years to figure that out, or maybe God told Him how to. Some of the animals might have hibernated, so they would eat very little. They might have had the food stored where the animal could get at it or had something like chicken feeders today, where more food falls down as they eat it. They might have had long troughs or special pipes they could put the food in.

#### **Where did all the water come from?**

- 70% of our world today is ocean.
- Floods, volcanoes and earthquakes can all work to destroy or make mountains, and there were probably earthquakes and volcanic eruptions during the flood. If the mountains that we have today were flattened out the water in the oceans would easily cover them as it did during the flood.
- Even today there is water under the ground. People drill or dig wells or bores to get at it.
- In the tropics at certain times of the year it is not unusual for it to rain every day or even to rain continuously for several days in a row.

Many people who think about the problems of building the ark think "it's too hard, it can't be true" but we know God can do anything. (Read Matthew 19:26) Of course the Bible only gives us a little bit of detail, it doesn't give us the exact list of animals or tell us how they were to be fed, but it does tell us that God was in control, and that God told Noah what he had to do. And we can trust God to help us to follow Him too.