Darwin's Dilemma

Name: ANSWER KEY Date: _____

Vocabulary Words: Match the definition to each word.

1. Charles Darwin was puzzled by the beauty of a **peacock** feather.
2. Some scientists thought that flowers are colorful to attract **insects**.
3. In an experiment, female peahens sometimes chose the **ugly** male, not just the beautiful ones.
4. Some animals have colors that don't seem to have any **purpose**.
5. The passage suggests that beauty in nature can reflect the **creativity** of the creator.

Word Bank: insects, ugly, purpose, peacock, creativity

Multiple Choice: Choose the correct answer from the choices for each question.

1. Why did Darwin want to explain life without mentioning God?
   a) He loved animals
   b) He was happy all the time
   c) He was angry because his daughter died
   d) He wanted to study plants

2. What did scientists do to test if peacock feathers affected female choice?
   a) Painted the feathers
   b) Cut off the colorful parts
   c) Gave the peacocks food
   d) Taught them tricks

3. What is one reason scientists said flowers are beautiful?
   a) To feed animals
   b) To attract insects
   c) To make humans happy
   d) To make seeds

4. What is beauty's purpose in nature?
   a) It always has a functional job
   b) It never appears in animals
   c) Sometimes it has no specific purpose
   d) It shows the creativity and love God put into his creation for us to enjoy.

Discussion & Reflection: Answer the following questions in complete sentences

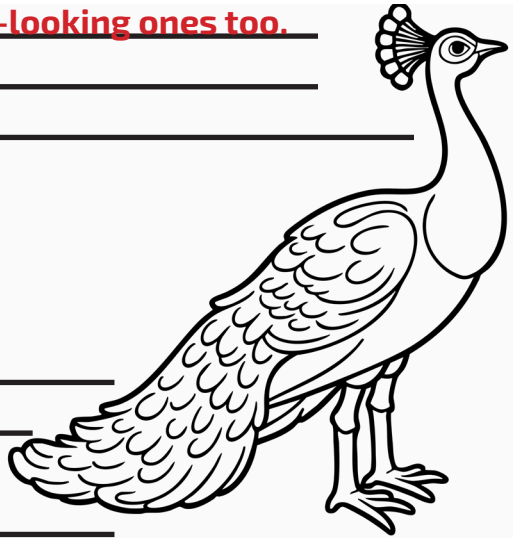
1. Why did Darwin have trouble explaining the beauty of the peacock's feather?

Darwin had trouble explaining the beauty of the peacock's feather because he couldn't see how such beauty could happen by chance or have a useful function.

2. What did the experiments with peacocks and peahens show about choosing mates?

The experiments showed that female peahens didn't always choose the male with the most beautiful feathers; sometimes they chose the plain-looking ones too.

3. This shows me that God is (Circle the word):

Wise Powerful Caring Creative All of the above

Explain your choice: