

## William Paley and the Design Argument

**William Paley** (1743-1805) compared the design of the universe to finding a watch. He argued that if you were walking on a moor (grassland area) and found a watch lying on the grass and saw how complicated it was you would have to assume someone made it.

By looking at the watch you would see that all the coils, springs and movements all work together so that the watch is able to keep time.

Anyone who found this watch, having never seen a watch before, would have to conclude that **someone designed it** for it to fulfil its purpose of keeping time.

Paley compared this to the design of the world. He argued that just as someone who found the watch would conclude that it was made by someone because of its design, someone who looks at the universe must conclude that there is a designer because of how the universe has been designed.