

A Brief History Of Life On Earth Concertina Books

[#history of life on earth](#) [#evolutionary timeline](#) [#concertina book](#) [#origin of species](#) [#earth's biodiversity](#)

Dive into the remarkable history of life on Earth with this engaging concertina book. Explore the planet's evolutionary journey, from its earliest microorganisms to complex ecosystems, presented in an accessible and visually captivating format perfect for quick learning about the origin of species and our world's incredible biodiversity.

We collaborate with educators to share high-quality learning content.

We would like to thank you for your visit.

This website provides the document Earth Life Evolution Concertina you have been searching for.

All visitors are welcome to download it completely free.

The authenticity of the document is guaranteed.

We only provide original content that can be trusted.

This is our way of ensuring visitor satisfaction.

Use this document to support your needs.

We are always ready to offer more useful resources in the future.

Thank you for making our website your choice.

Many users on the internet are looking for this very document.

Your visit has brought you to the right source.

We provide the full version of this document Earth Life Evolution Concertina absolutely free.

A Brief History of Life on Earth

The story of life on earth unfolds in dramatic fashion in this amazing concertina picture book that takes readers from 4.6 billion years ago to the present day. Fully expanded to 8 meters (26 feet), this spectacular visual timeline is a very impressive panorama that reveals evolution in all its glory. Full color.

A (Very) Short History of Life on Earth

The Royal Society's Science Book of the Year "[A]n exuberant romp through evolution, like a modern-day Willy Wonka of genetic space. Gee's grand tour enthusiastically details the narrative underlying life's erratic and often whimsical exploration of biological form and function." —Adrian Woolfson, *The Washington Post* In the tradition of Richard Dawkins, Bill Bryson, and Simon Winchester—An entertaining and uniquely informed narration of Life's life story. In the beginning, Earth was an inhospitably alien place—in constant chemical flux, covered with churning seas, crafting its landscape through incessant volcanic eruptions. Amid all this tumult and disaster, life began. The earliest living things were no more than membranes stretched across microscopic gaps in rocks, where boiling hot jets of mineral-rich water gushed out from cracks in the ocean floor. Although these membranes were leaky, the environment within them became different from the raging maelstrom beyond. These havens of order slowly refined the generation of energy, using it to form membrane-bound bubbles that were mostly-faithful copies of their parents—a foamy lather of soap-bubble cells standing as tiny clenched fists, defiant against the lifeless world. Life on this planet has continued in much the same way for millennia, adapting to literally every conceivable setback that living organisms could encounter and thriving, from these humblest beginnings to the thrilling and unlikely story of ourselves. In *A (Very) Short History of Life on Earth*, Henry Gee zips through the last 4.6 billion years with infectious enthusiasm and intellectual rigor. Drawing on the very latest scientific understanding and writing in a clear, accessible

style, he tells an enlightening tale of survival and persistence that illuminates the delicate balance within which life has always existed.

Book of Life

An illustrated natural history of the Earth and its denizens combines paintings, drawings, and computer-generated images with a chronicle of the world's variegated organisms and species.

A Brief History of Earth

Harvard's acclaimed geologist "charts Earth's history in accessible style" (AP) "A sublime chronicle of our planet." –Booklist, STARRED review How well do you know the ground beneath your feet? Odds are, where you're standing was once cooking under a roiling sea of lava, crushed by a towering sheet of ice, rocked by a nearby meteor strike, or perhaps choked by poison gases, drowned beneath ocean, perched atop a mountain range, or roamed by fearsome monsters. Probably most or even all of the above. The story of our home planet and the organisms spread across its surface is far more spectacular than any Hollywood blockbuster, filled with enough plot twists to rival a bestselling thriller. But only recently have we begun to piece together the whole mystery into a coherent narrative. Drawing on his decades of field research and up-to-the-minute understanding of the latest science, renowned geologist Andrew H. Knoll delivers a rigorous yet accessible biography of Earth, charting our home planet's epic 4.6 billion-year story. Placing twenty first-century climate change in deep context, *A Brief History of Earth* is an indispensable look at where we've been and where we're going. Features original illustrations depicting Earth history and nearly 50 figures (maps, tables, photographs, graphs).

The Story of Life: Evolution (Extended Edition)

This new extended edition of *Story of Life* is the perfect gift for those with a love of the natural world. Wander the galleries - open 365 days a year - and discover a collection of curated exhibits on every page, accompanied by informative text. Each chapter features key species from a different geological era with fantastic new artwork from Katie Scott.

A New History of Life

An estimated 4.6 billion years ago, the Earth and Moon were formed in a violent impact. On this, many agree, and even more that a long time after that, life began. However, few know that the first life on the Earth may not have emerged on this planet, but could, in fact, have begun on Mars, brought here by meteorites. In this revolutionary book, leading scientists Peter Ward and Joe Kirschvink rewrite the principal account of the history of life on Earth. They show not only how the rise of animals was delayed for billions of years, but also what it was that first forced fish out of the sea and onto the land. Together, the two scientists explain how developments in the environment led to multiple Ice Ages before the emergence of dinosaurs and other giant animals, and what the true cause of these great beasts' eventual extinction was. Finally, charting the course of our own evolution, they explore whether this generation will see the end of the human species. *A New History of Life* proves not only that much of what we think we know should be unlearned, but also that the true history of life on Earth is much more surprising and wonderful than we could ever have imagined.

The History of Life on Earth Series

A Brief History of Earth is an informational piece about the planet we live on, giving a brief history of all the places and objects that have been present in it over time. From Earth's origin, to its first inhabitants, through ever-changing civilizations and cultures, it follows our planet from the start. Along with this passage is a timeline which provides details on some important events in recorded human history. Our earth has evolved dramatically since its beginning with unimaginable changes occurring every day. But despite these overwhelming changes, humans have largely managed to survive for centuries through continuously adapting as well as discovering new technology. Despite having to survive natural disasters, such as hurricanes and earthquakes, and threats from other countries, we have always come out on top. Earth is our home. Without it there would be no life on earth. It provides us with the oxygen we breathe, the food we eat and the water we drink. But just how do humans affect Earth? Due to human activity such as deforestation, pollution, overfishing and climate change have all had a significant impact on Earth's ecosystems and in more recent times becoming an increasing threat to humankind itself. Through this article you will explore these changes and their implications

for the future of our planet. Over the course of the article you will be introduced to concepts such as natural selection, evolution and even climate change. The piece also provides a brief account of specific species, including humans, which have lived alongside other creatures over time with many of these species now extinct. Through this article you will be able to explore our planet through its history right up until the present day. Earth is one of eight planets in our solar system. Since its birth over 4 billion years ago, Earth has gone through many changes and has been home to countless numbers of lifeforms who have evolved over millions of years. This book will teach you about: How the earth began How the first creatures appeared How life began to evolve When the Earth formed What evolution is Who created the earth The oldest life form on Earth What brought life to Earth Who came first at Earth How did life begin on earth How old is earth How was the earth in the beginning And so much more. Grab a copy and expand your knowledge About the author: My name is James Barton. I am a student and freelance writer with a passion for learning, specifically science and natural history. I have been writing since the age of 12 and have written many informational pieces in my time. Some of these have been published on educational websites including Answerbag, eNotes, Infoplease and more. I am currently studying at university in London and hope to become a teacher in the future.

A Brief History of the Earth

Life has shaped the Earth, and the Earth has moulded the history of life. That history, the co-evolution of our ancestors and their home, has much to teach us about our place on the planet today. We are part of the fabric of the biosphere. As we change that fabric we would be wise to understand how our home was built. Our planet is neither a hotel nor a colony. It is not a place which life briefly inhabits during a transient occupation. Instead, it is our home, designed by the deeds of our ancestors and suited to our own needs. The history of life on Earth is held in the geological record, which is composed of the rocks, water and air that are available for study on the planet's surface. These rocks, the oceans and the atmosphere are not simply stores of information for the excitement of fossil hunters and geochemists, or resources to exploit without thought. Their creation and continued existence form an integral part of the development and management of the Earth as the home of life.

Living Earth

Music: A Fold-Out Graphic History is a richly illustrated timeline of the history of music from 60,000 years ago to the present day, published in partnership with the Royal Albert Hall. Children's author Susan Hayes and award-winning composer and musician Nicholas O'Neill take you on a journey through some of the most amazing musical moments from the first ever saxophone and early music recording to the invention of the record and artificial intelligence. Learn about how different genres started - including classical, folk, jazz, gospel, rock 'n' roll, country, punk, grunge and pop. Discover the stories of music maestros including Beethoven, Wei Liangfu, Django Reinhardt, The Beatles, Joni Mitchell, David Bowie, Maria Callas, Nina Simone, Louis Armstrong, and Beyonce. Marvel at the orchestra with a huge illustration set in the Royal Albert Hall, and find out about ancient instruments from all over the world. Colourful lively illustrations by Ruby Taylor bring the book to life and provide a glimpse into how different music styles and instruments sound. Published in partnership with the Royal Albert Hall, this is a truly special book that will delight children and parents alike, providing an insight into some of the most iconic sounds in history.

Music

The Earth as a Cradle for Life aims to fill the gap between readers who have a strong and informed scientific interest in the environment (but no access to the journal literature), and their desire for a basic understanding of the environment. It provides a comprehensive account, and requires no advanced mathematical skills. It will also satisfy a need for a textbook on fundamental science for students in tertiary environmental science courses that may otherwise neglect the underlying basis of their subject. The Earth as a Cradle takes a step back from common perceptions of the environment, and presents a new fundamental perspective. It draws attention to observations that have been neglected or discounted for reasons the authors found invalid, and which allow a more coherent account of the environment than is possible without them. Misunderstandings about the environment are common, even in the scientific community. They arise in part from the multi-disciplinary nature of the subject and the difficulty in keeping all relevant observations in mind and assessing their validity. These misunderstandings are often consequences of the bandwagon effect: when an idea is reinforced by repeated quotation and becomes difficult to contradict even when it is in obvious conflict with

observations. This is especially so in a subject with strong media interest and conflicting commercial interests — and Cradle sweeps these considerations aside and presents a new environmental scenario. This book draws on several decades of research by the authors on fundamental Earth science, and presents probing insights on environmental questions that are not widely recognized — even in the professional community. For this reason it will become a landmark in the environmental science and Earth science literature.

Contents:Physical and Astronomical Foundations:“The Age of the Earth as an Abode Fitted for Life” (Lord Kelvin, 1899)Rotation, Tides and the MoonThe Variable Sun and Other Astronomical EffectsThe Magnetic FieldThe Evolving Earth:Internal Heat and the Evolution of the EarthThe OceansPlanetary Atmospheres and the Appearance of Free OxygenThermal Balance, the Greenhouse Effect and Sea LevelEnvironmental Crises and Mass Extinctions of SpeciesStability of the EnvironmentInorganic Mineral Deposits as Products of an Evolving EnvironmentFossil Fuels, Buried Carbon and Photosynthetic OxygenHuman Influences:Effects of Fossil Fuel UseA Comparison of Human Energy Use with Natural DissipationsThe Cradle is RockingA Summary of Salient Conclusions

Readership: General public, students, professionals, and researchers in the fields of environmental science, geology, geophysics, climatology, meteorology, oceanography, and environmental education. **Keywords:**Alternative Energy;Atmosphere;Carbon Dioxide;Earth Evolution;Fossil Fuels;Global Warming;Greenhouse Effect;Ice Ages;Impacts;Moon;Oceans;Oxygen;Solar Radiation;Volcanism**Key Features:**This is one of the very few books that present the fundamental aspects of the environment, the underlying reasons why it is the way it is and the processes that led to it. Available rivals generally present conventional and, in some cases, outdated ideas that lack the insight of this bookAttention is focused on some of the observations that throw new light on the environment, such as the temperature dependence of CO₂ solubility in sea water and the rate at which natural processes remove it from the atmosphere, the inadequacy of photosynthesis to explain atmospheric oxygen, the hydrothermal origin of ocean salt, the capacity of the oceans as stores of heat, and fundamental limitations on possible ‘alternative’ energy sourcesThis book draws attention to two aspects of the environmental inertia of the oceans that have not previously been distinguished: the thermal effect of greenhouse warming — which has already been initiated and will become fully apparent on a hundred year time scale — and that the natural CO₂ balance will be restored only in millions of years**Reviews:** "The sense of seeking to convince the reader, however, lends the book a clear, decisive and ultimately highly readable tone. This book straddles the line between a textbook and a general-interest volume quite comfortably, making it suitable for anyone with a basic understanding of science that wants to place modern climate change in the context of the Earth's history." European Geosciences Union "This enjoyable book takes a long-term view of Earth's development as a habitable planet, this is a good initiation to a broad and important topic nevertheless, accessible to readers with a general science education." chemistryworld Royal Society of Chemistry "This interesting book is a history of Earth's physical and chemical evolution, with implications for life at almost every stage. It is replete with original thinking and probing insight (and occasional important oversights). Throughout, one is not allowed to forget that Earth is a special place in the family of planets we call the Solar System." Henry Pollack Emeritus Professor of Geophysics University of Michigan "By itemizing the most important points at the end, the deliberate simplification serves for emphasis and as a useful starting point for discussion about the very gradual response by the Earth system to the rapid changes made by humans. Their abridged discussion and appraisal of planet Earth and of its resilience reveal some still unanswered questions about our environment. The book targets undergraduate students from all areas of study and anyone interested in the future of the planet." Environmental Earth Sciences

The Earth as a Cradle for Life

Life has shaped the Earth, and the Earth has moulded the history of life. That history, the co-evolution of our ancestors and their home, has much to teach us about our place on the planet today. We are part of the fabric of the biosphere. As we change that fabric we would be wise to understand how our home was built. Our planet is neither a hotel nor a colony. It is not a place which life briefly inhabits during a transient occupation. Instead, it is our home, designed by the deeds of our ancestors and suited to our own needs. The history of life on Earth is held in the geological record, which is composed of the rocks, water and air that are available for study on the planet's surface. These rocks, the oceans and the atmosphere are not simply stores of information for the excitement of fossil hunters and geochemists, or resources to exploit without thought. Their creation and continued existence form an integral part of the development and management of the Earth as the home of life.

Living Earth

Pulitzer Prize–winning author Annie Proulx brings the immigrant experience to life in this stunning novel that traces the ownership of a simple green accordion. E. Annie Proulx's *Accordion Crimes* is a masterpiece of storytelling that spans a century and a continent. Proulx brings the immigrant experience in America to life through the eyes of the descendants of Mexicans, Poles, Africans, Irish-Scots, Franco-Canadians and many others, all linked by their successive ownership of a simple green accordion. The music they make is their last link with the past—voice for their fantasies, sorrows and exuberance. Proulx's prodigious knowledge, unforgettable characters and radiant language make *Accordion Crimes* a stunning novel, exhilarating in its scope and originality.

Accordion Crimes

Earth is truly amazing! It has giant glaciers, gorgeous canyons, and it's the only planet we know of with intelligent life. Ian is exploring Earth with his tour guide, Dr. Sally. Join them as they study ocean animals, the African savanna, and the chilly South Pole. Find out more about the planet we call home.

To Planet Earth!

This book guides the reader through space, through the earliest signs of life on the rims of volcanoes, the creation of an atmosphere and the myriad forms of planets and animals which could then evolve and be sustained.

Life

Darwin and Evolution for Kids traces the transformation of a privileged and somewhat scatterbrained youth into the great thinker who proposed the revolutionary theory of evolution. Through 21 hands-on activities, young scientists learn about Darwin's life and work and assess current evidence of evolution. Activities include going on a botanical treasure hunt, keeping field notes as a backyard naturalist, and tying knots for ship sails like those on the HMS Beagle. Children also learn how fossils are created, trace genetic traits through their family trees, and discover if acquired traits are passed along to future generations. By encouraging children, parents, and teachers to define the differences between theories and beliefs, facts and opinions, *Darwin and Evolution for Kids* does not shy away from a theory that continues to spark heated public debate more than a century after it was first proposed.

Darwin and Evolution for Kids

This ebook edition does not include illustrations. A magisterial exploration of the natural history of the first four thousand million years of life on and in the earth, by one of Britain's most dazzling science writers.

The Nature Timeline Wallbook: Unfold the Story of Nature - From the Dawn of Life to the Present Day

It is difficult to conceive of the vast scale of the history of life on Earth, from the very first living organisms that developed in hydrothermal deep-sea vents to the diversity of life today. The evolution of life is a sweeping epic of a tale, with twists and turns, surprising heroes and unlikely survivors. The Earth beautifully distills this complex story into a meaningful scale. In taking a closer look at 50 carefully selected organisms over ten epochs in our planetary history, this book tells the whole story of life on Earth. Prepare to be confounded by the ingenuity of evolutionary biologies, humbled by our own brief part in this epic history, and disquieted by our disproportionate impact on the world we call home.

Life: an Unauthorized Biography (Text Only)

'A prodigy of imagination, insight and overwhelming tenderness' Independent 'Remember me when I'm gone' just took on a whole new meaning . . . Laura Byrd is in trouble. Three weeks ago she and her friends found themselves alone in one of the coldest, most remote places on earth. Her friends set out in search of help, and now Laura realises that they are not coming back. So she gathers her remaining supplies and sets out on an extraordinary journey. Meanwhile in another city, more and more people arrive every day. Each has a different story to tell, but their accounts have one thing in common - it was their final journey. For this is the city of the dead. And the link between this city and Laura's journey lies at the heart of this remarkable novel. The *Brief History of the Dead* tells a magical story about our lives - about our place in the world, our connections with each other, and what happens to us all after our deaths. It is a story of spellbinding power and imagination, which resonates long after the final page.

The Earth

Originally published in Great Britain as *Life: an unauthorised biography* by HarperCollins Publishers, London, in 1997.

The Origins of Life on the Earth

Notice: This Book is published by Historical Books Limited (www.publicdomain.org.uk) as a Public Domain Book, if you have any inquiries, requests or need any help you can just send an email to publications@publicdomain.org.uk This book is found as a public domain and free book based on various online catalogs, if you think there are any problems regard copyright issues please contact us immediately via DMCA@publicdomain.org.uk

The Brief History of the Dead

How did life emerge on Earth? Is there life on other worlds? These questions, until recently confined to the pages of speculative essays and tabloid headlines, are now the subject of legitimate scientific research. This book presents a unique perspective--a combined historical, scientific, and philosophical analysis, which does justice to the complex nature of the subject. The book's first part offers an overview of the main ideas on the origin of life as they developed from antiquity until the twentieth century. The second, more detailed part of the book examines contemporary theories and major debates within the origin-of-life scientific community. Topics include: Aristotle and the Greek atomists' conceptions of the organism Alexander Oparin and J.B.S. Haldane's 1920s breakthrough papers Possible life on Mars?

Life

How much of Earth's surface is covered by water? How do the northern lights get their colors? Planet Earth has been home to mankind for hundreds of thousands of years and while scientists have learned a lot about it, they're still unraveling many of its mysteries. B is for Blue Planet: An Earth Science Alphabet explains what we do know about our planet and what more we have to learn. Examine Earth's diverse ecosystems (deserts), discover geological wonders (karst caves), learn about weather phenomena (hurricanes), and much more. Ruth Strother has been in the publishing industry for more than twenty years and is the author of fifteen books for children. She also wrote *Sleeping Bear's W is for Woof: A Dog Alphabet*. Ruth lives in Southern California. Bob Marstall was a K-12 art teacher for many years, and today he is an award-winning children's book illustrator. He tours all over the country, lecturing in schools on the integration of art and science. Bob lives in Northampton, Massachusetts.

The Earth Before History

"This is the first real biography of the Earth - not only a brilliant portrait of the emergence and evolution of life on this planet, but a vivid and frightening look at Earth's remote future. Peter Ward and Donald Brownlee combine storytelling power with extreme scientific care, and their narrative is as transfixing as any of H.G. Wells's fantasies, but more enthralling, for Ward and Brownlee have real power to prognosticate. This is a book that makes one shiver, but also inspires one to wonder how humanity (if we survive in the short term) will fare in the distant future." Oliver Sachs Peter Ward and Don Brownlee, a geologist and an astronomer respectively, are in the vanguard of the new field of astrobiology. Combining their knowledge of the evolution of life on our planet with their understanding of the life cycles of stars and solar systems, the authors tell the awe-inspiring story of the second half of Earth's life. The process of planetary evolution will essentially reverse itself; life as we know it will subside until only the simplest forms remain. The oceans will evaporate, and as the sun slowly expands, Earth itself will eventually meet a fiery end.

The Ancient Life History of the Earth

Science has made some incredible things possible. Many medications, technology, and scientific theory are well known, while others remain inventions of the imagination. Through engaging text enhanced by whimsical color illustrations and a fun quiz, readers can discover just how much they know about the history of science.

The Emergence of Life on Earth

"A unique guide to the history of life on Earth with more than 1,000 pictures on a single timeline"--Cover.

B is for Blue Planet

This book discusses the science behind earthquakes and their effects. The chapters examine notable earthquakes in history, explain why earthquakes occur, and show how scientists and engineers are working to understand earthquakes and build damage-resistant structures. Diagrams, charts, and photos provide opportunities to evaluate and understand the scientific concepts involved.

The Life and Death of Planet Earth

This title presents the history of climate change. Vivid text details how early studies of greenhouse gases and climate models led to our modern understanding of Earth's climate. It also puts a spotlight on the brilliant scientists who made these advances possible. Useful sidebars, rich images, and a glossary help readers understand the science and its importance. Maps and diagrams provide context for critical discoveries in the field. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Essential Library is an imprint of Abdo Publishing, a division of ABDO.

Penicillin Was Discovered by Accident

How well do you know the ground that you are standing on? It's likely that the area in which you are now cooking under a sea of roiling lava, being crushed by a massive sheet of ice, being rocked by a nearby meteor strike, or possibly being choked by poisonous gases, drowned beneath the ocean, perched atop a mountain range, or being roamed by terrifying monsters. Highly or even all of the aforementioned is most likely. The tale of our home planet and the creatures who inhabit its surface is more stunning than any Hollywood film and has enough narrative twists to compete with the most popular thriller. But it has only been lately that we have started to put the whole puzzle together into a unified story. Prof. Ryan A. Smith, a famous geologist, provides a thorough but understandable history of Earth based on his decades of field study and current knowledge of cutting-edge science. The book highlights the whole of history of life on earth, it tells a brief history of the world and a brief history of human kind.

The Way of the World

In this stellar activity book, kids delve into the rich history of space exploration, where telescopes, satellites, probes, landers, and human missions lead to amazing discoveries. Updated to include the recent discovery of Eris which, along with Pluto, has been newly classified as a &"dwarf planet&" by the International Astronomical Union, this cosmic adventure challenges kids to explore the planets and other celestial bodies for themselves through activities such as building a model of a comet using soil, molasses, dry ice, and window cleaner; or creating their own reentry vehicle to safely return an egg to Earth's surface. With biographies of more than 20 space pioneers, specific mission details, a 20-page field guide to the solar system, and plenty of suggestions for further research, this is the ultimate guidebook to exploring the solar system.

The What on Earth? Wallbook of Natural History

A 4.5-foot double-sided concertina book which takes you from the deepest trench to the highest peak of human physical achievement.

The Science of an Earthquake

In this 1994 revised edition of his award-winning book on the Earth's history, Professor van Andel updates and expands his earlier text, drawing on a wealth of new knowledge that has become available in the last decade. This book examines the major changes in the Earth's history - the evolution of the solid Earth, the changing oceans and atmospheres and the progression of life - to render a historical account of the Earth's evolution. Much knowledge was gained in the previous decade, and while little material has been deleted, this new edition has grown to cover the key topics, including a chapter on how we can improve our grasp on geological time. Mindful of the current interest in global change, new sections describe the green-house effect and address its possible future ramifications. In prose that is both concise and compelling, *New Views on an Old Planet: A History of Global Change* makes Earth

history appealing to the general reader. It will serve as an excellent text for introductory courses in the earth and environmental sciences.

Climate Change: Our Warming Earth

An accessible and engaging primer on the history of the universe and life on Earth. In this delightful book, kids can follow the fascinating story of how we got from the beginning of the universe to life today on the "bright blue ball floating in space" called Earth. They'll learn about the big bang theory, how our solar system and planet were formed, how life on Earth began in the oceans and moved to land, what happened to the dinosaurs and how humans evolved from apes to build communities all over the planet ... and even travel to space! Kids will be enthralled by this out-of-this-world look at how the universe began!

A Tale Never Told

Explores the importance of environmental responsibility.

Exploring the Solar System

Using simple, easy-to-follow instructions, supported throughout with clear diagrams and examples of children's work, Paul Johnson demonstrates how scores of different book forms can be made from a single sheet of paper.

Beyond the Surface

A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice "Extraordinary. . . . Anyone with the slightest interest in biology should read this book."--The New York Times Book Review "A marvelous museum of the past four billion years on earth--capacious, jammed with treasures, full of learning and wide-eyed wonder."--The Boston Globe From its origins on the still-forming planet to the recent emergence of Homo sapiens--one of the world's leading paleontologists offers an absorbing account of how and why life on earth developed as it did. Interlacing the tale of his own adventures in the field with vivid descriptions of creatures who emerged and disappeared in the long march of geologic time, Richard Fortey sheds light upon a fascinating array of evolutionary wonders, mysteries, and debates. Brimming with wit, literary style, and the joy of discovery, this is an indispensable book that will delight the general reader and the scientist alike. "A drama bolder and more sweeping than *Gone with the Wind* . . . a pleasure to read."--Science "A beautifully written and structured work . . . packed with lucid expositions of science."--Natural History

New Views on an Old Planet

It Started with a Big Bang