

[PDF] Prehistoric Life: The Definitive Visual History Of Life On Earth

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Description:

From Condensing millions of years of life on earth into a 512-page single-volume encyclopedia, this ambitious work presents earth's history from its formation through the Mesolithic period (Middle Stone Age). Divided into three sections, Prehistoric Life begins with a brief look at "Young Earth." Two-page spreads examine topics such as plate tectonics, fossils, and the geological timescale. The bulk of the volume discusses "Life on Earth" and is divided by era from the Archean through the

Quaternary. Each section introduces the plants, invertebrates, and vertebrates (as applicable) representative of that time period. The final section delves into "The Rise of the Humans" and discusses human relatives, ancestors, origins, and migration patterns. Although a wealth of scientific information is provided, the illustrative material is the star of this volume. The collection of full-color photographs of fossils (ranging from spore to dinosaur) and skeletons show amazing detail and clarity. Visitors to a natural history museum could not explore the number of examples contained here. Where actual photographs are obviously not available, DK commissioned 3-D images, "modeled using scientific research" to bring life-forms to the page for readers. Photographs and other images are accompanied by information about the creature such as name, group, date, and location. Scaled images (of either a thumb, a hand, or a human) are used to help readers visualize actual sizes. Geared to adults, this work will find popularity with science enthusiasts and browsers alike. Because of the relatively low cost, public libraries will likely want more than one copy. High schools with a strong science program will want to consider purchase for their library or science department. -- Shauna Yusko

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