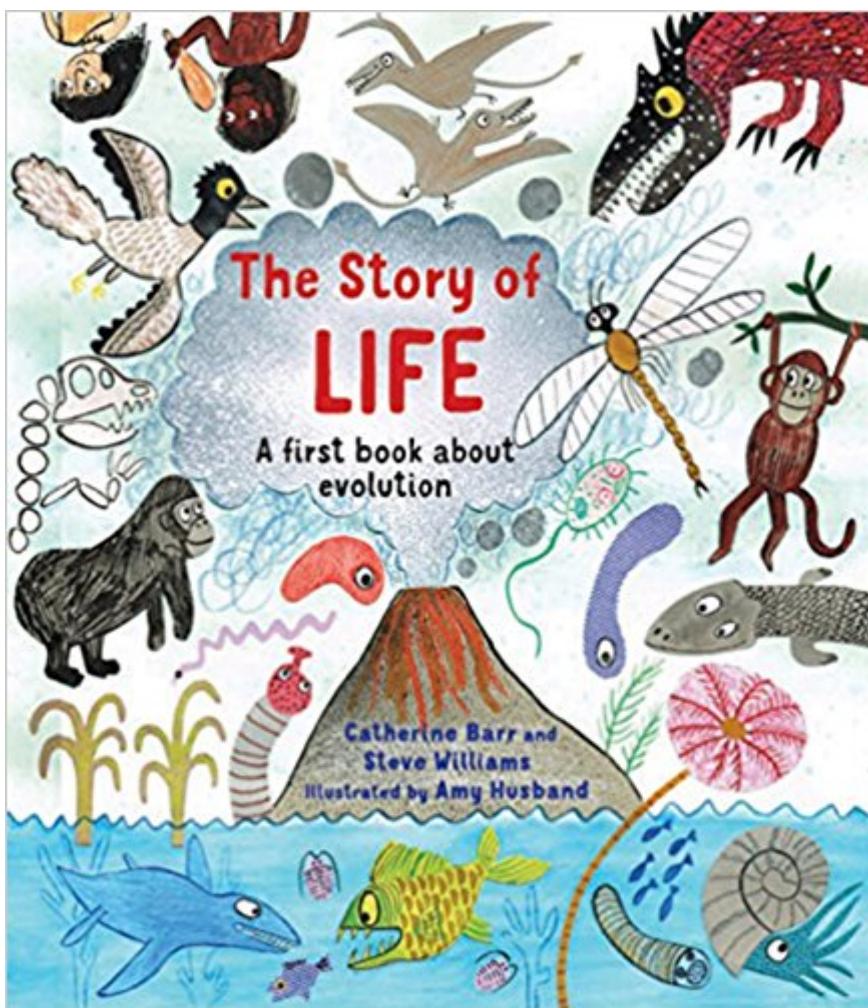


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# The Story Of Life: A First Book About Evolution



## **Synopsis**

At first, nothing lived on Earth. It was a noisy, hot, scary place. Choking gas exploded from volcanoes and oceans of lava bubbled around the globe... Then in the deep, dark ocean, something amazing happened. This is an exciting and dramatic story about how life began and developed on Planet Earth, written especially for younger children. The authors explain how the first living cell was created, and how the cells multiply and create jellyfish and worms, and then fish with bendy necks, which drag themselves out of the water into swampy forests. They tell the story of the biggest creatures that have ever walked on land - the dinosaurs. Long after that, hairy creatures who have babies, not eggs, take over, stand on two legs and spread around the world, some of them living through cataclysmic events such as ice ages and volcanic eruptions. Everyone living today is related to these survivors. With delightful illustrations including lots of detail and humour, all carefully researched and checked, this book shows the development of life on Earth in a truly accessible and simple way.

## **Book Information**

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Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

K-Gr 4 "This introduction to evolution traces the planet's history from its fiery beginnings of thunderous volcanoes and lava 4.5 billions of years ago. The book covers the emergence of the first bacteria, the development of dinosaurs, mammals, and birds, and the appearance of humans and

how they explored and evolved as the Earth warmed and people began to settle in different parts of the world. Through colorful, cartoonlike images, rendered in mixed media and collage, text bubbles, and captions, this informative story provides a window into the Earth's beginnings, natural selection and the concept of "survival of the fittest," and some of the possible causes of extinction. The authors have consulted Brian Rosen, of the Natural History Museum in London, making this book a solid resource for beginning reports. Back matter is useful and will leave children pondering issues such as climate change and endangered creatures. Time lines are clearly labeled in each section so that readers have an understanding of each historical period. Pair this with Steve Jenkins *Life on Earth: The Story of Evolution* (HMH, 2002) for a preliminary start to exploring this topic. VERDICT A suitable overview of the subject.â "Melissa Smith, Royal Oak Public Library, MI

"The book touches on very complex subjects, like the development of life from the first cells and man's evolution, but does so in a way that makes it understandable for those coming to these concepts for the first time." Selected as a March highlight'An exciting and dramatic introduction to evolution for young children, written in consultation with the Natural History Museum.' Best Books For Children This Easter"If your child prefers fact to fiction...The Story of LifeÃ¿(Frances Lincoln, ?12.99) by Catherine Barr, Steve Williams and Amy Husband is a simple, well-illustrated account of evolution." Selected as a March highlight'An exciting and dramatic introduction to evolution for young children, written in consultation with the Natural History Museum.'Selected as a March highlightâ "An exciting and dramatic introduction to evolution for young children, written in consultation with the Natural History Museum.'Best Books For Children This Easter"If your child prefers fact to fiction...The Story of LifeÃ¿(Frances Lincoln, ?12.99) by Catherine Barr, Steve Williams and Amy Husband is a simple, well-illustrated account of evolution." "The book touches on very complex subjects, like the development of life from the first cells and man's evolution, but does so in a way that makes it understandable for those coming to these concepts for the first time."

As a former preschool teacher and a current high school biology teacher, I was very excited to get my hands on this book. While it's super cute and I could see kids loving it to pieces, the teacher in me is disappointed. This book is more about natural history than evolution. The book does not talk at all about the mechanism of evolution - natural selection - even though it would have been very simple to do so in language children can understand. Oh! AND the book states that humans evolved from apes! Noooooooo! Cross that out. That is a common misconception. We are descendants of a common ancestor hominid, not "apes." So, if you're looking for a charming book on the history of life

on Earth for your child, then yes, I recommend it. If you're looking for a book that actually explains HOW evolution occurs, keep looking.

Lovely illustrations, good, simple and direct information for young minds to become introduced to scientific evidence. It does not cover everything, but is enough for my 4 and 5 year old grandchildren to ask more questions, wonder and learn about this very interesting topic of how life began on Earth. Very satisfied with purchase.

My 6 year old loves this book. Engaging, fun and nice pictures.

Easy to understand, a great book for reading or being read to. The kind of book your kids will want to slow down with to look at everything. Even my 10-year-old took her time reading it.

A little confusing for 5 year old, but better for older kids.

One of the best books that I've seen for teaching children about Evolution highly recommend it

Pretty good book for the money.

My 5 year-old daughter loves this book and so do I. I got this for her when she was turning five and we continue to read it a year later. She went from having no idea about how the earth and life might have begun to having a foundational understanding in just a few minutes, and she instantly loved it. The simple lesson that the book does provide is hugely important and is accurate enough and age appropriate. The author does a great job of covering the 14 billion year history of the earth and life on earth in just 25 or so animated pages, a nice length for reading to your kid before they fall asleep. When my daughter and I read the page with the drawings of cells, my daughter has learned that I (dad) gave her a cell with a tail and mom gave her a cell that looks like a big blob and these came together to create her. She points that out every time now. A pretty big concept for a five year-old, but easily covered with the help of this book. I'm a biologist and I agree with the reviewer who complained that it does not natural selection, the mechanism of evolution. But this important lesson can be learned later. That said, many more people, even those that accept evolution, still need to learn the simple lesson of natural selection. It's baffling that so many otherwise intelligent people don't bother when it describes how all life on earth came to be. The eye-opening grandeur!

This book is a great first step. The one thing I really don't really like is that the artist drew eyes on the cells. A single-celled organism cannot have an eye. That's confusing for a kiddo.

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