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6.2 The Primordial Earth 6.3 The Birth of Life; 6.4 The First Bacteria; 6.5 The First Three Billion Years; 6.6 Photosynthesis; 6.7 From Cells to Multicellular Organisms; 6.8 The "Big Bang" of Evolution: The Origin of Species; 6.9 From the Origin of the Species to the Dinosaurs; 6.10 The Dinosaurs; 6.11 The End of the Dinosaurs; 6.12 Mammals; Chapter 7 Extinctions; 7.1 Extinctions of Species in Biological Evolution; 7.2 Causes of Extinctions; Intense volcanic eruptions; Large drop in sea levels; Meteorite impacts; 7.3 Mass Extinctions; 7.4 Extinctions and the Species on the Earth  
7.5 The Modern Era Extinction 7.6 The Anthropocene; 7.7 Polar Ices; 7.8 The Climate: An Unstable System; 7.9 The Problem of Energy; 7.10 A Difficult Choice; 7.11 What Future Will We Have?; Chapter 8 An Inhabitable Planet; 8.1 The Habitable Zone in the Galaxy; The central zone of the galaxy; The intermediate zone; The external zone; 8.2 The Reservoir of the Comets; 8.3 The External Planets; 8.4 Mars; 8.5 Venus; 8.6 The Earth: A Habitable Planet; 8.7 The Habitable Zone of the Planetary System; Chapter 9 The Importance of Continental Drift; 9.1 A World of Water; 9.2 The Structure of the Earth  
9.3 Continental Drift

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Sommario/riassunto

What is the origin of the universe? Are we alone in the Universe? Using clear and plain language, the author explores these two interesting scientific-philosophical themes with a broad range of studies, including astronomy, cosmology, chemistry, biology, geology and planet science. The first part discusses the origins of everything, from the Big Bang to humankind. It follows the long course of evolution - from original matter to the formation of more complex structures, from the furthest galaxies to the nearest stars, from planets to organic molecules, from the first and most elementary forms o

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