

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910812840103321
Autore	Prothero Donald R.
Titolo	The story of life in 25 fossils : tales of intrepid fossil hunters and the wonders of evolution // Donald R. Prothero
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York : , : Columbia University Press, , [2015] ©2015
ISBN	0-231-53942-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (404 p.)
Disciplina	560
Soggetti	Fossils Paleontology Life - Origin Evolution (Biology)
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- CONTENTS -- PREFACE -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- 01. PLANET OF THE SCUM -- 02. GARDEN OF EDIACARA -- 03. "LITTLE SHELLIES" -- 04. OH, GIVE ME A HOME, WHEN THE TRILOBITES ROAMED -- 05. IS IT A WORM OR AN ARTHROPOD? -- 06. IS IT A WORM OR A MOLLUSC? -- 07. GROWING FROM THE SEA -- 08. A FISHY TALE -- 09. MEGA-JAWS -- 10. FISH OUT OF WATER -- 11. "FROGAMANDER" -- 12. TURTLE ON THE HALF-SHELL -- 13. WALKING SERPENTS -- 14. KING OF THE FISH-LIZARDS -- 15. TERROR OF THE SEAS -- 16. MONSTER FLESH-EATER -- 17. LAND OF THE GIANTS -- 18. A FEATHER IN STONE -- 19. NOT QUITE A MAMMAL -- 20. WALKING INTO THE WATER -- 21. WALKING MANATEES -- 22. DAWN HORSES -- 23. RHINOCEROS GIANTS -- 24. THE APE'S REFLECTION? -- 25. LUCY IN THE SKY WITH DIAMONDS -- APPENDIX. THE BEST NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUMS -- INDEX
Sommario/riassunto	Every fossil tells a story. Best-selling paleontology author Donald R. Prothero describes twenty-five famous, beautifully preserved fossils in a gripping scientific history of life on Earth. Recounting the adventures behind the discovery of these objects and fully interpreting their significance within the larger fossil record, Prothero creates a riveting

history of life on our planet. The twenty-five fossils portrayed in this book catch animals in their evolutionary splendor as they transition from one kind of organism to another. We witness extinct plants and animals of microscopic and immense size and thrilling diversity. We learn about fantastic land and sea creatures that have no match in nature today. Along the way, we encounter such fascinating fossils as the earliest trilobite, *Olenellus*; the giant shark *Carcharocles*; the "fishibian" *Tiktaalik*; the "Frogamander" and the "Turtle on the Half-Shell"; enormous marine reptiles and the biggest dinosaurs known; the first bird, *Archaeopteryx*; the walking whale *Ambulocetus*; the gigantic hornless rhinoceros *Paraceratherium*, the largest land mammal that ever lived; and the *Australopithecus* nicknamed "Lucy," the oldest human skeleton. We meet the scientists and adventurers who pioneered paleontology and learn about the larger intellectual and social contexts in which their discoveries were made. Finally, we find out where to see these splendid fossils in the world's great museums. Ideal for all who love prehistoric landscapes and delight in the history of science, this book makes a treasured addition to any bookshelf, stoking curiosity in the evolution of life on Earth.

---