Record Nr. UNINA9910820948503321 Autore Hedman Matthew <1974-> **Titolo** The age of everything: how science explores the past // Matthew Hedman Pubbl/distr/stampa Chicago:,: University of Chicago Press,, 2007 **ISBN** 1-282-53848-9 9786612538483 0-226-32294-7 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (249 pages): illustrations, maps 930.1 Disciplina Soggetti Archaeological dating Archaeology - Technological innovations Radiocarbon dating Science - History Geochronometry Earth (Planet) Age Solar system Age Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese Materiale a stampa **Formato** Livello bibliografico Monografia Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Introduction -- The calendars of the classic Maya -- Precession, polaris, and the age of the pyramids -- The physics of carbon-14 --Calibrating carbon-14 dates and the history of the air -- Carbon-14 and the peopling of the new world -- Potassium, argon, DNA, and walking upright -- Molecular dating and the many different types of mammals -- Meteorites and the age of the solar system -- Colors, brightness, and the age of stars -- Distances, redshifts, and the age of the universe -- Parameterizing the age of the universe. Sommario/riassunto Taking advantage of recent advances throughout the sciences, Matthew Hedman brings the distant past closer to us than it has ever been. Here, he shows how scientists have determined the age of everything from the colonization of the New World over 13,000 years ago to the origin of the universe nearly fourteen billion years ago. Hedman details,

for example, how interdisciplinary studies of the Great Pyramids of

Egypt can determine exactly when and how these incredible structures were built. He shows how the remains of humble trees can illuminate how the surface