

Cradle Of Life The Discovery Of Earths Earliest Fossils

Cradle of LifeEarth's Oldest RocksEarth's Earliest AgesProcesses on the Early EarthAn Astrobiology Strategy for the Exploration of MarsEarth's Earliest Ages, and Their Lessons for Us: Including a Treatise on SpiritualismEarth's Earliest Ages and Their Connection with Modern Spiritualism and TheosophyThe Archean EarthEncyclopedia of AstrobiologyLife's dawn on earth, the history of the oldest known fossil remainsLife's Dawn on Earth: Being the History of the Oldest Known Fossil Remains, and Their Relations to Geological Time and to the Development of the Animal KingdomThe Oldest Traces of Life and the Advancing Organization of the EarthThe Historical Atlas of the EarthThe Oldest Traces of Life and the Advancing Organization of the Earth: EpilogueEarth Science: The earth's surface and historyOur earth and its storyEarth's First StepsHistory of LifeEarth Sciences HistoryScientific American J. William Schopf Martin J. Van Kranendonk George Hawkins Pember W. U. Reimold National Research Council George Hawkins Pember George Hawkins Pember Martin Homann Muriel Gargaud sir John William Dawson Sir John William Dawson (LL.D., F.R.S.) Gerhard Otto Wilhelm Kremp Roger Osborne Gerhard Otto Wilhelm Kremp James A. Woodhead Robert Brown Jerry MacDonald Richard Cowen

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one of the greatest mysteries in reconstructing the history of life on earth has been the apparent absence of fossils dating back more than 550 million years we have long known that fossils of sophisticated marine life forms existed at the dawn of the cambrian period but until recently scientists had found no traces of precambrian fossils the quest to find such traces began in earnest in the mid 1960s and culminated in one dramatic moment in 1993 when william schopf identified fossilized microorganisms three and a half billion years old this startling find opened up a vast period of time some eighty five percent of earth s history to new research and new ideas about life s beginnings in this book william schopf a pioneer of modern paleobiology tells for the first time the exciting and fascinating story of the origins and earliest evolution of life and how that story has been unearthed gracefully blending his personal story of discovery with the basics needed to understand the astonishing science he describes schopf has produced an introduction to paleobiology for the interested reader as well as a primer for beginning students in the field he considers such questions as how did primitive bacteria pond scum evolve into the complex life forms found at the beginning of the cambrian period how do scientists identify ancient microbes and what do these tiny creatures tell us about the environment of the early earth and in a related chapter schopf discusses his role in the controversy that swirls around recent claims of fossils in the famed meteorite from mars like all great teachers schopf teaches the non specialist enough about his subject along the

way that we can easily follow his descriptions of the geology biology and chemistry behind these discoveries anyone interested in the intriguing questions of the origins of life on earth and how those origins have been discovered will find this story the best place to start

earth s oldest rocks second edition is the only single reference source for geological research of early earth this new edition is an up to date collection of scientific articles on all aspects of the early history of the earth from planetary accretion at 4 567 billion years ago ga to the onset of modern style plate tectonics at 3 2 ga since the first edition was published significant new advances have been made in our understanding of events and processes on early earth that correspond with new advances in technology the book includes contributions from over 100 authors all of whom are experts in their respective fields the research in this reference concentrates on what is directly gleaned from the existing rock record to understand how our planet formed and evolved during the planetary accretion phase formation of the first crust the changing dynamics of the mantle and style of tectonics life s foothold and early development and mineral deposits it is an ideal resource for academics students and the general public alike advances in early earth research since 2007 based primarily on evidence gleaned directly from the rock record more than 50 of the chapters in this edition are new and the rest of the chapters are revised from the first edition with more than 700 pages of new material comprehensive reviews of areas of ancient lithosphere from all over the world and of crust forming processes new chapters on early solar system materials composition of the ancient atmosphere hydrosphere and overviews of the oldest evidence of life on earth and modeling of early earth tectonics

this special paper presents a collection of 19 papers contributed to a joint field forum organized by the geological society of america and the geological society of south africa in july 2004 in the barberton greenstone belt and the vredefort dome south africa the papers cover a wide variety of themes including archaean and proterozoic crust

formation and geodynamics with an appraisal of evidence of archean subduction processes the significance of impacts in the evolution of the early earth s crust traces of early life in archean environments of australia and south africa and related studies of depositional environments and processes affecting the giant witwatersrand gold deposit publisher s website

three recent developments have greatly increased interest in the search for life on mars the first is new information about the martian environment including evidence of a watery past and the possibility of atmospheric methane the second is the possibility of microbial viability on mars finally the vision for space exploration initiative included an explicit directive to search for the evidence of life on mars these scientific and political developments led nasa to request the nrc s assistance in formulating an up to date integrated astrobiology strategy for mars exploration among other topics this report presents a review of current knowledge about possible life on mars an astrobiological assessment of current mars missions a review of mars mission planetary protection and findings and recommendations the report notes that the greatest increase in understanding of mars will come from the collection and return to earth of a well chosen suite of martian surface materials

the archean earth tempos and events second edition is a process based reference book that focuses on the most important events in early earth bringing together experts across earth sciences to give a comprehensive overview of the main events of the archean eon as well as of the rates at which important geological and geobiological processes occurred in the same time interval over the last two decades significant progress has been made in our understanding of the processes and events on the early earth corresponding to advances in the analytical technologies and the continuing efforts of many colleagues that pursue their passion of unravelling the archean rock record the book addresses the origin of the earth succeeding impact events and the evolution of the early earth covering topics such as archean tectonics volcanism generation of continental crust and the ongoing debate

about the onset of plate tectonics the evolution and models for earth s hydrosphere and atmosphere the archean atmosphere and chemical sedimentation and sedimentation through archean time among others each topic is well illustrated and includes a closing commentary at the end of each chapter leading up to the final chapter which blends the major geological events and rates at which important processes occurred into a synthesis postulating a number of event clusters in the archean when significant changes occurred in many natural systems and geological environments provides a comprehensive introduction and overview on early earth highlighting the archean eon in the context of the larger time scales presents detailed descriptions of the main processes events and rates that occurred throughout the archean offers an assessment of the first habitable environments the preserved morphological and geochemical traces of early life and the impact it had on earth s biogeochemical cycles

now in its third edition the encyclopedia of astrobiology serves as the key to a common understanding in the extremely interdisciplinary community of astrobiologists each new or experienced researcher and graduate student in adjacent fields of astrobiology will appreciate this reference work in the quest to understand the big picture the carefully selected group of active researchers contributing to this work are aiming to give a comprehensive international perspective on and to accelerate the interdisciplinary advance of astrobiology the interdisciplinary field of astrobiology constitutes a joint arena where provocative discoveries are coalescing concerning e g the prevalence of exoplanets the diversity and hardiness of life and its chances for emergence biologists astrophysicists bio chemists geoscientists and space scientists share this exciting mission of revealing the origin and commonality of life in the universe with its overview articles and its definitions the encyclopedia of astrobiology not only provides a common language and understanding for the members of the different disciplines but also serves for educating a new generation of young astrobiologists who are no longer separated by the jargon of individual scientific disciplines this new edition offers 170 new entries more than half of the

existing entries were updated expanded or supplemented with figures supporting the understanding of the text especially in the fields of astrochemistry and terrestrial extremophiles but also in exoplanets and space sciences in general there is a huge body of new results that have been taken into account in this new edition because the entries in the encyclopedia are in alphabetical order without regard for scientific field this edition includes a section astrobiology by discipline which lists the entries by scientific field and subfield this should be particularly helpful to those enquiring about astrobiology as it illustrates the broad and detailed nature of the field

presents cross referenced essays on basic topics related to planetology and earth from space each essay includes an annotated bibliography

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Introduction

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