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Opening extract from

The Story of Life
A First Book About Evolution

Written by

Catherine Barr and Steve Williams

Illustrated by

Amy Husband

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The truth is stranger than fiction… a story for Hannah,
Iola and Web and families all around the world – CB

For Jules, Ames and Els, with love – SW

For Jay, with love – AH



JANETTA OTTER-BARRY BOOKS

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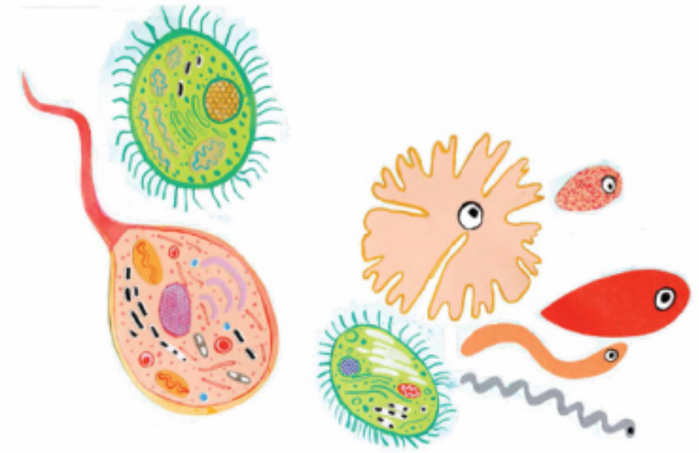
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The Story of LIFE

A first book about evolution



Catherine Barr and Steve Williams
Illustrated by Amy Husband

FRANCES LINCOLN
CHILDREN'S BOOKS

At first, nothing lived on Earth. It was a very hot and noisy place.

Choking gas exploded from volcanoes and oceans of lava bubbled around the globe.

Fountains of melting rock spattered burning land under clouds of ash.

volcano

lava

And massive rocks from space, called meteoroids, smashed into churning seas.

meteoroids

Deep underwater, hot black gases belched towards the surface of this strange, lifeless world.

4.5 billion years ago

Then, in the deep dark ocean, something amazing happened.

In warm water, near underwater volcanoes called black smokers, some tiny floating bits came together.

These bits were so small that you couldn't possibly see them. They could have dropped from space or bubbled up from under the seabed.

They formed the beginning of life on Earth.

black smokers

bubbles

tiny bits

seabed

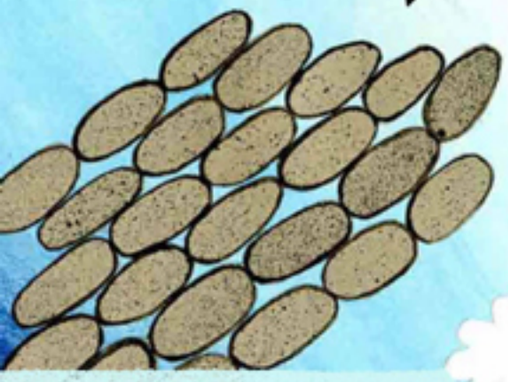
3.5 billion years ago

This first life
was just an incredibly
small shapeless blob,
called a cell.

first cell

As time passed cells lived
together, making sticky,
slimy mats that grew into
mounds as big as pillows.

slimy mat of cells



3 billion years ago

first continents

Some cells started using
sunlight, water and a gas in
the air, to help them grow.

Cells multiplied into billions.
And so the seas clouded
with lots of new kinds of life.

Some cells puffed out an
invisible gas called oxygen, which
completely changed the air
and even the colour of the planet.

Circling the globe, the oxygen
turned black rocks shades of
yellow, red and brown.

invisible oxygen

invisible oxygen