

Welcome to tonight's performance
of the

Greatest Show ON EARTH

in the world-famous **Shoebox Theatre**.



PLAN OF THE SHOE BOX THEATRE

Here are
THE WINGS,
where we have a
closer look
at the story . . .
(. . . with Annika Ant.)

Here's the
MAIN STAGE,
where the Troupe
act out the story of
Life on Earth.
(Read this bit first.)

Your performers tonight are
Pierre, Cedric, Gary, Malia,
Alonzo, Brunhilda and Edna.
Say hello, Troupe!

We'll be working with
the power of **Puppetry**, **Collage**,
Recycled Dump Materials
and **this Encyclopedia**
to bring the
biggest story
ever told
to you tonight.

THE COMPLETE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF LIFE

BONJOUR!
Hello!
Hi!
Salaam!
¡Hola!
GUTEN ABEND!
How do!

4.6 billion years

Down here is the Orchestra Pit,
where we have the team in charge of the Tape Measure of Time:
Anton, Anatole and Annette. *Say hello, Time Team!*

INGREDIENTS for your Earth-like Planet

You will need:



Carbon
(We made this carbon by burning some toast.)



Oxygen
(Watch out – it's flammable!)



Iron
(This has got a bit rusty.)



Magnesium
(Nearly took my feelers off!)



Silica
(This is Silicon Dioxide, AKA sand.)



Calcium
(Shells, bones and teeth are built of calcium.)



A pinch of Sulphur
(Whoooo, that's eggy!)

and plenty of ice.



It's 4.6 Billion Years Ago...

This is it, ladies and gentlemen.

As we raise the curtain . . .

THE STORY OF

LIFE

is about to begin!

It's time to

COOK UP

an Earth-like planet.



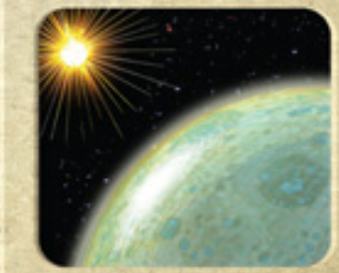
HOW TO COOK UP AN EARTH-LIKE PLANET



Take your ingredients and mix them up at high speed in your Cosmic Blender until they're really hot and start to form a lump of molten mixture.



Leave it for a few hundred million years to cool. Watch as a golden-brown crust forms and the steam settles down . . .



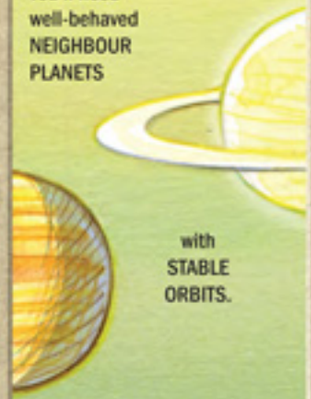
and condenses into a lovely watery ocean.





HOW TO KEEP YOUR NEW WORLD SAFE

You'll need well-behaved NEIGHBOUR PLANETS



with STABLE ORBITS.

You'll need a MOON to stabilize your orbit and rotation,



and a MAGNETIC FIELD

to protect you from the Solar Wind,



which would otherwise steal all your water away.

It's 4.6 Billion Years Ago

Here is the young Earth.

It has only just been built.

It is hot and bothered and bursting with lava.





HOW TO KEEP YOUR NEW WORLD SAFE

You also need to be the right distance from the Sun.



If you're too close,



YOU GET VENUS – too hot!



If you're too far away, you get MARS –



too cold.