

Stepping Stones The Making Of Our Home World

Stephen Drury

Stepping Stones The Making Of Our Home World:

Stepping Stones Stephen Drury, 2001 Many people know more about the planets Venus and Mars than they do about our home planet Earth Unique in our solar system and so far as we know in the Universe itself the Earth has been evolving for the past five billion years and is the result of the dynamic interplay of astronomical physical and chemical forces ranging from the vast to the barely perceptible The evolution of the Earth has never been predictable Life has come very close to being extinguished many times After each such crisis the survivors and their genes have diversified and grown in number to exploit allopportunities Without such traumas it is hardly likely that evolution s pace could have reached its present advanced level that of conscious life capable of changing the world contemplating it and in doing so changing itself at geologically stupendous rates In Stepping Stones Stephen Druryexplores how such a seemingly fragile world could have been formed and developed Looking at the astonishing leaps and near catastrophes that have occurred along the way intermingled with inexorable but slow change the book interweaves the evidence from geology physics biology and chemistry to tell an extraordinary story of the Earth's evolution spanning nearly five billion years **Stepping Stones** Stephen A. Drury, 1999 Many people know more about the planets Venus and Mars than they do about our home planet Earth Unique in our solar system and so far as we know in the Universe itself the Earth has been evolving for the past five billion years and is the result of the dynamic interplay of astronomical physical and chemical forces ranging from the vast to the barely perceptible The evolution of the earth has never been predictable Life has come very close to being extinguished many times After each such crisis the survivors and their genes have diversified and grown in number to exploit all opportunities Without such traumas it is hardly likely that evolution s pace could have reached its present advanced level that of conscious life capable of changing the world contemplating it and in doing so changing itself at geologically stupendous rates In Stepping Stones Stephen Drury explores how such a seemingly fragile world could have been formed and developed Looking at the astonishing leaps and near catastrophes that have occurred along the way intermingled with inexorable but slow change the book interweaves the evidence from geology physics biology and chemistry to tell an extraordinary story of the earth's evolution spanning nearly 5 Revisiting Imaginary Worlds Mark Wolf, 2016-12-08 The concept of world and the practice of world creation billion years have been with us since antiquity but they are now achieving unequalled prominence In this timely anthology of subcreation studies an international roster of contributors come together to examine the rise and structure of worlds the practice of world building and the audience's reception of imaginary worlds Including essays written by world builders A K Dewdney and Alex McDowell and offering critical analyses of popular worlds such as those of Oz The Lord of the Rings Star Trek Star Wars Battlestar Galactica and Minecraft Revisiting Imaginary Worlds provides readers with a broad and interdisciplinary overview of the issues and concepts involved in imaginary worlds across media platforms A Short History of Nearly Everything Bill Bryson, 2012-05-15 Bill Bryson's quest to understand everything that has happened in the history of the earth from the Big

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book shows how to make global environmental problems more tangible so that they become an integral part of everyday awareness At its core is a simple assumption that the best way to learn to perceive the biosphere is to pay close attention to our immediate surroundings Through local natural history observations imagination and memory and spiritual contemplation we develop a place based environmental view that can be expanded to encompass the biosphere Interweaving global change science personal narrative and commentary on a wide range of scientific and literary works the book explores both the ecological and existential aspects of urgent issues such as the loss of biodiversity and global climate change Written in a warm engaging style Bringing the Biosphere Home considers the perceptual connections between the local and global how the ecological news of the community is of interest to the world and how the global movement of people species and weather systems affects the local community It shows how global environmental change can become the province of numerous educational initiatives from the classroom to the Internet from community forums to international conferences from the backyard to the biosphere It explains important scientific concepts in clear nontechnical language and provides dozens of ideas for learning how to practice biospheric perception <u>Language of the Earth</u> Frank H. T. Rhodes, Richard O. Stone, Bruce D. Malamud, 2011-08-26 Man's complex relationship to planet Earth is explored in this second edition of the landmark anthology edited by Frank Rhodes and Bruce Malamud This volume provides a portrait of the planet as experienced not just by scientists but by artists aviators poets philosophers novelists historians and sociologists as well A unique collection that bridges the gap between science and humanities Contains writings by scientists artists aviators poets philosophers novelists historians and sociologists including Charles Darwin Dane Picard Rachel Carson John Muir Mark Twain and Archibald Geikie Represents the human experience over the centuries covering a span of 2 500 years Reflects the planet's extraordinary physical diversity The previous edition was voted one of the 25 Great Books of Geology by readers of the Journal of Geological Education this is a very worthwhile read with something for everyone interested in geography earth systems and geology natural history or the general environment Robert A Francis King's College London Progress in Physical Geography *Big History and the Future of Humanity* Fred Spier, 2015-03-04 big history and the future of humanity This remains the best single attempt to theorize big history as a discipline that can link core concepts and paradigms across all historical disciplines from cosmology to geology from biology to human history With additional and updated material the Second Edition also offers a fine introduction to the history of big history and a superb introductory survey to the big history story Essential reading for anyone interested in a rapidly evolving new field of scholarship that links the sciences and the humanities into a modern science based origin story David Christian Macquarie University Notable for its theoretic approach this new Second Edition is both an indispensable contribution to the emerging big history narrative and a powerful university textbook Spier defines words carefully and recognizes the limits of current knowledge aspects of his own clear thinking Cynthia Brown Emerita Dominican University of California Reflecting the latest theories in the sciences and humanities this

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