



Our Family Tree: An Evolution Story

By Lisa Westberg Peters, Lauren Stringer

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All of us are part of an old, old family. The roots of our family tree reach back millions of years to the beginning of life on earth. Open this family album and embark on an amazing journey. You'll meet some of our oldest relatives--from both the land *and* the sea--and discover what we inherited from each of them along the many steps of our wondrous past.

Complete with an illustrated timeline and glossary, here is the story of human evolution as it's *never* been told before.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Kindergarten-Grade 3-Evolution is a ticklish topic. It is controversial to some for religious reasons; for others, it is a challenging concept to present to a young audience without losing scientific veracity. For one thing, young children have little concept of time-a million years might be the span between birthdays. For another, the idea of slow, evolutionary change still seems somehow equal to a magician's trick. So, accomplishing a reasonable explanation of a scientific concept and its progress through millennia is worthy of note. Peters's simple text uses the "we/us" format to place Homo sapiens in the "family" of life at its very beginnings. "All of us," she states in the first sentence of the book, "are part of an old, old family," going back to Earth's beginnings. "We've changed a lot since then." Through a simple progression, amply bolstered by Stringer's striking, large acrylics, she traces "our" family tree from unicellular organisms through amphibians, therapsids, and early mammals to early primates, hominids, and our distinct "humanness" today. Enriched by two pages of additional data and a colorful time line, the whole is rounded out by carefully written author and illustrator notes. Simpler than Stephen Webster's *The Kingfisher Book of Evolution* (2000) and Melvin Berger's *How Life Began* (Doubleday, 1990; o.p.), and perhaps easier than Joanna Cole's venerable *Evolution* (Crowell, 1987; o.p.), this book is a wonderful companion to Steve Jenkins's equally attractive *Life on Earth* (Houghton, 2002).

Patricia Manning, formerly at Eastchester Public Library, NY

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 4-7. It seems like a great idea: tell the story of the evolution of all living things by showing that "all of us are part of an old, old family" and that we can trace our roots back to "tiny round cells in the deep dark sea." But it's not that easy to explain the minutiae of DNA and the sweep of Earth's geology and biology to a young audience. This oversize picture book, with chatty text and elaborate, packed, brightly colored, double-page illustrations, may look child friendly, but it's sometimes confusing. Readers are told that the time line, which appears in tiny print, isn't drawn to scale, but it certainly looks as if microscopic bacteria haven't been around much longer than primates. The second part of the book works best, tracing the emergence of warm-blooded creatures right up to the excitement of walking upright. This is best suited to classroom use, where adults can turn to helpful notes at the back to discuss our connections with those first tiny round cells and how we've changed since then. *Hazel Rochman*

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Review

"Evolution is what has created the living world and what keeps it going. If we do not understand evolution, we will never understand our world. How lucky our children are to have this beautiful and moving guide from which to learn!"

--Dr. Ernst Mayr

Professor of Zoology, Emeritus, Harvard University

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Annie Boyd:

What do you with regards to book? It is not important along with you? Or just adding material when you really need something to explain what yours problem? How about your spare time? Or are you busy individual? If you don't have spare time to try and do others business, it is make you feel bored faster. And you have time? What did you do? Everybody has many questions above. The doctor has to answer that question simply because just their can do in which. It said that about reserve. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is proper. Because start from on pre-school until university need this Our Family Tree: An Evolution Story to read.

Corey Ison:

Nowadays reading books be a little more than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading behavior give you lot of advantages. The huge benefits you got of course the knowledge the particular information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The data you get based on what kind of e-book you read, if you want get more knowledge just go with schooling books but if you want really feel happy read one along with theme for entertaining including comic or novel. The Our Family Tree: An Evolution Story is kind of e-book which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

Nola Schroeder:

In this period of time globalization it is important to someone to find information. The information will make someone to understand the condition of the world. The fitness of the world makes the information simpler to share. You can find a lot of personal references to get information example: internet, magazine, book, and soon. You will see that now, a lot of publisher this print many kinds of book. Typically the book that recommended for your requirements is Our Family Tree: An Evolution Story this book consist a lot of the information from the condition of this world now. This particular book was represented just how can the world has grown up. The terminology styles that writer use for explain it is easy to understand. Typically the writer made some investigation when he makes this book. That's why this book appropriate all of you.

Donna Wright:

Many people said that they feel uninterested when they reading a reserve. They are directly felt this when they get a half portions of the book. You can choose the book Our Family Tree: An Evolution Story to make your own personal reading is interesting. Your personal skill of reading ability is developing when you including reading. Try to choose very simple book to make you enjoy to see it and mingle the feeling about book and reading through especially. It is to be first opinion for you to like to wide open a book and examine it. Beside that the reserve Our Family Tree: An Evolution Story can to be your brand-new friend when you're feel alone and confuse with what must you're doing of the time.

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