



Kingfisher Encyclopedia of Life: minutes, months, millennia-how long is a life on earth?

By Graham L Banes



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Welcome to the Kingfisher Encyclopedia of Life—a jaw-dropping look at 30,000 years of biological evolution organized through the lens of relative lifespan. Packed with the latest science, and created with today's highly visual reader in mind, this encyclopedia is designed to engage readers emotionally—from a sense of astonishment that the mayfly can enjoy a full life in less time than it takes to read the book, to the awe that is inspired by trees over a thousand years old, to a sense of humble self-reflection when encountering colonies of simple life forms which have existed since before recorded time. At the heart of the book is the human story: a central section looks at life expectancy among the human population today and historically through time, examining the many and varied factors which influence longevity. This is both an introduction to the variety of life on Earth, and a powerful educational tool, referencing science, biology, history, and geography. At the end, readers of all ages will emerge with a new sense of wonder at the natural world's amazing diversity, and a new appreciation for their own place among it.



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- Rank: #1806107 in Books
- Brand: Kingfisher
- Published on: 2012-10-30
- Released on: 2012-10-30
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 11.21" h x .98" w x 8.70" l, 2.15 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 160 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 3-6-Aiming to provide an "imaginative introduction to the natural world and the huge array of species that inhabit it," this work is a spectacular success. It focuses on 230 species (considering that 18,000 new ones are discovered each year, we'll give them credit for selecting the most interesting), categorizing them according to lifespan. The chapters start with "Here today..." which includes bacteria that survive for less than an hour, and close with "Time Is on My Side," which mentions champions of longevity such as the Great Barrier Reef, portions of which are 18 million years old. Spreads focusing on a life span or on species are interspersed with features highlighting biodiversity, habitats, genetics, and other influences on Earth's lifeforms. The feature spreads include a map of the world and numbered circles that link to corresponding text. The layout of these features is sometimes more confusing than the other content, with the numbered text going against the natural reading direction. But this won't disrupt the title's Guinness Book of World Records-like appeal: it includes some truly bizarre and gross facts (a vanilla flavoring used in ice cream comes from the anal glands of beavers, for example). All measurements are given in nonmetric and metric measurements. One unifying feature woven throughout the text and the vivid color photography is how many species have their lifespans adversely affected by disease and human interference (or, as in the case of the male brown antechinus, the "stress and exhaustion of mating"). Don't let this title languish in the reference stacks. Put it in circulation where it can be taken home and enjoyed.-Kara Schaff Dean, Walpole Public Library, MAα(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

The passage of time, in both the geological and biological sense, can be difficult for children to conceptualize. This compelling volume seeks to clarify hard-to-visualize periods of time and put an average life span of various organisms into an understandable context. The book is divided into five main sections, from shortest life spans to longest, and includes discussion about fungi, plants, mammals, aquatic animals, and even humans. The evolution of primates is presented through dynamic graphics, and the text is driven by engaging, full-color photographs and maps. Although plenty of commonly recognized animals are included, the facts are obscure enough to be fascinating for older children, even science buffs. Each chapter concludes with a "Did You Know?" page full of fun trivia, and a comprehensive glossary is provided. This book is a powerful interdisciplinary resource, encompassing lessons from biology, geography, natural history, and the social sciences. Grades 4-8. --Erin Anderson

Review

"Aiming to provide an imaginative introduction to the natural world and the huge array of species that inhabit it, this work is a spectacular success. . . . [I]t includes some truly bizarre and gross facts. . . . Don't let this title languish in the reference stacks. Put it in circulation where it can be taken home and enjoyed."
School Library Journal (STARRED)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Marie Gambino:

The book Kingfisher Encyclopedia of Life: minutes, months, millennia-how long is a life on earth? has a lot details on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of advantage. The book was published by the very famous author. Mcdougal makes some research prior to write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you can obtain the point easily after looking over this book.

Karl Harms:

Kingfisher Encyclopedia of Life: minutes, months, millennia-how long is a life on earth? can be one of your basic books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort to put every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing Kingfisher Encyclopedia of Life: minutes, months, millennia-how long is a life on earth? yet doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource data that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can certainly drawn you into brand new stage of crucial thinking.

Charles English:

In this period of time globalization it is important to someone to obtain information. The information will make anyone to understand the condition of the world. The health of the world makes the information quicker to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, paper, book, and soon. You will observe that now, a lot of publisher this print many kinds of book. The particular book that recommended to your account is Kingfisher Encyclopedia of Life: minutes, months, millennia-how long is a life on earth? this book consist a lot of the information on the condition of this world now. This specific book was represented how do the world has grown up. The terminology styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. Typically the writer made some analysis when he makes this book. Here is why this book appropriate all of you.

Steven Delorme:

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