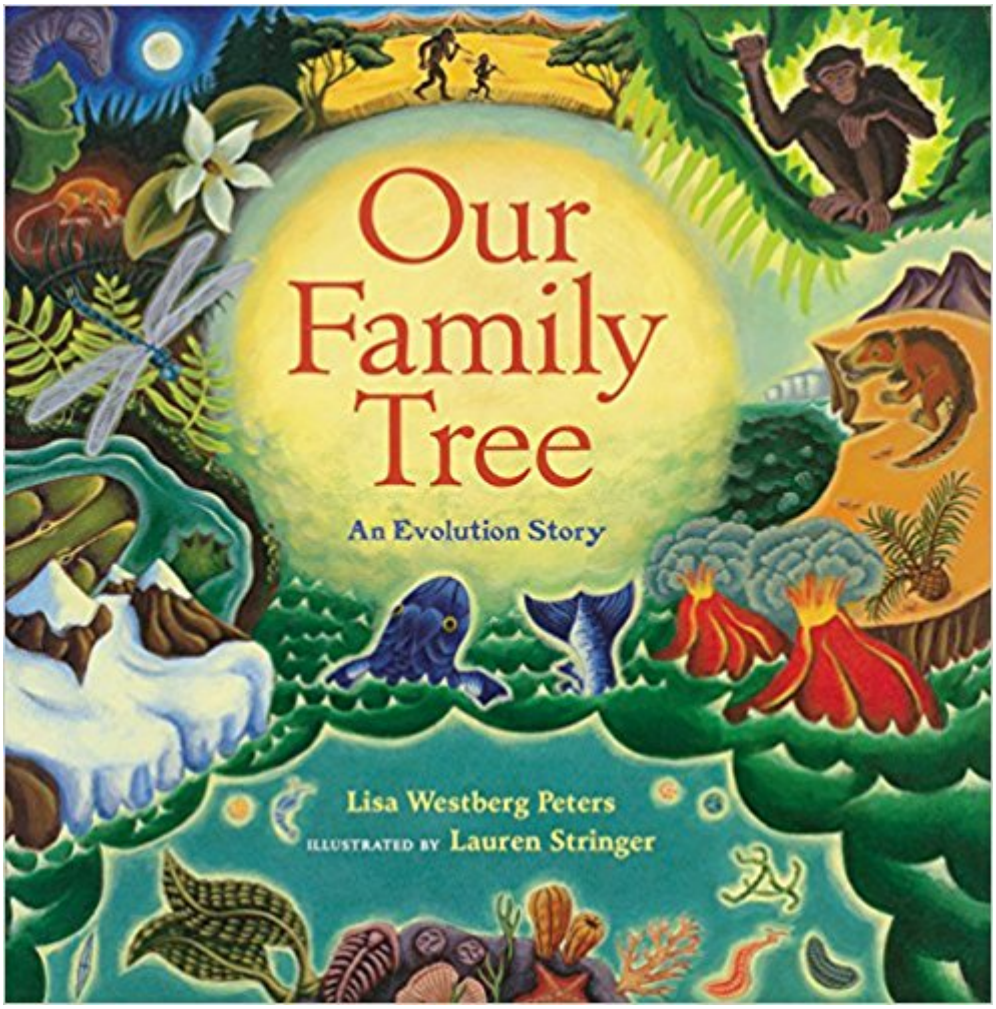
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Our Family Tree: An Evolution Story



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Synopsis

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.

Book Information

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (April 1, 2003)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 10.5 x 0.4 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 125 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #77,917 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #56 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Biology #476 inÃ Â Books > Science & Math > Evolution #612 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

Customer Reviews

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, NYCopyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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 RochmanCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

I love this book, my kids always have so many questions about life evolved and it’s hard to describe in ways their minds can absorb. This book really pulls it down to an easier to grasp concept. They love this book, and i could see the dots connecting as we read it. And the beautiful illustration doesn’t hurt, either!

This is certainly not a book that introduces the principles of evolution with any depth or discussion of processes. That said, it is perfect for helping younger readers understand the connection between diverse organisms with little obvious commonality.

Bought this to help me explain evolution to my young daughter. Worked great, and it’s one of our favorite books now. She’s still making up her mind about creation vs evolution... But she loves this book!

Nice little story for young kids to start getting to know the word around them w/o falling on myth or fantasy

My 5 year old daughter has been asking about the first people and where humans came from. I discovered this book and thought I would give it a try. The illustrations are beautiful. It was a good starting point but I guess I expected a little more of an explanation. She had a lot of questions and I needed to explain a whole lot which lost her interest a bit. I would fully recommend this book for the under five group and the over 5 group if you want a starting point.

I love reading this to my daughter. Great starter book on evolution. Beautiful illustrations.

My three year old son is for ever asking questions on various topics, and one day the discussion moved to how we have evolved over time. I was looking for a simple book to explain the concept to him, and came across this one. The book has managed to convey evolution in the light of how we have evolved from a single cell and how we are all part of a same family. However, I felt if it had delved a little more on how humans as a species have evolved and why, it would be easier for smaller children to grasp the necessity for evolution. I am happy though that this book led to further discussions on the topic. This book talks of evolution from a scientific point of view with no reference to religion. Though I am a christian by faith, I find nothing offensive or wrong in teaching children about the scientific process of how we came into existence. Infact it gave me and my son an opportunity to also discuss our creation as explained in the bible which in my opinion is not very different from that described in this book.

While the story is a little amateur, my kid loves the book. As we read it she wants to pick out which thing she is. From the single cells to the creatures she identifies which she is and which is mommy and daddy. While My kid loves it, I really wish someone wrote it better because frankly after reading it every night for a few months, I have picked out everything that seems stupid that the writer should have done better...but then again...maybe its just me venting because I read it every damn night...lol.

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