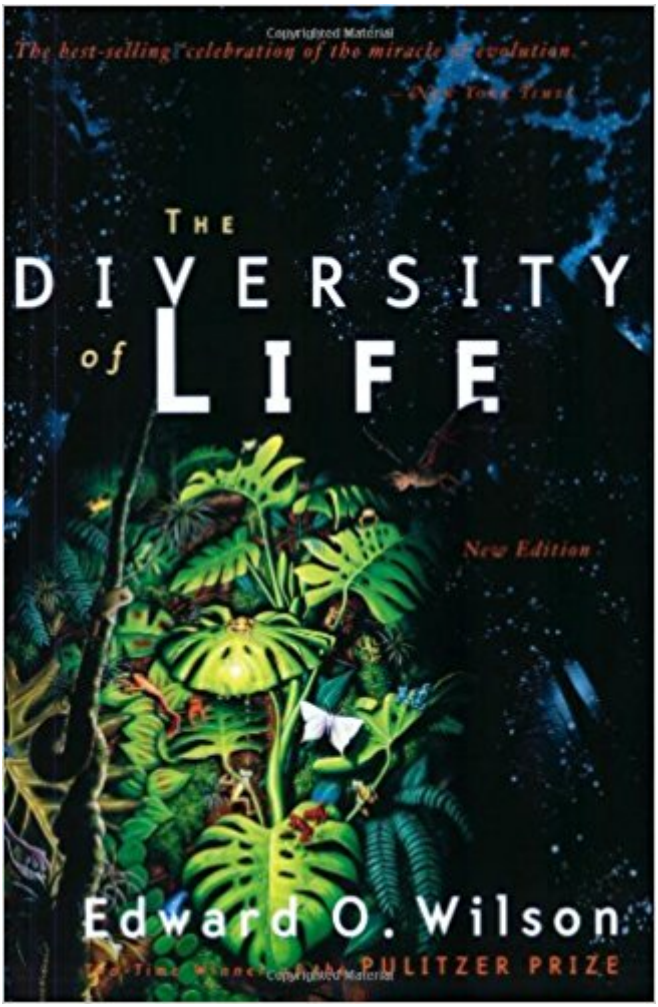
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The Diversity Of Life (Questions Of Science)



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Synopsis

"A superb blend of lyrical description, sweeping historical writing, lucid scientific explanation, and dire warnings. . . . The most important scientific book of the year." Ã¢â ¬â ¢ Boston Globe In this book a master scientist tells the story of how life on earth evolved. Edward O. Wilson eloquently describes how the species of the world became diverse and why that diversity is threatened today as never before. A great spasm of extinction Ã¢â ¬â ¢ the disappearance of whole species Ã¢â ¬â ¢ is occurring now, caused this time entirely by humans. Unlike the deterioration of the physical environment, which can be halted, the loss of biodiversity is a far more complex problem Ã¢â ¬â ¢ and it is irreversible. Defining a new environmental ethic, Wilson explains why we must rescue whole ecosystems, not only individual species. He calls for an end to conservation versus development arguments, and he outlines the massive shift in priorities needed to address this challenge. No writer, no scientist, is more qualified than Edward O. Wilson to describe, as he does here, the grandeur of evolution and what is at stake. "Engaging and nontechnical prose. . . . Prodigious erudition. . . . Original and fascinating insights." Ã¢â ¬â ¢ John Terborgh, New York Review of Books, front page review "Eloquent. . . . A profound and enduring contribution." Ã¢â ¬â ¢ Alan Burdick, Audubon Color plates

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Humans, the Harvard University entomologist Edward O. Wilson has observed, have an innate--or

at least extremely ancient--connection to the natural world, and our continued divorce from it has led to the loss of not only "a vast intellectual legacy born of intimacy" with nature, but also our very sanity. In The Diversity of Life, Wilson takes a sweeping view of our planet's natural richness, remarking on what on the surface seems a paradox: "almost all the species that ever lived are extinct, and yet more are alive today than at any time in the past." (Wilson's elegant explanation is a scientific education in itself.) This great variety of species is, of course, threatened by habitat destruction, global climate change, and a host of other forces, and Wilson revisits his oft-stated call for the protection of wilderness and undeveloped land, noting that "wilderness has virtue unto itself and needs no extraneous justification." We should, he continues, regard every species, "every scrap of biodiversity," as precious and irreplaceable, without attempting to quantify that regard with utilitarian measures such as "bio-economics." In short, Wilson offers with this book a simple, workable environmental ethic that extends the work of Aldo Leopold and other conservationists. A remarkably productive and influential scientist, Wilson is also a fine writer, and his survey of biodiversity makes for welcome and instructive reading. --Gregory McNamee

This is still the best book on biodiversity. Wilson, an eminent Harvard entomologist, details the rise of biodiversity on earth and the human threats to it. His eloquent plea to save the rich variety of plant and animal life will resonate with readers of all ages and educational backgrounds. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I purchased this book to us in a college biology class, not only was it $20 cheaper than the book store but it had great resources within the book that other copies did not have. The particular book I was sent had chapter summaries in the back of the book, my friends that ordered this book from other sellers did not have summaries at the end. The summaries really helped me understand the dense material and helped me pass the class!

An outstanding and authoritative review of the science and the man-made loss of biodiversity, by someone with a commanding view and deep knowledge.

Let's keep this short: if you don't know or need to be reminded why even the most mundane of living things on this earth is absolutely astonishing, read this book. The prose goes down easy, and frankly, the creation story Wilson tells is more fascinating than any of the others humans have come up with over the last several millennia. But like them, it has a potent potential to change how you

look at the world around you.

Great book, easy to read. Not dry like Darwin. Shipped quickly and was in perfect condition.

Received in good order. Dr Wilson writes clearly and expertly on this complex matter, and makes it understandable for non-biologists. Moreover, it is a compelling analysis of worldwide diversity. Highly recommended.

This book was needed for one of my classes and it helped me learn more about life and science. Came very quickly and came to me in very good condition.

great book great price

Came right away and was in perfect condition, I couldn't have asked for more! Not a rip in the page, great book. I can't believe I got it for such a good price

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