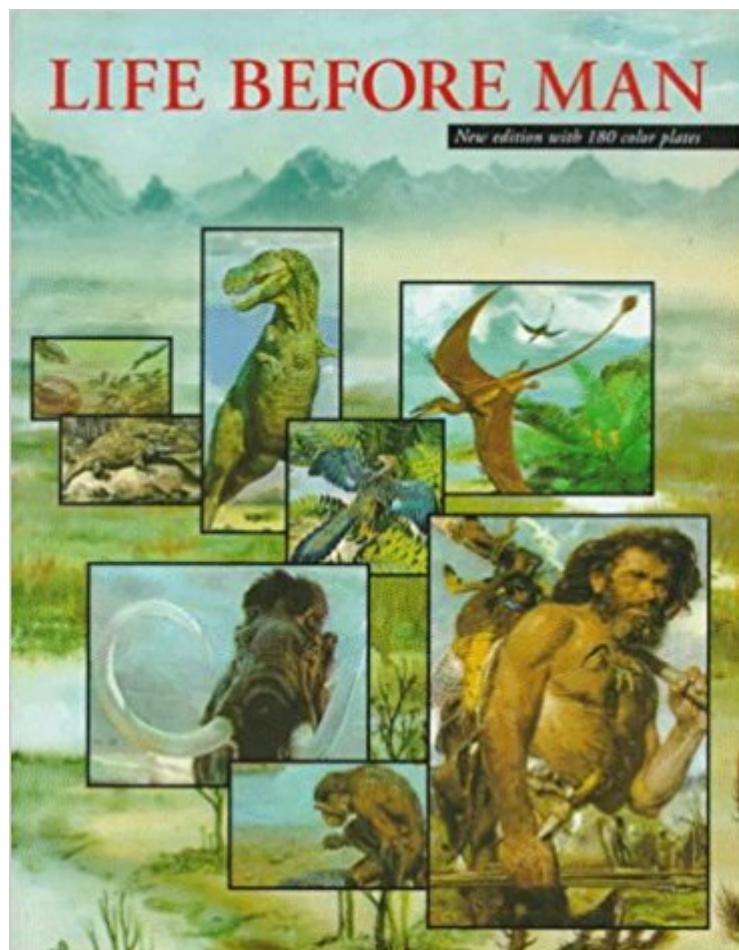


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# Life Before Man



## Synopsis

This is an introduction to the panorama of life on Earth, from its earliest beginnings more than 3000 million years ago to the arrival of *Homo sapiens* and the introduction of settled farming, 5000 years ago. The text is accompanied by a sequence of over 160 specially commissioned illustrations, showing the conditions on Earth in its early days and the strange animal life that once roamed its surface or moved in its seas. Beginning with an account of the various theories that seek to explain the birth of the solar system and its planets, the book continues with a detailed explanation of the evolution of living things, from the first signs of single-celled life to the arrival of marine vertebrates, from the appearance of dinosaurs to the emergence of the ape-like ancestors of modern man. Time charts show the sequence of geological eras and the points at which various forms of life first appeared.

## Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Thames & Hudson; Rev Sub edition (June 1996)

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Shipping Weight: 2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Czech

This is a fantastic book! Though originally published in 1972, before a lot of the recent finds and revelations about dinosaurs, it is very consistent with the generally knowledge about various standard species. There are ample charts, graphs, and explanations that are easy to read but far from juvenile. I must confess I bought the book mainly for the illustrations (233, with 180 in color) by Zdenek Burian, which, though are not the highest quality, are still marvelous to look at. But after a casual flip through, I can see myself reading a lot of it because it is so darned interesting. If you can

find a good-very good copy at a decent price, and want to add either to your art reference collection or dinosaur library, I don't think you will be disappointed in your purchase!

Zdenek Burian was without doubt one of the greatest of all prehistoric life artists . In a genre that's see's artists work being dated constantly by new scientific discovery , Burians work may scientifically date but as wildlife art it remains along with Charles Knight's work at the summit of fossil reconstruction art .The only thing stopping this getting 5 stars is the reproduction quality of some of the plates being inconsistent , otherwise it's fantastic

I thought I would NEVER find this book!

It's an excellent book! The paintings are amazing. It was beyond my expectations. I recommend it for those who want to know more about prehistoric life.

This book is very special,although it is old and may not continue the today`'s vision of the dinosaurs (for example, the Apatosaurus is living in water) it is fun to see the old visions of the prehistoric. And this edition is completley updated,with the latest facts. The text is completley different from that of the old edition. It is also fun to see the new illustrations,although those are not made by Burian himself. I am a great enthusiast of his prehistoric paintings, and I think they are very inspiring,because I like to paint own dinos in aquarelle. Over all, Life Before Man is a classic in illustrated natural history books. The only thing I miss is that some of the old paintings are gone and has been replaced by others. Life Before Man covers the history of the Earth,from a time with volcanoes to the dawn of man. So,sit down and enjoy this exciting adventure under 3000 million years!

Burian is an excellent illustrator of prehistoric life. One of the best of the early illustrators, this catalog of his paintings rates with the best paintings of Charles R. Knight (several of these paintings occur in National Geographic's 'Our Continent'). Though the science has changed some of the depictions painted, I still HIGHLY RECOMMEND this book for those who simply love outstanding paintings of dinosaurs, trilobites, etc. living out their lives in excellent dioramas. I wouldn't part with my copy for anything.

The 233 illustrations in this book easily make the cover price seem trivial. Mr. Burian was one of the

finest prehistoric illustrators ever. These paintings and drawings were previously printed in several earlier works and combined here.

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