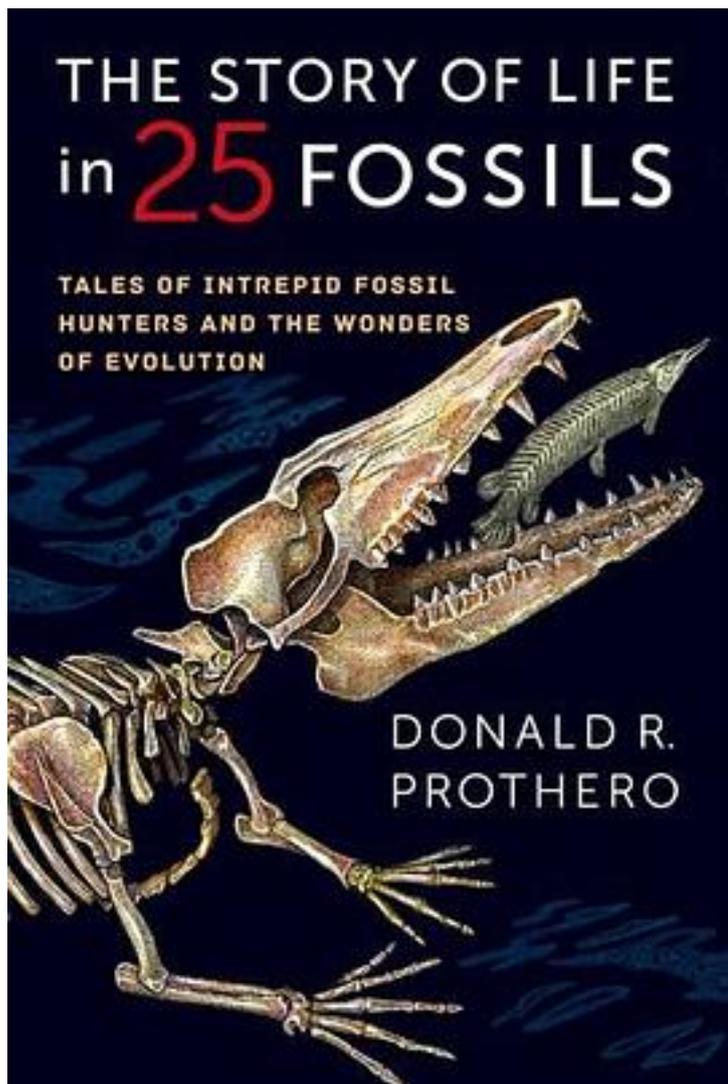


# The Story of Life in 25 Fossils



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著者:Donald R. Prothero

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Every fossil tells a story. Best-selling paleontology author Donald R. Prothero describes twenty-five famous, beautifully preserved fossils in a gripping, scientific history of life on Earth. Recounting the adventures behind the discovery of these objects and fully interpreting their significance within the larger fossil record, Prothero creates a riveting and enlightening overview for anyone interested in the history of life on our planet.

The twenty-five fossils lovingly portrayed in *The Story of Life in 25 Fossils* catch animals in their evolutionary splendor as they transition from one kind of organism to another. We witness extinct plants and animals of microscopic and immense size and thrilling diversity. We learn about fantastic land and sea creatures that have no match in nature today. Along the way, we encounter such fascinating fossils as the earliest trilobite, *Olenellus*; the giant shark *Carcharocles*; the "Frogamander" and the "Turtle on the Half Shell"; the "fishibian" *Tiktalik*; the first bird, *Archaeopteryx*; the walking whale *Ambulocetus*; enormous marine reptiles and the biggest dinosaurs known; the gigantic hornless rhinoceros *Paraceratherium*, the largest land mammal that ever lived; and the *Australopithecus* nicknamed "Lucy," the oldest human skeleton.

We learn about the scientists and adventurers who pioneered paleontology and the larger intellectual and social contexts in which their discoveries were made. Finally, we are told where to see these splendid fossils in the world's great museums. Ideal for all who love prehistoric landscapes and delight in the history of science, Prothero's new book will be a treasured addition to any bookshelf, stoking curiosity in the evolution and life on Earth.

"Prothero is one of the most talented science writers of his generation – as a paleontological writer, he has no peer. This is an engaging, attractive book!"

– David J. Bottjer, University of Southern California

"There is no other book that brings together such diverse fossils and tells their unique stories in a way that is both accurate and approachable."

– Xiaoming Wang, Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology at Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

"*A History of Life in Twenty-five Fossils* shows the reader the joys of paleontological discovery as well as the stories behind some of the most important fossils. I loved reading it, and I suspect most paleontologists, and many members of the general public, will feel the same way – the text is lucid, extremely easy to read, and highly informative. Anyone interested in ancient life forms and the fossil record would be well served to buy this book."

– Bruce S. Lieberman, University of Kansas

作者介绍:

Donald R. Prothero has taught college paleontology and geology for thirty-five years at the California Institute of Technology, Columbia University, Occidental College, Vassar College, and Knox College. He is currently adjunct professor of geological sciences at California State Polytechnic University at Pomona, adjunct professor of astronomy and earth sciences at Mt. San Antonio College, and research associate in vertebrate paleontology at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. He is the author of more than thirty-five books, including *Bringing Fossils to Life: An Introduction to*

Paleontology and the best-selling *Evolution: What the Fossils Say and Why It Matters*. He has also published more than 300 scientific papers. In 1991, he received the award for Outstanding Paleontologist Under the Age of 40. In 2013, he was awarded the James Shea Award by the National Association of Geoscience Teachers for outstanding writing and editing in the geosciences.

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