



Chapter 1: Nothing to Something

13.8 billion–450 million years ago

FLIPPIN' FANTASTIC

“

THE UNIVERSE BEGAN AS A DOT TOO SMALL TO SEE. THIS DOT WAS SO HOT AND UNDER SUCH PRESSURE FROM ALL THE ENERGY TRAPPED INSIDE IT THAT SOMETHING BIG WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN. ”

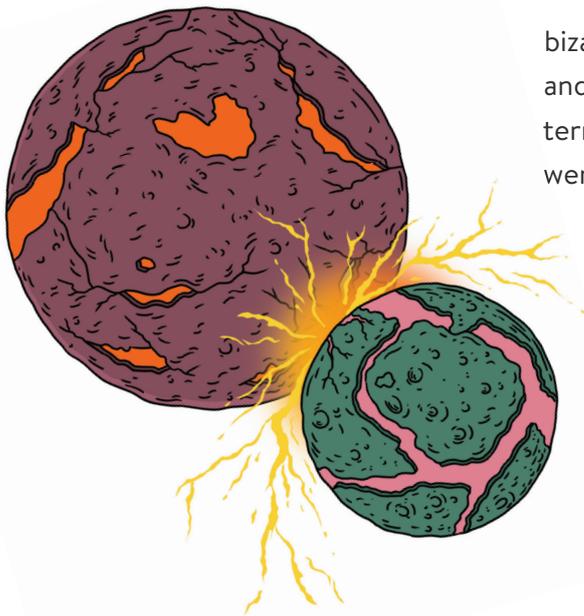
Absolutely Everything!, page 12

Background

The first part of the story of planet Earth takes us from 13.8 billion to 450 million years ago. There were some enormous changes over this huge time period.

The Big Bang released an unimaginably big blast of energy. The formation of the sun and our galaxy, and the massive collision that created the Earth and the moon, are events that seem unbelievable when we look around us and think about life on our planet today.

From single-celled organisms and cyanobacteria, to the bizarre-looking *Anomalocaris* and the five-eyed *Opabinia*, and from our very distant ancestors, the sea squirts, to terrifying giant sea scorpions, the first life forms on Earth were fascinating. What exciting times!



The Earth and Theia colliding

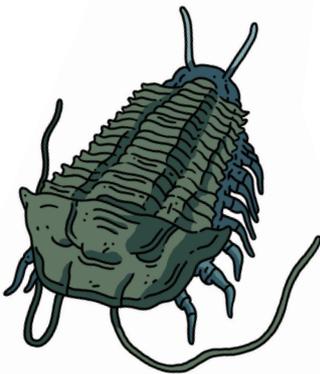
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Your challenge

Create a “flip book” containing a series of pictures that reveal the changes in the universe when you quickly flick through them.

The first image could be a tiny dot, then you could show how the Big Bang led to the position of the planets in our solar system. It could then zoom in on the movement of tectonic plates and the emergence of life in the sea.

You could make the flip book with a blank notebook, or by fastening together some pieces of paper with glue or staples. Drawings can be very simple or you could find pictures online and print them out.



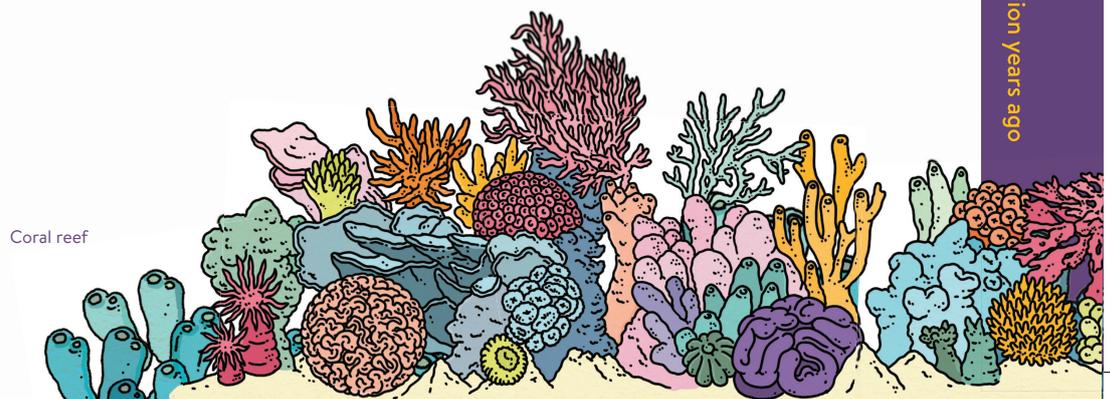
Trilobite

Why not...

- Consider putting your images on PowerPoint slides and flicking through them very quickly to achieve the flip book effect.
- Pick the creatures that most fascinate you to represent different periods in the chapter.
- Present to family and friends, and choose some dramatic bars of music to accompany your telling of our origins.

FUN FACT

When scientists Wilson and Penzias discovered the distant background microwave radiation that we now accept as evidence of the incredibly hot Big Bang, they initially thought it was a misreading due to a build-up of pigeon poop on their equipment!



Coral reef