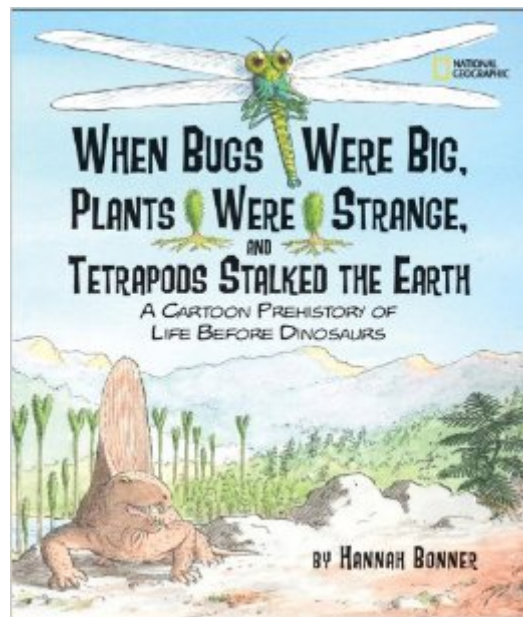


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# When Bugs Were Big, Plants Were Strange, And Tetrapods Stalked The Earth: A Cartoon Prehistory Of Life Before Dinosaurs



## Synopsis

A centipede as long as a couch? Trees so tall they touch the clouds? Amphibians changing into reptiles? These are just a few of the amazing life forms detailed in *When Bugs Were Big....* This lively new paperback tickles the reader's funny bone while imparting tons of information about the animals, plants, and bugs that lived before the dinosaurs. Children will read "news reports" including a weather forecast from 320 million years ago and an emergency broadcast about the swift extinction that would end the Permian period. As kids peruse Bonner's innovative combination of narrative text, engaging illustrations, hilarious cartoons, maps, charts, and time lines, they will gather lots of valuable scientific information about the amazing creatures that ruled the Earth before the dinosaurs.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: National Geographic Children's Books (March 1, 2004)

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Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.4 x 10.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #331,179 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Prehistoric](#) #520 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dinosaurs](#) #87066 in [Books > Reference](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

The author does a great job explaining life before the dinosaurs. It can be difficult for kids to "get" the fact that there were big reptiles (and amphibians) before the Age of Dinosaurs, and some authors find it easier to just lump those beasts together with dinosaurs. But not here. Ms. Bonner does a nice job detailing differences in reptiles and amphibians, and also does one of the best jobs I've seen in a children's book of explaining vegetation -- why it was different then, how it evolved, and how it turned into coal. This book is a definite keeper for the 6 and up set -- my daughter, turning four soon, is a big dinosaur buff, and likes the cartoon pictures more than the science behind it. But

when she's ready for a nice overview of the Permian period, I'll pull out "When Bugs Were Big."

This book was a present to my two kids, ages 6 and 8, but I've enjoyed it as much as they did. My kids love dinosaurs, and I've read dinosaur book after dinosaur book. This is the first book that showed me what was around before the dinosaurs. The author (and illustrator) do a great job of being entertaining and informative. The drawing and humor are fantastic, and there are lots of little details that show up in the second, third and fourth reading (always an advantage in favorite children's books). I highly recommend "When Bugs Were Big" for both parents and children who want to learn more about what the world was like before.

I've said it before in other reviews, but Hannah Bonner's book series is an absolute charming and delightful read. This volume tackles the Carboniferous and Permian eras, a fascinating and somewhat overlooked time period. Loaded with wonderful artwork, both 'realistic' and more 'cartoony', and easy to understand explanations, it's enjoyable for both children and parents. I recommend getting this one along with the other two in the series. Please write and illustrate more books, Hannah!

As a sixth grade science teacher, I am always amazed that my students have the misconception that dinosaurs were the first organisms to be on earth. Indeed, there is a couple of billion year history before the dinosaurs. This book does a great job of at least showing what else was around with the dinosaurs. The cartoon format draws children in and engages them in reading the informative, upbeat, and fun text that supports the fabulous illustrations. After reviewing this book at a science museum teacher workshop, I knew I needed a copy for my classroom library. Open the book and you'll be hooked, too! If you are looking for a well-written non-fiction children's book, this is a great one (especially if you have a child interested in dinosaurs). If you're looking for a funny and engaging book with fun cartoons and easy-to-understand text, you've found it.

One of my 4 year old son's favorites. A big dinosaur buff, he received this book that covers the Carboniferous and Permian Periods (the two periods just before the dinosaur era) as a gift several months back and he regularly asks me to read it to him. While some of the details are over his head, he seems to comprehend the major points of it (there were plants and creatures before dinosaurs, the continents move, and the variety of life forms has evolved over the years) and often brings up some of the details embedded in the text in daily conversation. The author does a great job of mixing

in blocks of more detailed text with cartoons that are useful for keeping kids interested for long spurts of time. When my son is in a more focused place, we can read the whole book, intermingling the text with the humorous cartoons and getting some laughs along the way. When he's in a less focused place, we can just get some chuckles through the cartoons including reading the awesome two-page timeline of the entire history of life on earth (including the 2+ billion year reign of bacteria). The book is obviously aimed at grade schoolers, but preschoolers and parents can enjoy the book as well, with both learning stuff along the way.

This is the coolest science picture book I have found in a long time! Great sketches, quirky storyline and it's chuck full of facts that kids will grasp onto and learn from. I found myself learning stuff I never knew. Great book! RECOMMENDED

This book is delightfully drawn, and accurate about the facts it covers, but it's also very funny, with amusing cartoon images as illustration.

This is the second of (currently) three books about ancient life. They are all engaging, well illustrated, scientifically accurate, and keep my 5 year old's attention

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Last Days (Before They Were Left Behind, Book 3) National Geographic Little Kids First Big Book of Bugs (National Geographic Little Kids First Big Books) How to Draw Plants (how to draw comics and cartoon characters Book 14) Things You Should Know Before Modeling Nude: Before Taking off All Those Clothes for Big Money, You Need to Educate Yourself The Secret Life of Plants: a Fascinating Account of the Physical, Emotional, and Spiritual Relations Between Plants and Man World Encyclopedia of Dinosaurs & Prehistoric Creatures: The Ultimate Visual Reference To 1000 Dinosaurs And Prehistoric Creatures Of Land, Air And Sea From The Triassic, Jurassic And Cretaceous Eras House of Lost Worlds: Dinosaurs, Dynasties, and the Story of Life on Earth

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