

By Bill Bryson

The Lost Continent

Mother Tongue

Troublesome Words

Neither Here Nor There

Made in America

Notes from a Small Island

A Walk in the Woods

**Notes from a Big Country (published in the
USA as *I'm a Stranger Here Myself*)**

**Down Under (published in the USA as *In a
Sunburned Country*)**

African Diary

A Short History of Nearly Everything

The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid

Shakespeare (Eminent Lives series)

Bryson's Dictionary for Writers and Editors

Icons of England

At Home

One Summer: America 1927

The Road to Little Dribbling

Down Under

An extraordinary journey to the heart of another big country – Australia.

'Bryson is the perfect travelling companion . . . When it comes to travel's peculiarities the man still has no peers' THE TIMES

A Short History of Nearly Everything

Travels through time and space to explain the world, the universe and everything.

'Truly impressive . . . It's hard to imagine a better rough guide to science' GUARDIAN

The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid

Quintessential Bryson – a funny, moving and perceptive journey through his childhood.

'He can capture the flavour of the past with the lightest of touches' SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

At Home

On a tour of his own house, Bill Bryson gives us an instructive and entertaining history of the way we live.

'A work of constant delight and discovery . . . don't leave home without it' SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

One Summer

Bryson travels back in time to a forgotten summer, when America came of age, took centre stage and changed the world for ever.

'Has history ever been so enjoyable?' MAIL ON SUNDAY

The Road to Little Dribbling

Two decades after *Notes from a Small Island*, Bill Bryson takes a new amble round Britain, to rediscover the beautiful, eccentric and endearing country he calls home.

'Clever, witty, entertaining' INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

BILL BRYSON

A SHORT
HISTORY OF
Nearly
EVERYTHING



BLACK SWAN

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To Meghan and Chris. Welcome.

Jangal Publication

The physicist Leo Szilard once announced to his friend Hans Bethe that he was thinking of keeping a diary; 'I don't intend to publish. I am merely going to record the facts for the information of God.' 'Don't you think God knows the facts?' Bethe asked. 'Yes,' said Szilard. 'He knows the facts, but He does not know **this version of the facts.**'

Hans Christian von Baeyer, *Taming the Atom*

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Winner of the Aventis Prize for Science Writing and the Descartes Science Communication Prize

'It might well turn unsuspecting young readers into scientists. And the famous, slightly cynical humour is always there' *Evening Standard*

'The travel writer gives us a guide to "time, space, the world, the universe and everything". Bryson promises to make geology, chemistry and even particle physics fun and understandable. Move over Stephen Hawking' *FHM*

'Genuinely readable and useful . . . Nobody who reads it will ever look at the world around them in the same way again' *Daily Express*

'Bill Bryson has an unmatched gift for explaining the most difficult subjects in the clearest possible way. If, like me, your brain tends to go numb when faced with terms like plate tectonics, genome, relativity theory, big bang and particle physics, then it is more than likely that [this book] is the cure you have always been looking for'
Mail on Sunday

'One of the most impressive aspects is the breadth of its coverage . . . The huge number of readers who are likely to engage with this book will enjoy themselves while painlessly imbibing a lot of good science . . . Sheer brilliance' *The Times Higher Educational Supplement*

'Impressive in his terse concreteness . . . Hugely readable and never obfuscating' *Sunday Times*

'Lucid, thoughtful and, above all, entertaining' *Scotsman*

www.billbryson.co.uk

www.penguin.co.uk

Bill Bryson's opening lines were:

'I come from Des Moines. Somebody had to.'

This is what followed:

The Lost Continent

A road trip around the puzzle that is small-town America introduces the world to the adjective 'Brysonesque'.

'A very funny performance, littered with wonderful lines and memorable images' LITERARY REVIEW

Neither Here Nor There

Europe never seemed as funny until Bill Bryson looked at it.

'Hugely funny (not snigger-snigger funny but great-big-belly-laugh-till-you-cry funny)' DAILY TELEGRAPH

Made in America

A compelling ride along the Route 66 of American language and popular culture.

'A tremendous sassy work, full of zip, pizzazz and all those other great American qualities' INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

Notes from a Small Island

A paean to Bryson's beloved Britain captures the very essence of the original 'green and pleasant land'.

'Not a book that should be read in public, for fear of emitting loud snorts' THE TIMES

A Walk in the Woods

Bryson's punishing (by his standards) hike along the celebrated Appalachian Trail, the longest footpath in the world.

'This is a seriously funny book' SUNDAY TIMES

Notes from a Big Country

Bryson brings his inimitable wit to bear on that strangest of phenomena – the American way of life.

'Not only hilarious but also insightful and informative'

INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As I sit here, in early 2003, I have before me several pages of manuscript bearing majestically encouraging and tactful notes from Ian Tattersall of the American Museum of Natural History pointing out, *inter alia*, that Périgueux is not a wine-producing region, that it is inventive but a touch unorthodox of me to italicize taxonomic divisions above the level of genus and species, that I have persistently misspelled Olorgesailie (a place I visited only recently), and so on in similar vein through two chapters of text covering his area of expertise, early humans.

Goodness knows how many other inky embarrassments may lurk in these pages yet, but it is thanks to Dr Tattersall and all of those whom I am about to mention that there aren't many hundreds more. I cannot begin to thank adequately those who helped me in the preparation of this book. I am especially indebted to the following, who were uniformly generous and kindly and showed the most heroic reserves of patience in answering one simple, endlessly repeated question: 'I'm sorry, but can you explain that again?'

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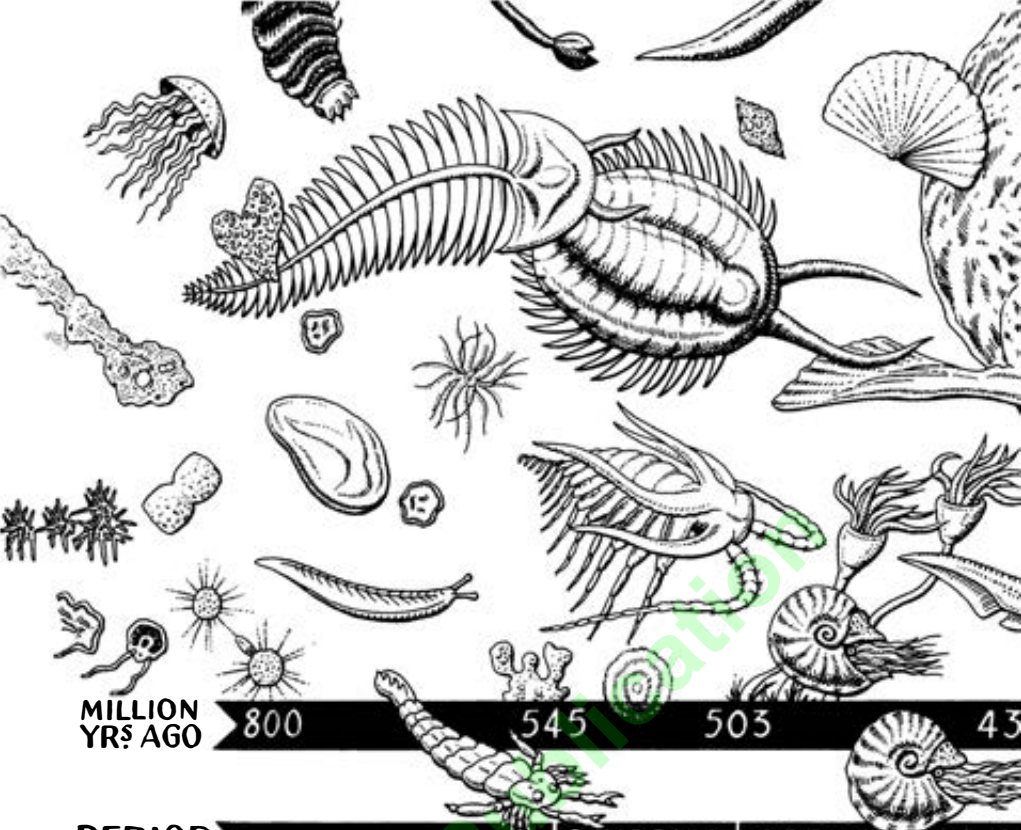
And elsewhere: Sue Superville, information centre manager at the Museum of New Zealand in Wellington; and Dr Emma Mbua, Dr Koen Maes and Jillani Ngalla of the Kenya National Museum in Nairobi.

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Above all, and as always, my profoundest thanks to my dear, patient, incomparable wife, Cynthia.

A Short History *of* Nearly Everything

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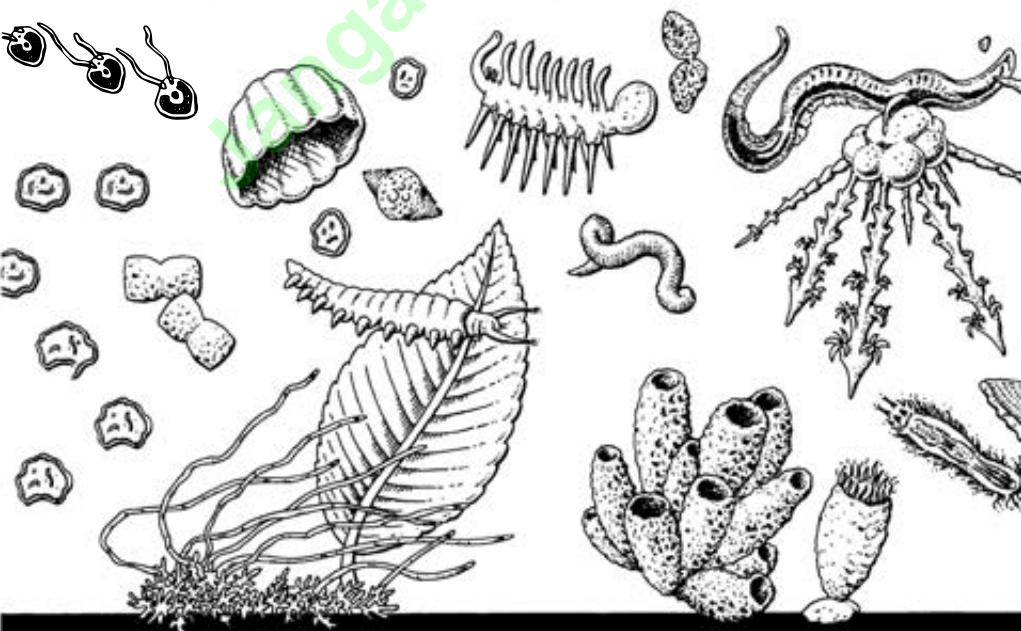
CAMBRIAN

ORDOVICIAN

ERA

PRECAMBRIAN

PALAEOZOIC





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245

LURIAN | DEVONIAN | CARBONIFEROUS | PERMIAN

P A L A E O Z O I C





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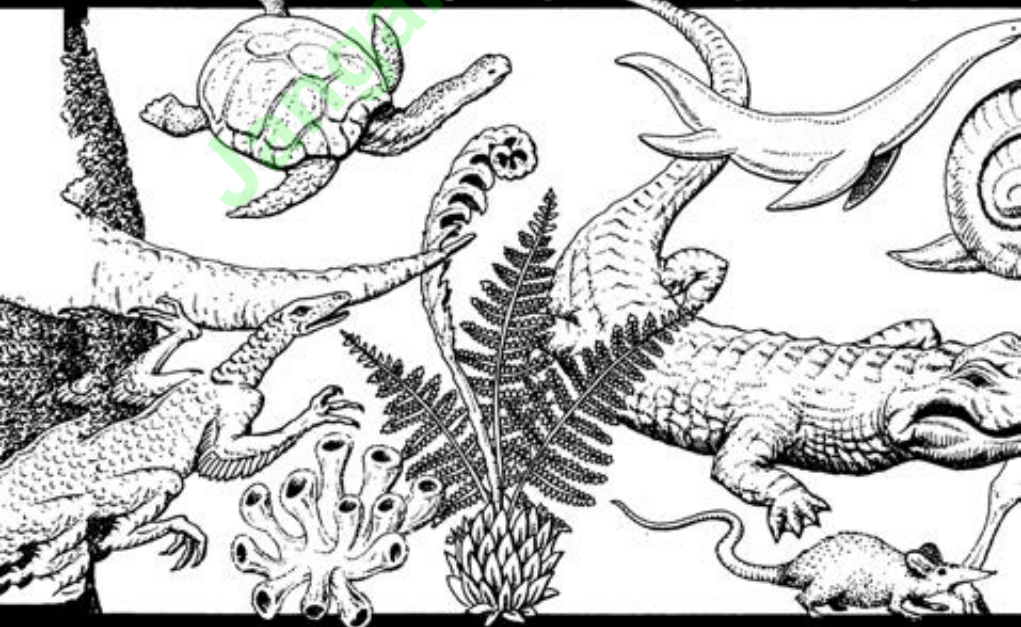


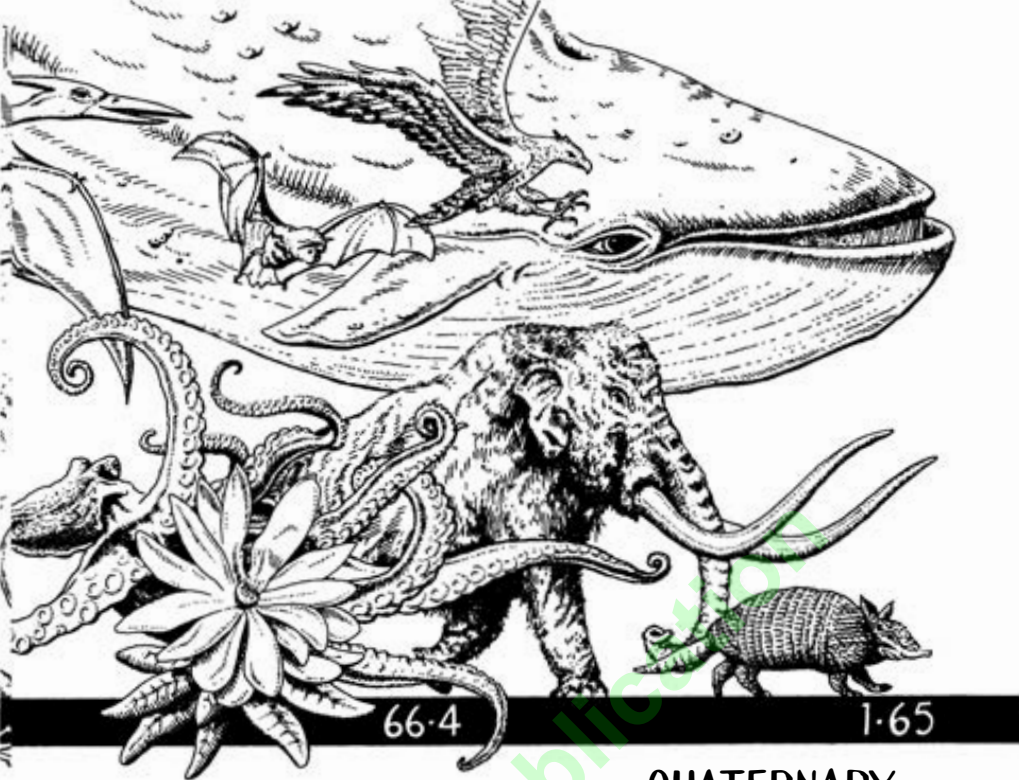
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