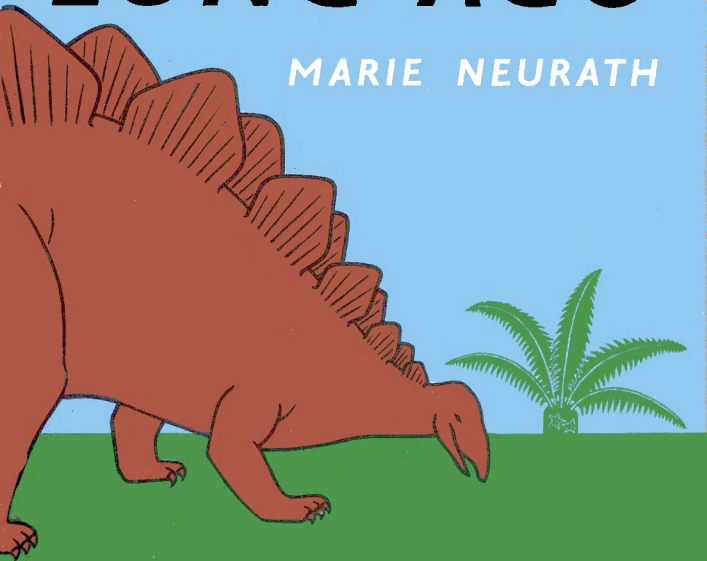


THE WONDER WORLD OF
LONG AGO

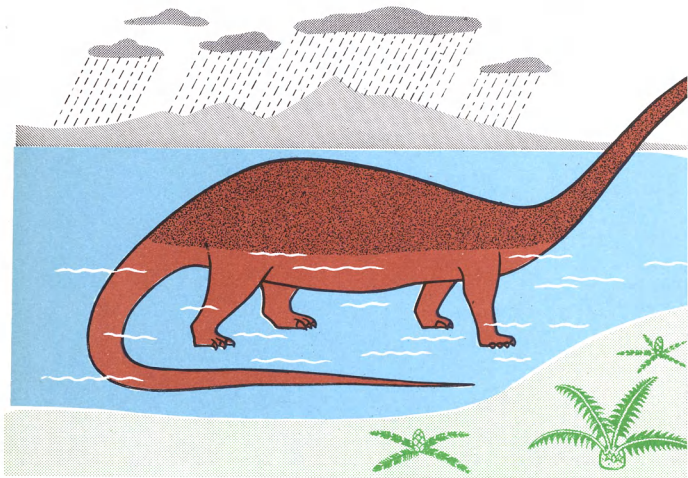
MARIE NEURATH



A PARRISH COLOUR BOOK FOR CHILDREN

THE WONDER WORLD OF
LONG AGO

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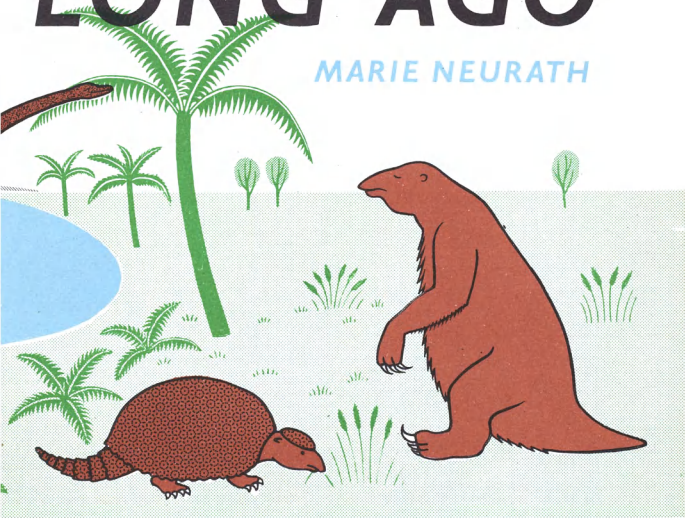


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LONG AGO

MARIE NEURATH



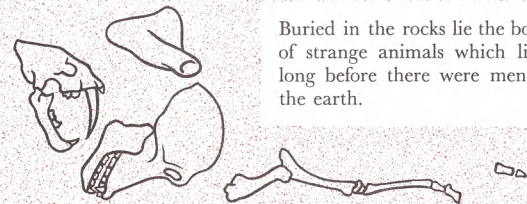
Max Parrish London

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The Buried Bones of Early Living Things

Buried in the rocks lie the bones of strange animals which lived long before there were men on the earth.



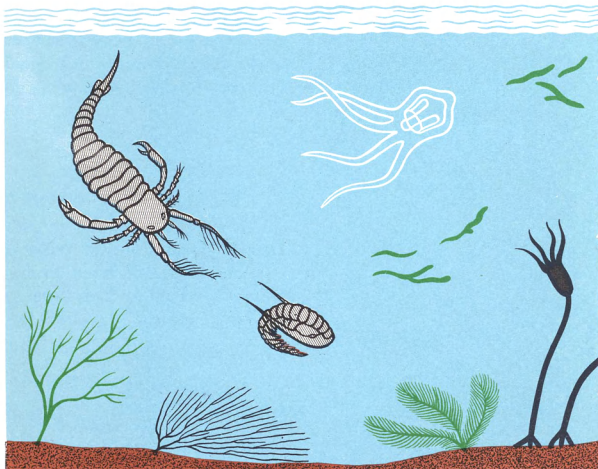
Deeper down are the remains of fishes, birds and giant lizards which lived more than seventy million years ago.



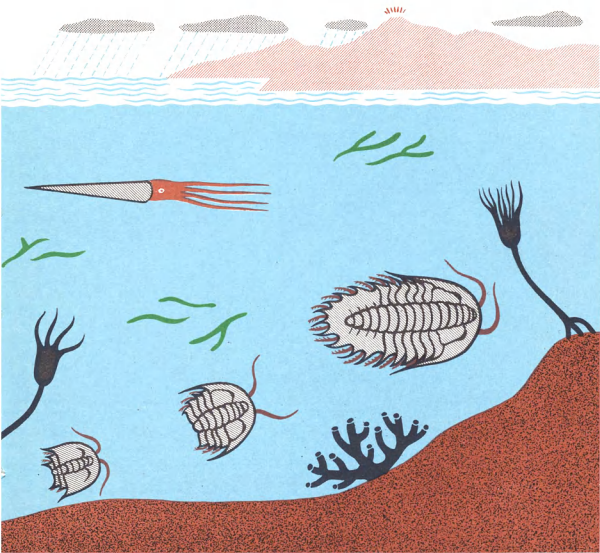
Deepest of all are the shells of some of the first living things, whose home was in the sea.



The Ancient Sea Where Life Began

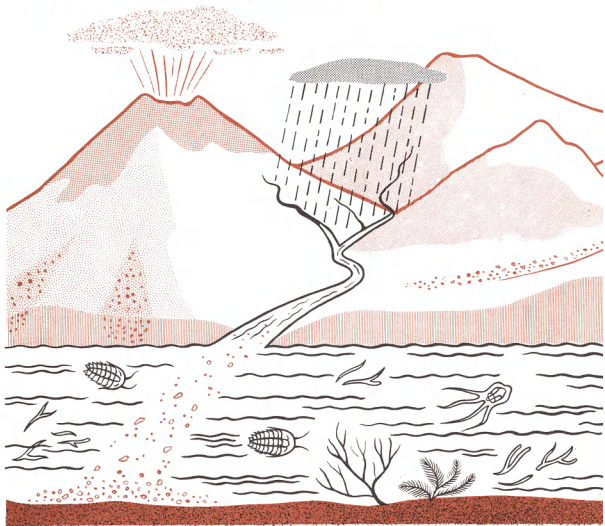


In those far-off times, there were no fish like those we know today, but seaweed was already growing and jellyfish and squids swam among it. The most powerful creatures were those on the right. Some scientists believe that the young ones had only



a head, and grew by adding new sections to their bodies. Each section had a pair of legs, used not only for moving about but also for breathing. If a sea-scorpion attacked with its claws, they could roll up like a ball and keep safe.

A Bare, Silent, Empty World

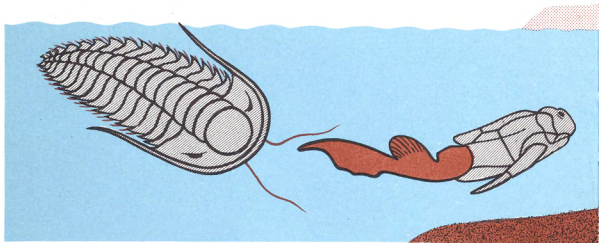


On the dry land there was no life at all : no animals, no birds, no insects, no trees; not even a blade of grass. Rain fell on the bare earth and rivers carried mud down to the sea, where

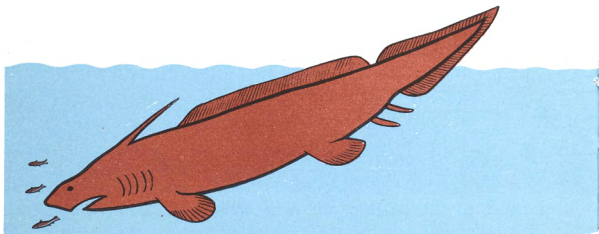


it sank to the bottom and very slowly hardened into rock. The only sounds were the rushing of waters, the rumbling of volcanoes, the roaring of storms.

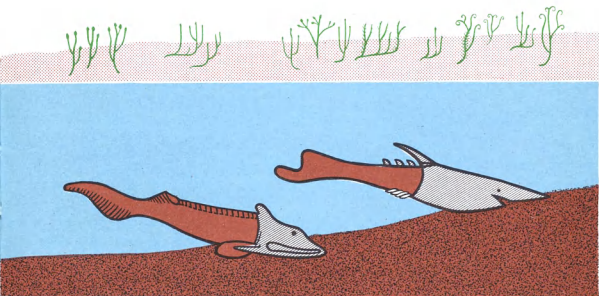
The First Creatures to Breathe the Air



The first fish-like creatures had no real backbones. The front part of their bodies had a covering of bone, like thin armour.



Long ages later, real fish with backbones lived in seas and rivers.



Nobody knows why, but in time some went to live in rivers.
Perhaps other creatures made life too hard for them in the sea.

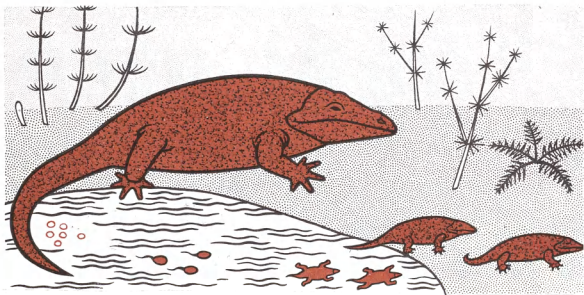


Some had lungs; they could raise their heads and breathe the air.

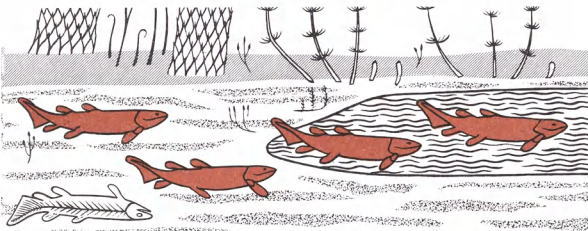
Learning to Live on the Dry Land



When there was little rain, rivers dried up. Some kinds of fish, by flapping across the land, were able to find new water to live



Ages later, some creatures lived on land, but laid their eggs in



in. They were the first creatures to live for a few minutes on dry land. Those kinds which did this best did not die out.

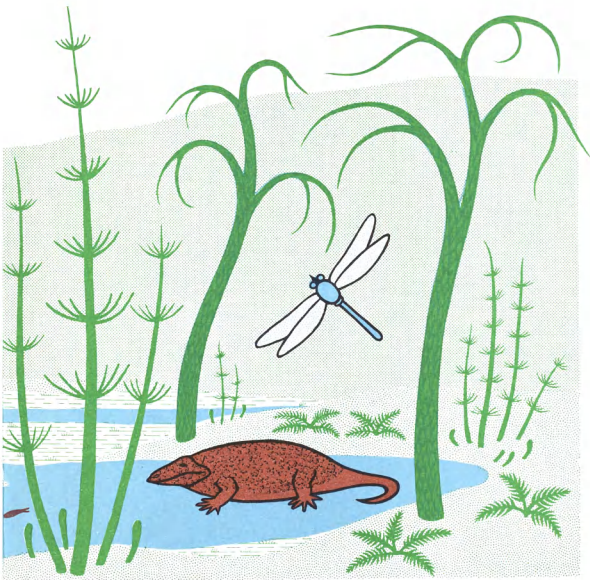


water. The young lived first in water, then on land, like frogs.

The Strange First Forests of Giant Ferns

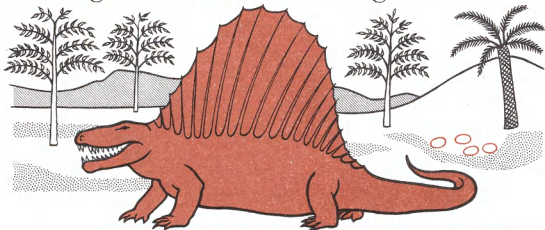


Long before the first animals lived on dry land, plants had begun to grow there. In time, much of the earth was covered with hot, steamy forests of horse-tail plants and ferns

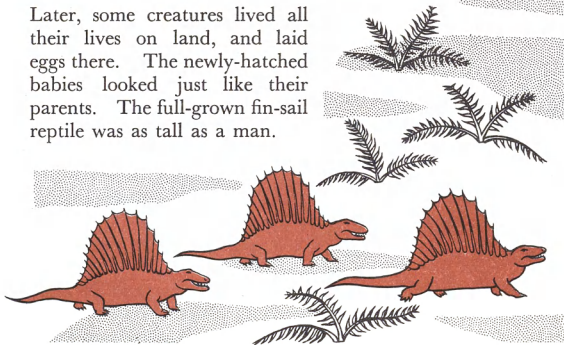


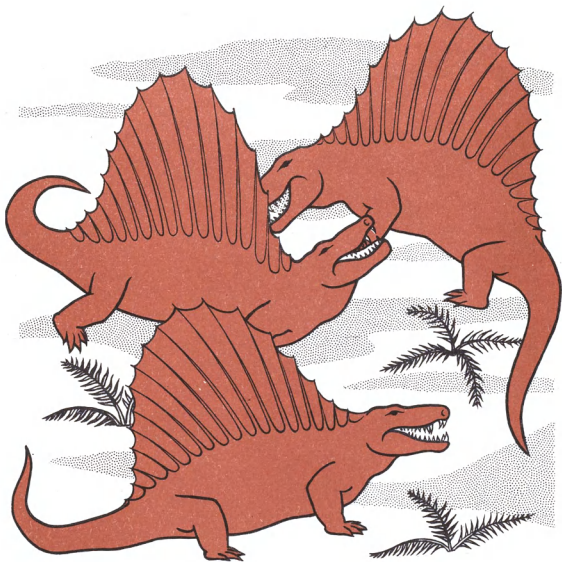
as big as trees. In them lived strange creatures like giant newts, some small, some bigger than a pig. There were no birds yet, but already the first winged insects flew overhead.

The Age of the Monsters Begins



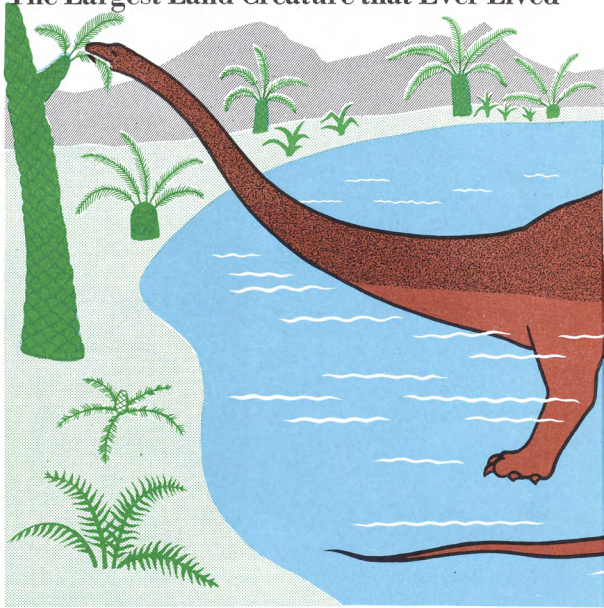
Later, some creatures lived all their lives on land, and laid eggs there. The newly-hatched babies looked just like their parents. The full-grown fin-sail reptile was as tall as a man.



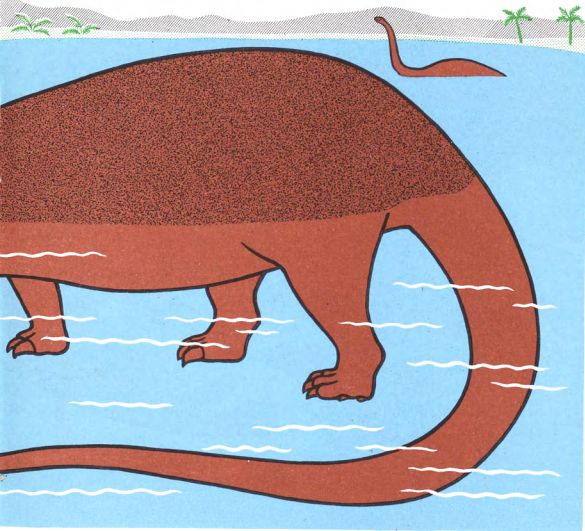


These flesh-eating reptiles lived in the desert, where food was scarce. At times they fought to the death, and winner ate loser.

The Largest Land Creature that Ever Lived

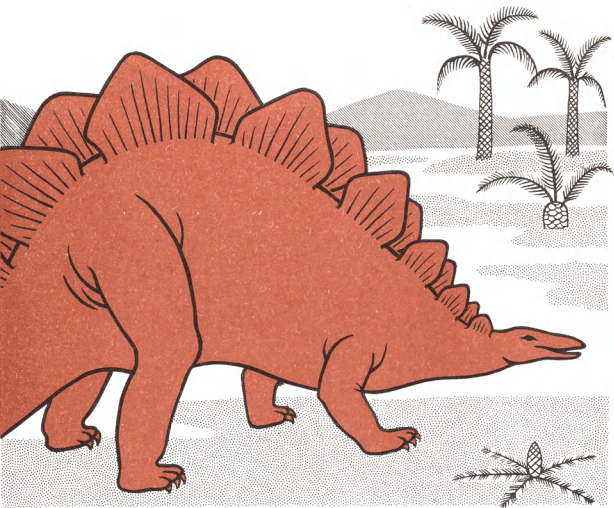


This giant reptile, three times as big as a bus, had a small head and a tiny brain. It lived on plants and spent most of its time paddling in shallow water, eating, eating, eating. The water helped to support its enormous weight.



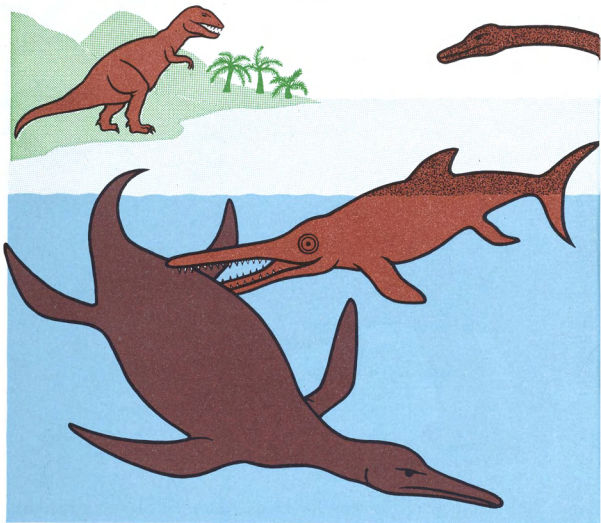
When Giant Jaws Met Giant Armour



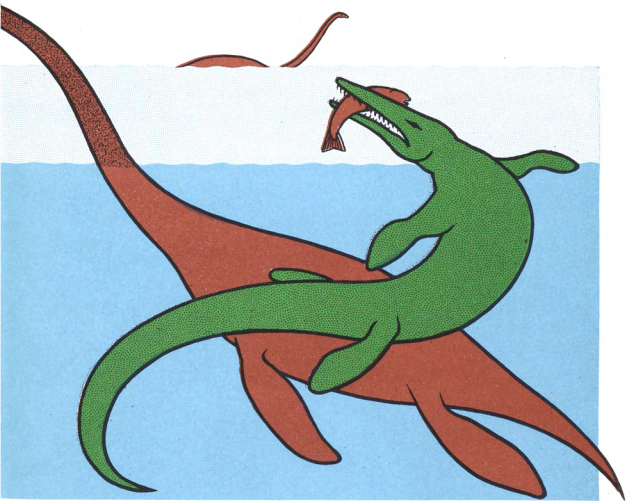


Both these creatures were far bigger than the biggest elephant. The giant lizard had over twenty thick bony plates on its back, a strong defence against the sharp teeth of its enemy.

Seeking Safety in the Sea



With hungry monsters on the land, many reptiles found it safer in the sea. Those which were best suited to life in the

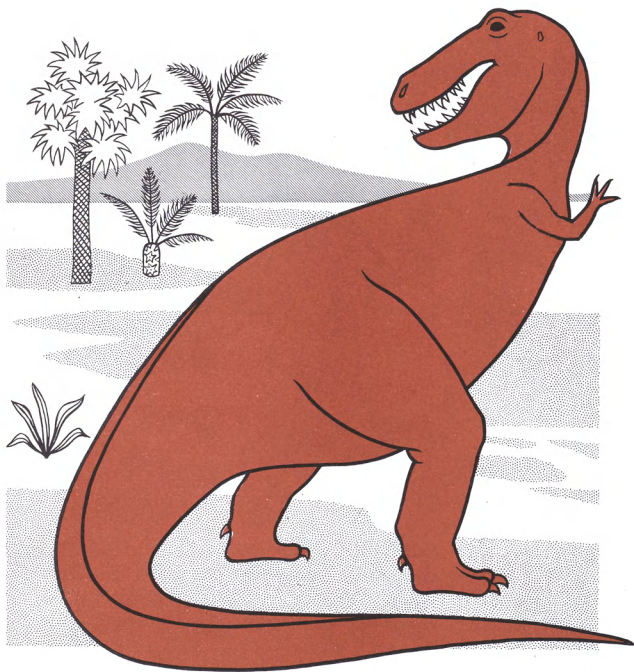


sea spent more and more time there. Millions of years later some reptiles had fins or flippers and lived there always.

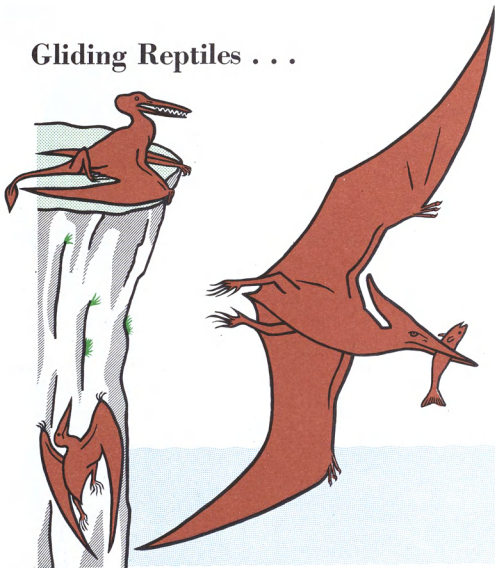
Monsters which Fought with Teeth and Horns

The monster on the right stood three times as tall as a man. Almost every other creature could be defeated by his great sharp claws and his dagger-like teeth. But he would avoid the smaller creature, with its three horns and great ugly head as strong as armour.



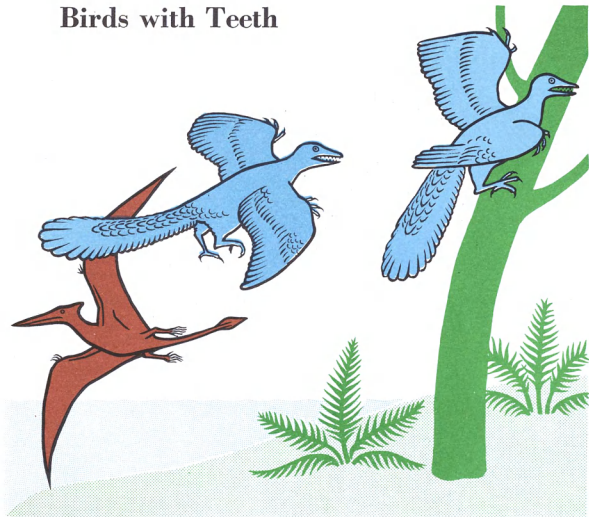


Gliding Reptiles . . .



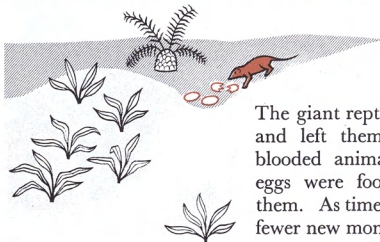
No reptile could really fly, but this one, the size of a small airplane, could glide from a cliff-top and scoop fish from the sea. It is called a pterodactyl, which means “winged finger”. It used the free “fingers” on its wings to help it to climb.

Birds with Teeth

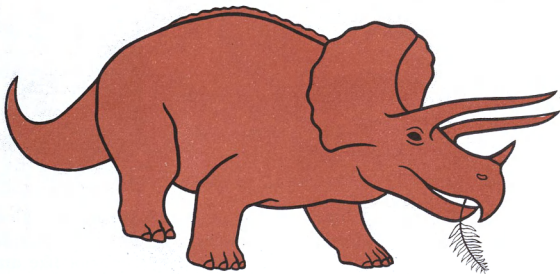


The first feathered birds lived at the same time as the gliding reptiles. With light bones and strong wing muscles they could flap their wings and really fly. But they were not like any birds we know. In their beaks they had a row of teeth.

The Monsters Die Out . . . the Small Creatures Live On



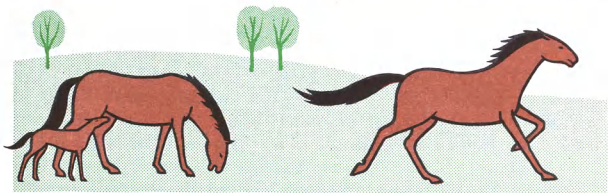
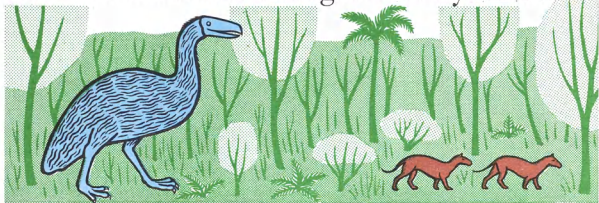
The giant reptiles laid their eggs and left them. Small warm-blooded animals, to which the eggs were food, stole and ate them. As time passed, fewer and fewer new monsters hatched out.



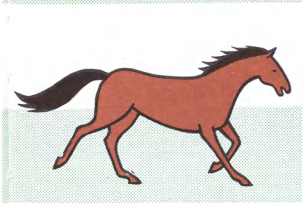
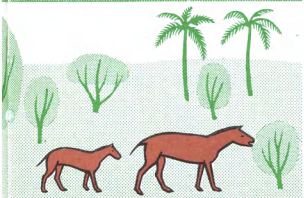


Times came when the climate of the earth grew colder. The giant reptiles, with no way of keeping warm or feeding their young, died out. The much smaller animals lived on: they had warm blood and furry coats, and fed their babies with milk.

How the Horse has Changed in Sixty Million



Years



Sixty million years ago the first horses, no bigger than growing puppies, padded through the hot jungle, cropping the green plants. They had four toes on the forefeet and three on the hind ones, and small hooves. They were at the mercy of giant birds, taller than the tallest man.

Much later, when the earth was cooler and the forests less dense, horses were larger. They now had three toes on each foot and could run very well. Though, they were no longer eaten by giant birds, they were often attacked by savage animals.

Ages passed by and the earth's climate altered. Where forests once grew there were now grassy plains. On these lived horses much more like those we see to-day. Now only one toe on each foot touched the ground. With long legs and strong hooves, they were swift, powerful runners.

The Sabre-Toothed Hunter Meets his Match



The sabre-toothed tiger was a swift runner and a fierce fighter. The giant armadillo moved slowly, like a huge tortoise.



But when the tiger leapt upon him, the armadillo drew his head and legs under his strong shell and kept safe.

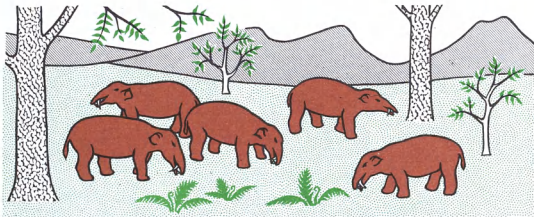


But the giant sloth had no hard shell and was too heavy to run away. How could he defend himself?

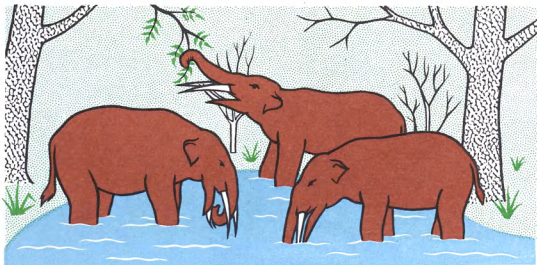


He could use his great weight. Falling over backwards, he could crush the tiger beneath him.

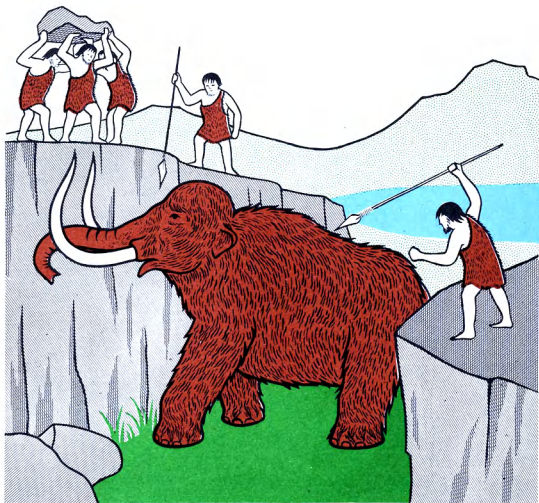
From Snout to Trunk and Tusks



The first elephants were like pigs with very long snouts, and not much bigger. They lived about the time of the earliest horses.



Millions of years passed before elephants had trunks and tusks.

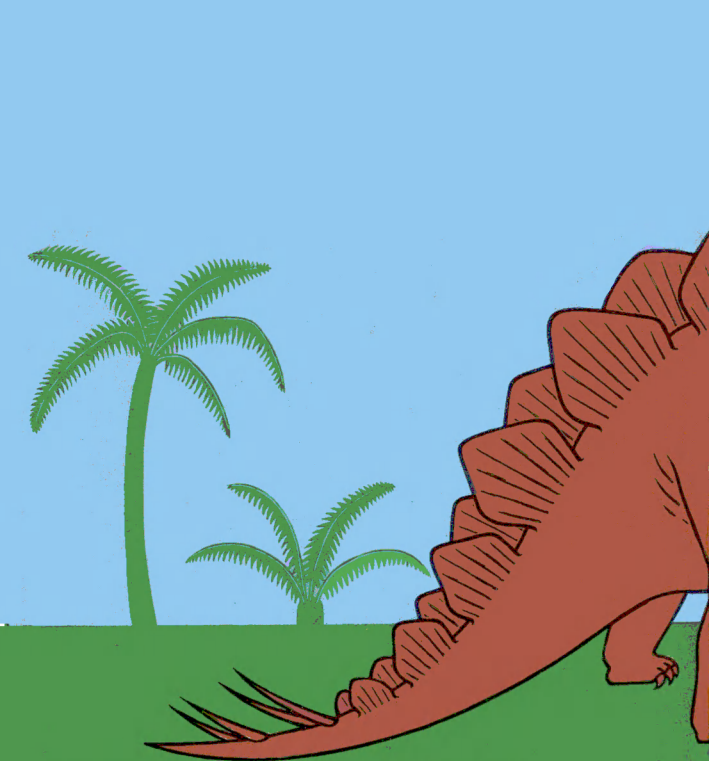


By the time the woolly mammoth, the largest elephant of all, lived on the earth, new and active hunters had appeared. . . .

Men, the New Masters of the Earth



The new hunters were early men. They were not so big as many of the creatures which lived before them. But they had useful hands and better brains. They had learned to use tools, hunt animals, light fires. They were to become the masters of the earth.



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