

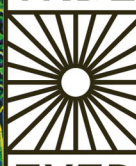


KALEIDOSCOPE OF DINOSAURS AND PREHISTORIC LIFE

Their colors and patterns explained

GREER STOTHERS

WIDE



EYED

KALEIDOSCOPE OF DINOSAURS AND PREHISTORIC LIFE

BY GREER STOTHERS



WIDE EYED EDITIONS



CONTENTS

A Walk Through Time 4-5

Tree of Life 6-7

Fossil Formation 8-9

Mighty Melanin 10-11

Rainbow of Discoveries 12-13

Hues of the Huge 14-15

Tiny Tints 16-17

Seaside Swatches 18-19

Forest Shades 20-21

Desert Dyes 22-23

Cold Complexions 24-25

Colourful Coats 26-27

Multicolour Mutants 28-29

Males and Females 30-31





Eye Candy

32-33

Primeval Plants

34-35

Modern Marvels

36-37

Celebrating the Cenozoic

38-39

Mellow Mummies

40-41

Aboriginal Artwork

42-43

French Flourishes

44-45

Ancient Africa

46-47

The Artisanal Americas

48-49

Medieval Menagerie

50-51

Victorian Valuables

52-53

Lost Companions

54-55

Back from the Dead

56-57

Preventing Extinction

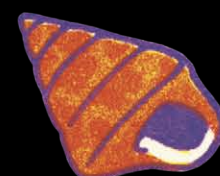
58-59

Glossary

60-61

Index

62-63





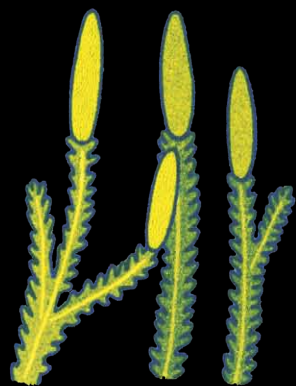
A WALK THROUGH TIME

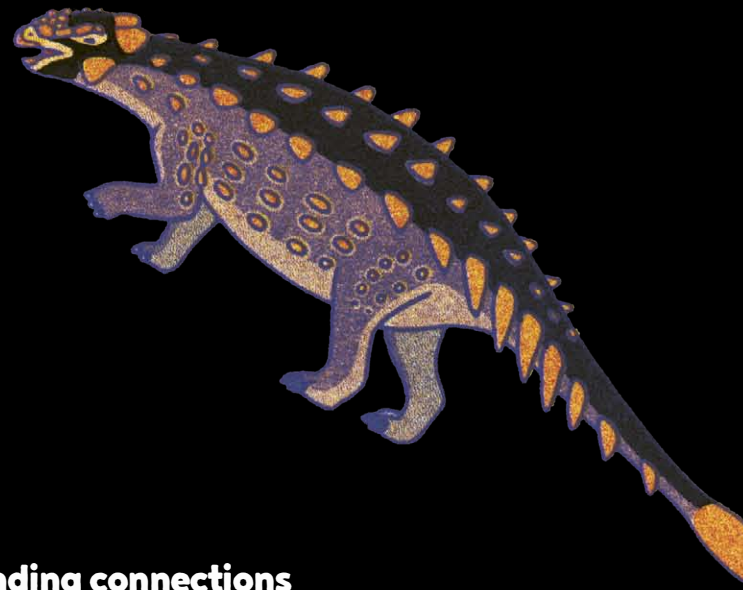
We live in an ancient, beautiful world. There have been innumerable animals across billions of years, from the spineless sea creatures that evolved skeletons and became fish, to the towering dinosaurs that dominated Earth, to the tree-swinging primates that eventually evolved into human beings. Looking back into the past, we see a kaleidoscope of life.

For all the animals that live on the planet today, there are millions more that have died out, becoming extinct. Only 1% of all the species that have ever evolved still exist, and they come in a rainbow of stripes, spots and splotches. But what of that extinct 99%? What could they have looked like?

From the monstrous *Tyrannosaurus rex* to the woolly mammoth, the long-necked *Brontosaurus* to the dodo, all have left clues that can help us discover the colours they wore in life.

Some clues come from pigments found in skin and feathers, which have turned into microscopic fossils over millennia. Other clues come from mummified bodies, prehistoric cave art or Victorian-era illustrations of now-dead beasts.





Other important clues come from finding connections between the dead and the living. If both a whitetail deer, alive today, and a *Psittacosaurus*, now extinct, lived in gently shaded forests, ate leaves and grass and were hunted by sharp-eyed predators, does this mean they evolved similar colours and patterns as camouflage?

The answer is often yes!

Animals use their colours to hide from predators, attract mates, warn predators of their poisons, absorb or repel the heat of the sun, startle enemies and so much more. Extinct animals had the same needs as living animals, and the same flamboyant solutions.

Through science and deduction, we know that the prehistoric world hosted a colourful array of life that rivals today's tigers, giraffes, parrots and poodles. Let us explore and learn together about the wonderful world of scales, tails, feathers and skin that existed long before our time.

