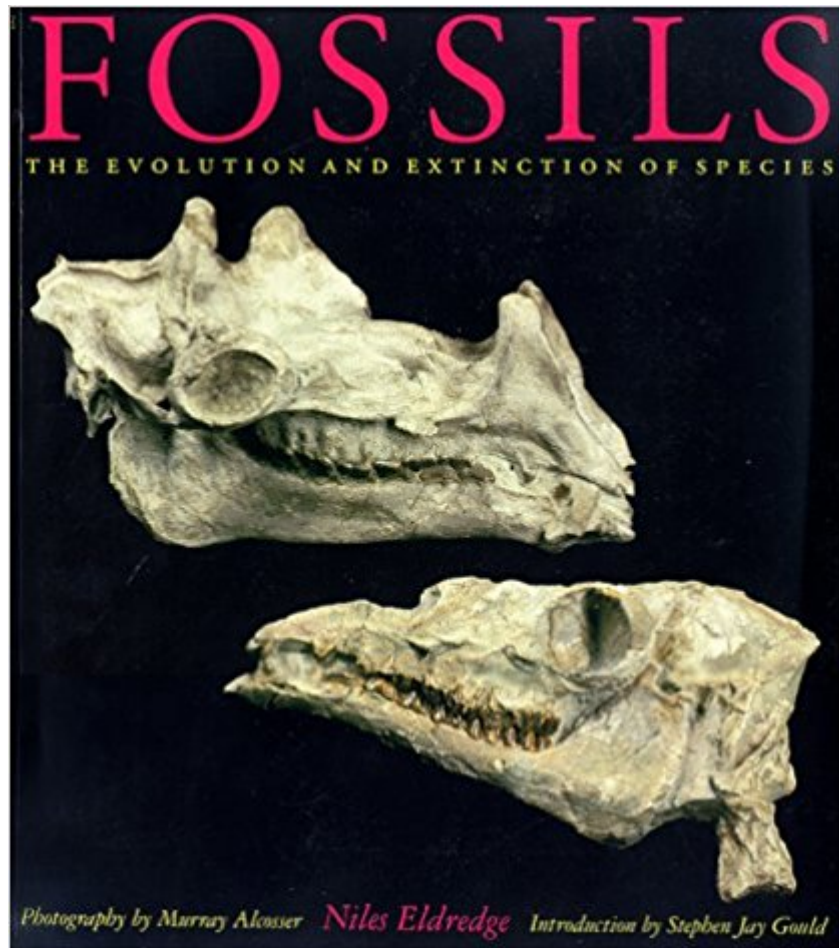




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Fossils



Synopsis

In this fascinating exploration of the fossil record, Niles Eldredge overturns the traditional view of evolution as a slow and inevitable process, and he shows that lifeforms generally do not evolve to any significant degree until after massive extinction. This rhythm of life--a concept developed by Eldredge and Stephen Jay Gould known as punctuated equilibria in evolution-- is revealed by the fossilized remains of the earth's ancient flora and fauna. Distinguished photographer Murray Alcosser augments Eldredge's text with 160 luminous color plates illustrating more than 250 different fossil specimens. In this new paperback edition, *Fossils* becomes an accessible text with appeal to a broad audience, including natural history readers and students.

Book Information

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

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Customer Reviews

Scientists love to write books for other scientists, and overall deplore having to explain their science to the public. Universities work overtime to close their walls to the general public, even going as far as removing their funding from the general scrutiny of the public by catagorizing themselves as "non-constitutional" and in effect keeping themselves out of the public eye. While the general rule for professors is "publish or perish" they tend to attempt to publish in a university press, which is usually a black hole that sucks out lots of money from the university, and is usually funded by grants and endowments and hardly ever from sales - unless those sales are done by making those books "required reading" for University or College students, who can hardly afford another expensive item in their life. In the introduction to this book Steven Jay Gould laments this problem by saying "In one

particularly distressing example... scholars often look down their noses at large format books filled with attractive photographs "coffee table books" in the dismissive jargon." Mr. Gould goes on to say, however "I love this book because it embodies such a fine marriage of these two modes of our central vision - palpable photographs of material things with a distinctive text of life's history." I couldn't say it better. Frankly, most books like this aren't very good, this one is perfect for someone with my background: a high school education, no chance of ever going back to college, and an overbearing curiosity for all things ancient. Since starting to collect fossils in the Nebraska roadside a year ago, my curiosity of fossils has grown tremendously.

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