



The Beginning of Animalia

This exhibition offers a World First with respect to the material on display and promotes the unique nature of the flora and fauna, from its beginnings until the development of skeletons – thus looking at the precursors of modern groups, in particular - animals.

The exhibition uses a time line context which illuminates major changes that have occurred in Earth's history from its very beginnings until the beginning of the Cambrian, a time when a variety of organisms developed skeletons and the fossil record blossomed, and literally exploded with biodiversity – the simple fact is that skeletons preserve and organisms with soft parts only have left a very incomplete record when no skeletons were to be had – most of Precambrian time prior to 542 million years ago.

Soft-bodied organisms which prospered in the seas of this time were the beginnings of many celled biodiversity on Planet Earth and early experiments, some of which led to today's living animals, and others which did not survive. This exhibition highlights the research of some of the world's leading palaeobiologists, stratigraphers, geochemists, amongst others, and focuses on climate change that fuelled the origins, evolution, extinctions and survival during times of major crisis in the history of Earth.

Size

Approximately 400m², but can be arranged to fit into a smaller or larger space.

Components

- More than 200 specimens of original fossils and casts and geological material from Australia, Russia, Namibia, Greenland, North America and Argentina.
- 20 information panels (Full colour 500mm wide x 1000mm high)
- Art works of Peter Trusler and other artists- including original paintings, quilts and block prints depicting palaeoenvironment.
- Framed postage stamps that were derived research material upon which reconstruction art prepared for Australia Post was based.
- Models of some Precambrian animals.
- Animation of reconstructed fossil animals, and DVD's highlighting major field areas and the origin and evolution of planet Earth through time.

Exhibition-related Products

- Specially designed Ediacaran Jewelry by artist Rob Fensham, Australia
- Prints by artist Peter Trusler
- Music of the Ediacarans by Shin Kabota
- “The Rise of Animals”, John Hopkins Press (Fedonkin, Vickers-Rich, Gehling, Grey, Narbonne and Vickers-Rich) to be published in 2007 (with over 1400 illustrations).
- Assistance with development of catalogue and further teaching materials
- Casts of fossils on show in the exhibition

Educational Support Material

“Creatures of the Slime” Teachers Notes (Australia Post)

Installation/ Costs

The costs to host this exhibition are negotiable upon application.

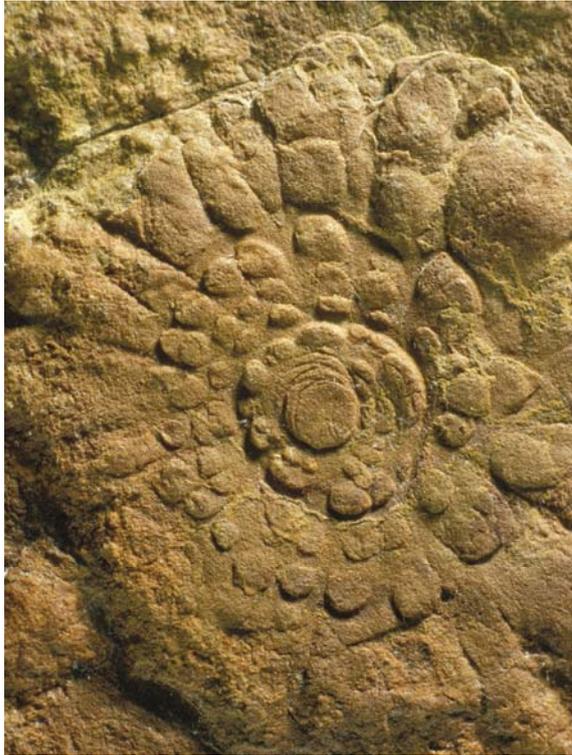
The installation fee for the exhibition includes two technicians to install and deinstall the exhibition at your venue. Separate room accommodation for the at setup and pulldown to be provided by venue. We will train your floor staff in the use of our educational material, as well as familiarise them with the exhibition.

With prior arrangement the Director of the exhibition (Professor Patricia Vickers-Rich, who is a palaeontologist carrying out work in Australia, Namibia and Russia) can be available to present a large public lecture, if useful as a fundraiser for your venue, and to offer teacher inservice sessions, if this will assist in supporting your schools programs.

Availability

This exhibition will be available for rental from January 2007.

This exhibition was displayed at the Fukui Prefectural Dinosaur Museum, Katsuyama, Japan (www.dinosaur.pref.fukui.jp/en/) from 15 July 2006 – 08 October 2006.



Mawsonites

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