The Rise of Animals
Evolution and Diversification of the Kingdom Animalia
Mikhail A. Fedonkin, James G. Gehling, Kathleen Grey, Guy M. Narbonne,
and Patricia Vickers-Rich
foreword by Arthur C. Clarke

Five of the world's leading paleontologists take us on a journey to the most important fossil sites
that serve as unique windows to the earliest animal life—including the Ediacara Hills of Australia,
the Russian taiga and tundra, the deserts of southwest Africa, and the rugged coasts of
Newfoundland. Each of these places holds a rich fossil record that reveals how the animal form
came into existence and why some groups succeeded while others failed. The authors describe the
diversification of the Kingdom Animalia into the familiar body plans of today: from simple
animals such as sponges to complex groups like mollusks, arthropods, echinoderms, and chordates
that appear explosively in the Cambrian.

This exquisitely illustrated book reveals the early moments of an evolutionary process that
eventually resulted in our own species. An essential resource for paleontologists, biologists,
geologists, and teachers, The Rise of Animals is the best single reference on one of earth's most
significant events.

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