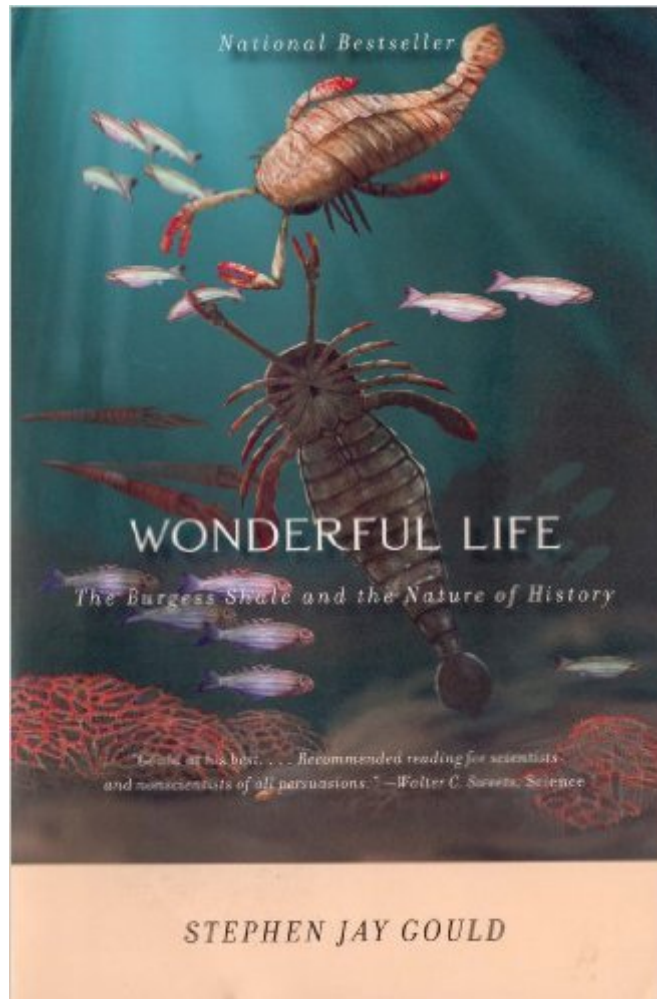


The book was found

# Wonderful Life: The Burgess Shale And The Nature Of History



## Synopsis

"[An] extraordinary book. . . . Mr. Gould is an exceptional combination of scientist and science writer. . . . He is thus exceptionally well placed to tell these stories, and he tells them with fervor and intelligence."âJames Gleick, New York Times Book Review

High in the Canadian Rockies is a small limestone quarry formed 530 million years ago called the Burgess Shale. It holds the remains of an ancient sea where dozens of strange creatures livedâa forgotten corner of evolution preserved in awesome detail. In this book Stephen Jay Gould explores what the Burgess Shale tells us about evolution and the nature of history.

## Book Information

File Size: 8821 KB

Print Length: 352 pages

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company (September 17, 1990)

Publication Date: February 3, 2014

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00H987FS6

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #148,305 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #12

inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Science > Biological Sciences > Paleontology #49

inÂ Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Paleontology #57 inÂ Books > Science &

Math > Evolution > Organic

## Customer Reviews

Gould sets up a premise in this overview and discussion of animals represented in the fossils of the Burgess shale that makes for interesting reading and thinking. The author uses the same premise of the Frank Capra classic, "It's a Wonderful Life" starring Jimmy Stewart. What would life be like if one of the players had never existed? ...like poor old George Bailey who thought everyone would be happier and better off without him. In this book Gould takes the position that animals that exist today do so primarily because they were lucky during their early evolutionary history, along with having

characteristics that allowed them to survive and succeed in their environment long enough to reproduce -- a contingency hypothesis. They turned right instead of left and consequently avoided predation...OR...they turned left instead of right, were eaten, and that was the end of an entire ancestral line. This book is a must read for anyone interested in ideas surrounding the diversity of early animal life. The book provides an informative overview of what evolution is, how the now famous Burgess shale fossil beds were discovered and studied, and why some of the body plans found amongst the Burgess shale fauna are not found today. There are also excellent drawings of Burgess shale fossils and the animals they may once have been, and a reasonable selection of descriptions of their possible behaviors based on animal form and function. Gould also recounts ideas others have had about the Burgess shale fauna and its contribution to our understanding of the Cambrian fauna in general. It's interesting to note that this book was written prior to the discovery of several other Burgess shale-type fossil beds around the world, most notably in China.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Wonderful Life: The Burgess Shale and the Nature of History 21st Century Guide to Hydraulic Fracturing, Underground Injection, Fracking, Hydrofrac, Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Production Controversy, Environmental and Safety Risks, Water Pollution 2013 Complete Guide to Hydraulic Fracturing (Fracking) for Shale Oil and Natural Gas: Encyclopedic Coverage of Production Issues, Protection of Drinking Water, Underground Injection Control (UIC) Sedimentology of Shale: Study Guide and Reference Source Electron Microscopy of Shale Hydrocarbon Reservoirs - AAPG Memoir 102 History: Human History in 50 Events: From Ancient Civilizations to Modern Times (World History, History Books, People History) (History in 50 Events Series Book 1) History: British History in 50 Events: From First Immigration to Modern Empire (English History, History Books, British History Textbook) (History in 50 Events Series Book 11) The Wonderful World of Oz: An Illustrated History of the American Classic The Wonderful World of Disney Television: A Complete History Wonderful Life with the Elements: The Periodic Table Personified If I'm So Wonderful, Why Am I Still Single?: Ten Strategies That Will Change Your Love Life Forever FISH: Fun Facts and Incredible Pictures on Animals and Nature: Fish (AGE 7-12) (Children's Books on Animals & Nature, fish,) Nature Conservation in Greenland: Research, Nature and Wildlife Management := Naturbevaring i Grønland: Forskning, Naturog Vildtforvaltning := ... (English and Danish Edition) Genetically Engineered Food: Changing the Nature of Nature: What You Need to Know to Protect Yourself, Your Family, and Our Planet It's Just My Nature! A Guide To Knowing and Living Your True Nature Bringing Nature Home: Floral Arrangements Inspired by Nature Wonders of the World: Mother Nature at Work: Nature Books for Kids (Children's Mystery & Wonders Books) IP6: Nature's

Revolutionary Cancer Fighter: Nature's Revolutionary Cancer-Fighter Genetically Engineered Food:  
Changing the Nature of Nature Beyond Ecophobia: Reclaiming the Heart in Nature Education  
(Nature Literacy Series, Vol. 1)

[Dmca](#)