



What on Earth Happened?... In Brief: The Planet, Life & People from the Big Bang to the Present Day

Christopher Lloyd

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How old is the universe? When did life on earth begin? What happened to the dinosaurs? How was the moon created? How did ancient Chinese science shape the modern world? How did Islam trigger globalization? Are humans really superior to other living things? And how can you fit the complete history of the planet into one pocket-sized book? These are just some of the questions answered in Christopher Lloyd's acclaimed 13.7 billion year history - now in brief. In this thrill-ride across millennia and continents, the complete history of the planet comes to life: from the Earth's fiery birth to its near-obliteration in the Triassic period, and from the first signs of human life to the tentative future of a world with a burgeoning population and a global warming crisis. Covering a wide range of topics including astrophysics, zoology, and sociology, and complete with maps and illustrations, What on Earth Happened? In Brief is the endlessly entertaining story of the planet, life, and people.

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Fadillah says

It is pretty ambitious to fit everything in one book. The book covered almost everything from the big bang, ice age, olympic games history, european conquest, world wars to the 6th mass extinction predicted by the scientists that might happen in our time. I completely enjoyed reading it though i need to point out that i have a problem with the consistency of this book. Some of the topics feels short and written in such a brief manner while some feels very elaborate and comprises with so many details. The pictures, maps, and side notes really helps in imagining and comprehending this book. This is easily a 5 stars rated book from me.

Melissa says

Great book- I appreciated the way it was organized, how Lloyd kept going over certain points, the informal writing style.

Ming Mansor says

Its a fun read with enough imagination for the readers, the writer writes the book relating with a 24-hour clock basis so its easy to keep track with all the facts and history enough for 13.7 billion years. It tells you basically what you want to know about the beginning of life on Earth, dinosaurs, globalization and my favourite part of the book is the time's table (yeah it literally means what it means)!

Khit Sue says

History and Prehistory

Nynke says

Despite repetitive in some places and missing the odd detail in others, i still highly recommend this book. Easy read and morally sound. ideal for (pre-) teenagers or anyone who is not that interested in history to struggle through many boring, longwinded textbooks.

Jamie MacDonald Jones says

It was always going to be a task that would draw critical response, particularly as the paperback edition is only half of what is contained within the hardback. However, I think this was an admirable attempt and the only reason i've given three stars to this is that I think some of the things focused on didn't need to be and there was a strange sequence to the book (then again i'm unsure how else such a vast subject could have been integrated differently). Overall, Lloyd provides a really nice basic summary, with some poignant points and a well-balanced focus.

Emma says

I really struggled with this. I found the first parts about the evolution of plants and animals really tedious. There was no story just lots of very dry facts. The parts about human history were more interesting but it is only a brief overview. The vast scope of the book is its major limitation - trying to cover the whole of the Earth's history in a short book means that there is no detail.

I think it would be better to decide what area or period of history you are interested in and find a book specific to that period.

Bianca says

2.5/5 stars

Although there were some really interesting facts, I found it to be too informational, therefore a bit slow moving.
