

Palaeozoic Era The Palaeozoic era Began 570 million years ago Early in the Palaeozoic era more than half of the living organisms on Earth were trilobites. In the course of Palaeozoic times life moved gradually from the sea to dry land. The first plants and vertebrates appeared; below the tops of enormous trees the first insects took flight. Only at the end of the Palaeozoic era did the first amphibians and synapsids appear.

500 MILLION YEARS AGO

The first amphibians appeared.

540 MILLION YEARS AGO

Life consisted mainly of algae and trilobites. The first plants appeared.

445 MILLION YEARS AGO

Life began gradually to move to dry land. The first land animals appeared.

350 MILLION YEARS AGO

In marshes the first amphibians, which later evolved into reptiles, appeared.

395 MILLION YEARS AGO

The first insects appeared.

280 MILLION YEARS AGO

The first synapsids appeared.

ORTHOCERAS

Cephalopod of Palaezoic times that was up to 2m long and had a long, grooved shell. There were about 1000 different species of this beautiful creature.

TRILOBITE

Extinct arthropod which was up to 90cm long and whose body was covered with a shell. Lived on the sea bottom and fed on small food or hunted other, smaller trilobites. There were over 17,000 different species of this creature. Trilobites have been found in fossil form all over the world.

OPABINIA

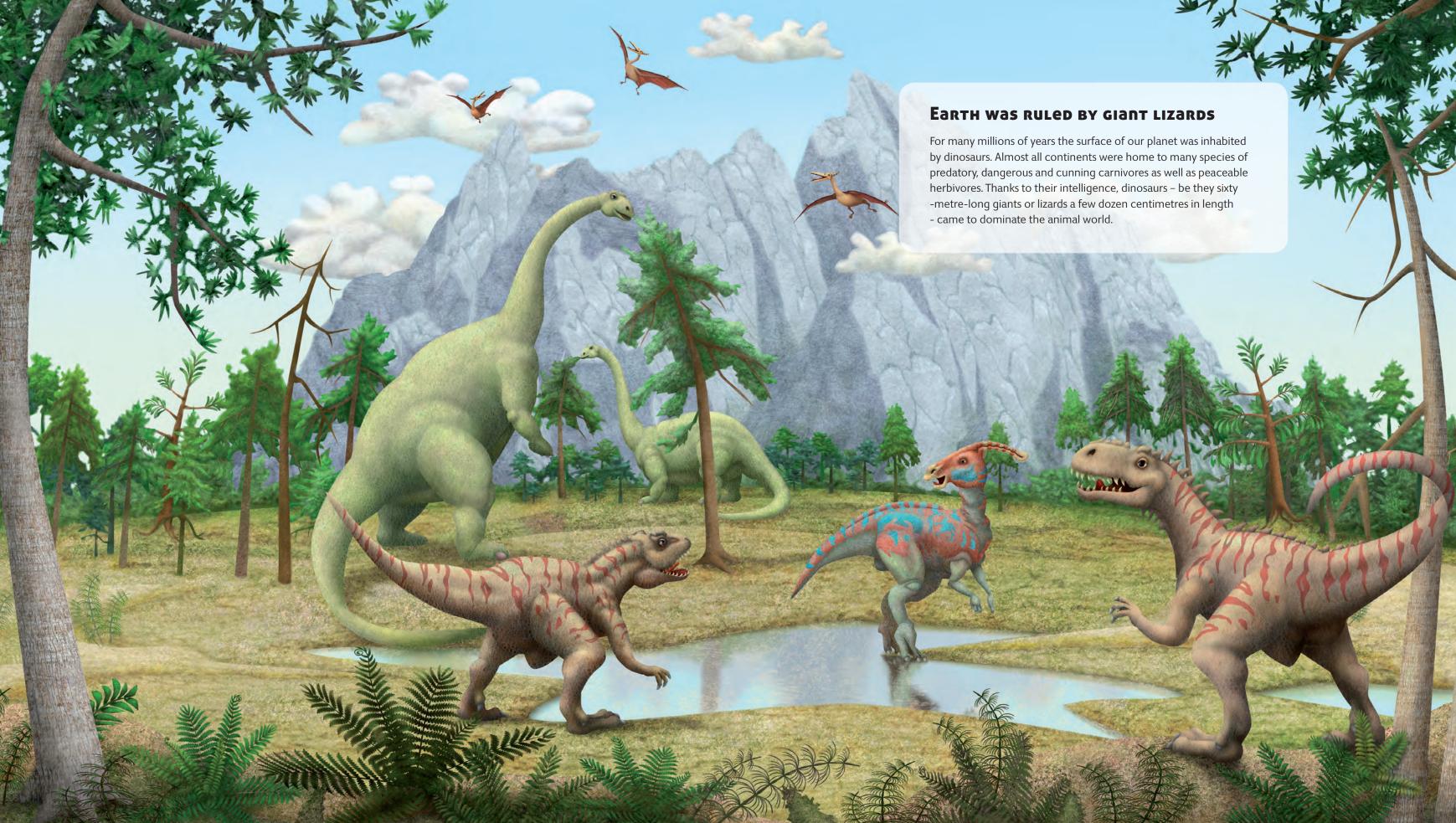
Small creature that was about 4cm long. On the top of its head it had five movable eyes, which it used to search for food. Lived at great depths at the bottom of the sea.

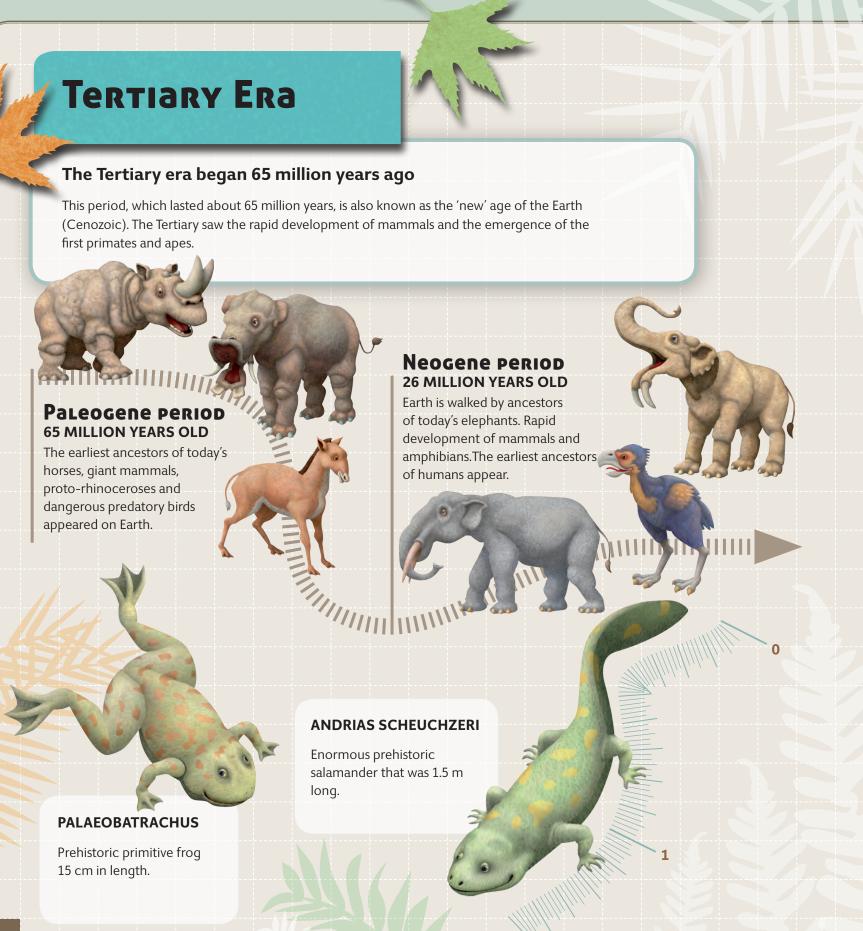
PSILOPHYTALES

One of the oldest flora, a forerunner of today's plants.



Small (about 5cm-long) mollusc with a ribbed shell.







Quaternary Era

The Quaternary era began 2.6 million years ago

This era of about 2.6 million years is the shortest and most recent in the development of life on Earth. We live in the Quaternary period today. In this phase of the development of life on Earth warm periods have alternated with icy periods, often resulting in the extinction of species. At the end of this period plant and animal life were already taking on the forms that we know today. The Quaternary period became the era of the human, who, along with his ancestors, developed rapidly. Humans were able to combine forces to live and to hunt. They became mammoth hunters.



PLEISTOCENE 2.6 MILLION YEARS AGO

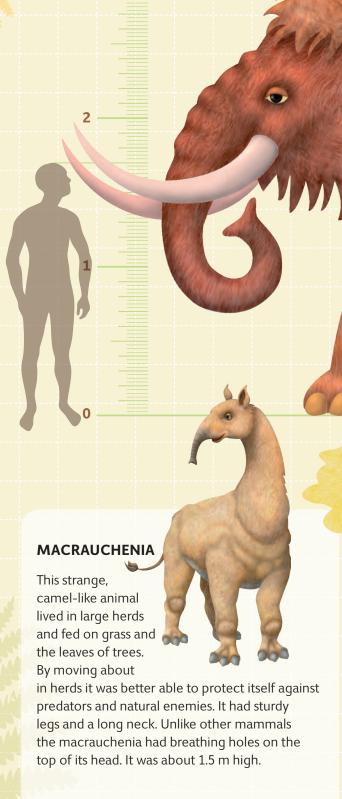
Enormous deer and mammoths appeared. The largest bird of all time took to the skies. Important ancestors of modern humans emerged.



Modern humans of today's type walk the Earth. The flora is already very similar to that of today.



One animal that we no longer encounter today is the mammoth. But as to the future, who knows? Perhaps one day scientists will be able to take cells from the ice and use them to revive a mammoth, just like they do in the film Jurassic Park. See you at the prehistoric zoo!



MAMMOTH

This furry proboscidean was 3 m high and weighed 5 tonnes. It had long, curved tusks. The mammoth was about the same size as today's Indian elephant. A herbivore, it moved about in herds on the grassy steppe. Died out at the end of the Ice Age.

Giant Deer

Hairy

Proboscipeans

IRISH ELK

Species of deer that was over 2 m high and whose antlers had a span of over 3.5 m. Lived mainly on the steppe as its enormous antlers made movement impossible among the trees of the forest. It lived a solitary life. It is the largest deer known to have lived.

