

Contents

LIST OF BOXES	viii	3 EARLY PALAEOZOIC FISHES	38
PREFACE	x		
 1 VERTEBRATE ORIGIN	 1		
Key questions	2	Key questions	39
Introduction	2	Introduction	39
1.1 Sea squirts and the lancelet	3	3.1 Cambrian vertebrates	39
1.2 Phylum Hemichordata: pterobranchs and acorn worms	4	3.2 Vertebrate hard tissues	42
1.3 Deuterostome relationships	6	3.3 The jawless fishes	43
1.4 Chordate origins	7	3.4 Origin of jaws and gnathostome relationships	51
1.5 Vertebrates and the head	14	3.5 Placodermi: armour-plated monsters	55
1.6 Further reading	15	3.6 Chondrichthyes: the first sharks	58
 2 HOW TO STUDY FOSSIL VERTEBRATES	 16	3.7 Acanthodii: the 'spiny skins'	59
Key questions	17	3.8 Devonian environments	61
Introduction	17	3.9 Osteichthyes: the bony fishes	62
2.1 Digging up bones	17	3.10 Early fish evolution and mass extinction	72
2.2 Geology and fossil vertebrates	22	3.11 Further reading	73
2.3 Biology and fossil vertebrates	28	 4 THE EARLY TETRAPODS AND AMPHIBIANS	 74
2.4 Discovering phylogeny	31	Key questions	75
2.5 The quality of the fossil record	35	Introduction	75
2.6 Further reading	36	4.1 Problems of life on land	75
		4.2 Devonian tetrapods	79
		4.3 The Carboniferous world	85
		4.4 Diversity of Carboniferous tetrapods	87
		4.5 Temnospondyls and reptiliomorphs after the Carboniferous	97
		4.6 Evolution of modern amphibians	101
		4.7 Further reading	105

5 THE EVOLUTION OF EARLY AMNIOTES	106	8.3 The diversity of saurischian dinosaurs	190
Key questions	107	8.4 The diversity of ornithischian dinosaurs	205
Introduction	107	8.5 Were the dinosaurs warm-blooded or not?	219
5.1 <i>Hylonomus</i> and <i>Paleothyris</i> —biology of the first amniotes	107	8.6 Pterosauria	224
5.2 Amniote evolution	111	8.7 Testudines: the turtles	229
5.3 The Permian world	112	8.8 Crocodylia	232
5.4 The early evolution of anapsids and diapsids	113	8.9 Lepidosauria	237
5.5 Basal synapsid evolution	120	8.10 The great sea dragons	245
5.6 Mass extinction	133	8.11 Diversification of Jurassic–Cretaceous reptiles	247
5.7 Further reading	134	8.12 The KT event	248
		8.13 Further reading	255
6 TETRAPODS OF THE TRIASSIC	136	9 THE BIRDS	256
Key questions	137	Key questions	257
Introduction	137	Introduction	257
6.1 The Triassic scene	137	9.1 <i>Archaeopteryx</i>	257
6.2 Evolution of the archosauromorphs	138	9.2 The origin of bird flight	261
6.3 In Triassic seas	147	9.3 Cretaceous birds, with and without teeth	265
6.4 The origin of the dinosaurs	153	9.4 The radiation of modern birds	275
6.5 Further reading	157	9.5 Flightless birds: Palaeognathae	276
7 THE EVOLUTION OF FISHES AFTER THE DEVONIAN	158	9.6 Neognathae	277
Key questions	159	9.7 Diversification of birds	286
Introduction	159	9.8 Further reading	286
7.1 The early sharks and chimaeras	159	10 THE MAMMALS	288
7.2 Post-Palaeozoic chondrichthyan radiation	164	Key questions	289
7.3 The early bony fishes	169	Introduction	289
7.4 Radiation of the teleosts	176	10.1 Cynodonts and the acquisition of mammalian characters	289
7.5 Post-Devonian evolution of fishes	185	10.2 The first mammals	298
7.6 Further reading	186	10.3 The Mesozoic mammals	304
8 THE AGE OF DINOSAURS	187	10.4 The marsupials	312
Key questions	188	10.5 South American mammals—a world apart	314
Introduction	188	10.6 Afrotheria and break-up of Gondwana	323
8.1 Biology of <i>Plateosaurus</i>	188	10.7 The beginning of the age of placental mammals	329
8.2 The Jurassic and Cretaceous world	189		

10.8	Basal Laurasiatherians: insectivores and bats	335	11.1	What are the primates?	364
10.9	Cetartiodactyla: cattle, pigs and whales	336	11.2	The early fossil record of primates	366
10.10	Perissodactyla: grazers and browsers	345	11.3	Hominoidea: the apes	371
10.11	Carnivora and Pholidota	348	11.4	Evolution of human characteristics	375
10.12	Archonta: primates, tree shrews and flying lemurs	353	11.5	The early stages of human evolution	378
10.13	Glires: rodents, rabbits and relatives	354	11.6	The past two million years of human evolution	382
10.14	Ice Age extinction of large mammals	359	11.7	Further reading	387
10.15	The pattern of mammalian evolution	362			
10.16	Further reading	362			
11	HUMAN EVOLUTION	363		APPENDIX: CLASSIFICATION OF THE VERTEBRATES	389
	Key questions	364		GLOSSARY	404
	Introduction	364		REFERENCES	408
				INDEX	439