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## **The End of an Old World**.....Page 8

*In the transition between the Carboniferous and Permian periods three hundred million years ago, the world fell apart at the seams as it had never done before. Powerful volcanic eruptions shook almost the entire northern hemisphere. The landscape changed completely.*



## **The Complete Transformation of the Plant Kingdom** .....Page 25

*In the Permian period, there were profound changes in the flora. The large scale trees and giant horsetail died out, but this opened space for the gymnosperm conifers and cycads. They characterised the flora on every continent after that.*



## **The Life of Small Animals and Insects**.....Page 129

*At the beginning of the Permian, many insects and small animals were already completely evolved. Some probably took up the function of pollen carrier for plants; a completely new challenge in the mutual interest of both parties.*



## **Fish, a Model for Success**.....Page 131

*Strange fish evolved in rapid succession. There were lobe-finned fish living in fresh water and Xenacanthida that were the terror of the animal world in the Permian swamps. One group began a series of triumphs that continues today: the bony fish.*



## **The Triumph of the Terrestrial Vertebrates**.....Page 161

*More and more animals ventured onto land. At first only primitive amphibians sporadically left the water, but reptile-like creatures would soon conquer the continents and populate the land forever.*



## **Saurians Conquer the Continents**.....Page 179

*All animals became more and more complex and specialised. Many completely different creatures soon roamed the Earth. Two groups would become part of our collective memory: the mammals and the dinosaurs.*