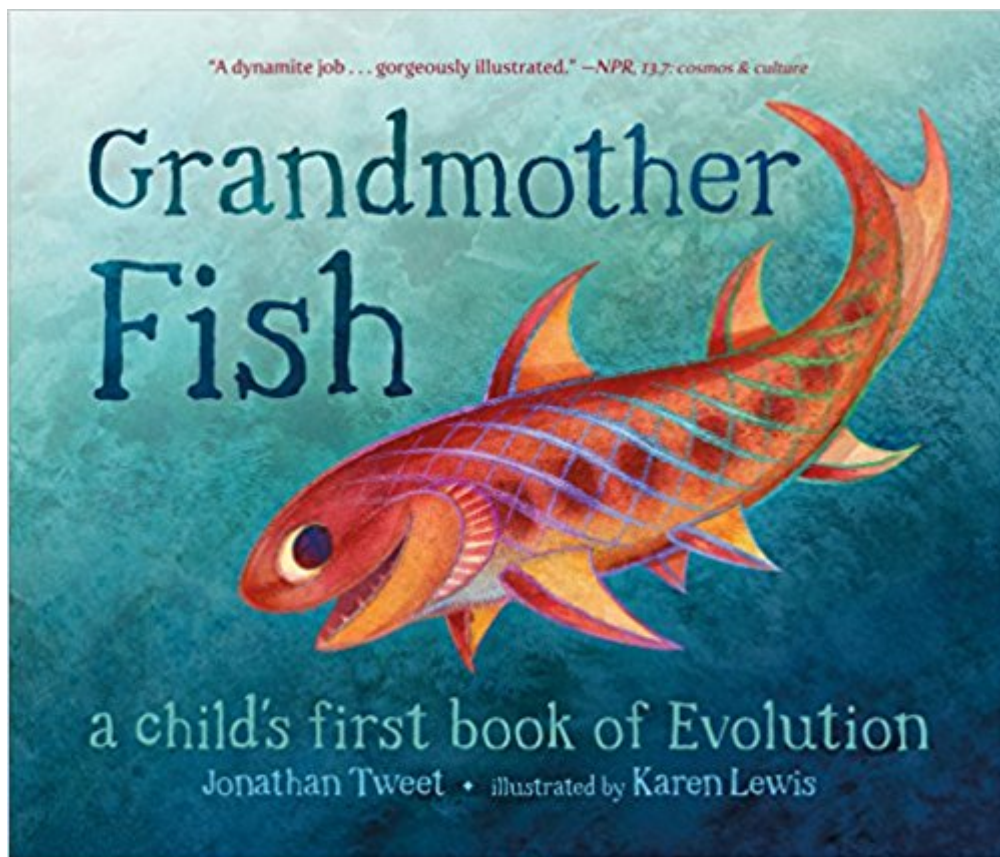




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Grandmother Fish: A Child's First Book Of Evolution



Synopsis

Where did we come from? It's a simple question, but not so simple an answer to explain—especially to young children. Charles Darwin's theory of common descent no longer needs to be a scientific mystery to inquisitive young readers. Meet Grandmother Fish. Told in an engaging call and response text where a child can wiggle like a fish or hoot like an ape and brought to life by vibrant artwork, Grandmother Fish takes children and adults through the history of life on our planet and explains how we are all connected. The book also includes comprehensive backmatter, including:- An elaborate illustration of the evolutionary tree of life- Helpful science notes for parents- How to explain natural selection to a child

Book Information

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Feiwel & Friends; 1st edition (September 6, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0986288403

ISBN-13: 978-1250113238

ASIN: 1250113237

Product Dimensions: 10.3 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 137 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #18,970 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Biology #6 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Prehistoric #136 in Books > Science & Math > Evolution

Age Range: 3 - 6 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 1

Customer Reviews

PreS-Gr 2—This groundbreaking volume makes the complex theory of evolution accessible to young children. Using simple vocabulary in clear, direct sentences (for instance, "This is our Grandmother Fish. She lived a long, long, long, long, long time ago."), the author avoids concepts like specific prehistoric time periods—which are beyond a young child's comprehension—to create a truly inclusive work. The words and illustrations work beautifully together, showcasing the abilities of our ancestors and asking readers and listeners if they can do these same actions. Can readers, for example, wiggle or chomp like Grandmother Fish? Can they

crawl and breathe in and out like Grandmother Reptile? The text and illustrations also invite further active participation, and this, too, makes the book understandable. Can readers find Grandmother Mammal among the illustrations of other relatives? Can they find Grandmother Ape? The book ends by noting that "Grandmother Human has many kinds of grandchildren" and reveals humans of different ages and races. Exemplary back matter includes a colorful, clearly labeled double-page diagram titled "Our Evolutionary Family Tree," which is excellent for close examination and discussion; examples of how to explain concepts of evolution to children; and suggestions for correcting common misunderstandings. There is a note addressed to parents, teachers, babysitters, and other readers, encouraging them to adapt the book and resources according to the needs of the child. VERDICT This selection can be revisited again and again as students refine their understanding of evolution. Highly recommended for homes, schools, and libraries. —Myra Zarnowski, City University of New York

"This groundbreaking volume makes the complex theory of evolution accessible to young children. . . a truly inclusive work. The words and illustrations work beautifully together, showcasing the abilities of our ancestors and asking readers and listeners if they can do these same actions. . . . Exemplary back matter includes a colorful, clearly labeled double-page diagram titled 'Our Evolutionary Family Tree,' which is excellent for close examination and discussion; examples of how to explain concepts of evolution to children; and suggestions for correcting common misunderstandings. VERDICT This selection can be revisited again and again as students refine their understanding of evolution. Highly recommended for homes, schools, and libraries."

—School Library Journal

"With simple text and vibrant, cheerful illustrations, this picture book offers a lively, accessible introduction to the theory of evolution to younger children. Opening with Grandmother Fish, who 'lived a long, long, long, long, long time ago' and could wiggle and chomp, the text continues with direct-address questions ('Can you wiggle?'), which encourage animated read-alouds and active participation, as well as bold-type key terms. Grandmother Fish had many 'grandchildren,' like Grandmother Reptile, who could wiggle, chomp, and crawl . . . and breathe air. In similar fashion, readers progressively meet Grandmother Mammal, Grandmother Ape, and, eventually, Grandmother Human (who could walk and talk), whose grandchildren can do all that and more. The enthusiastic narrator then says, 'I see one of them right here!' and the accompanying illustration depicts a diverse group of smiling kids and adults. Though this is a complicated topic, the simplified presentation, cumulative format, and scrutiny-inviting visuals nicely illustrate evolutionary connections and provide a great starting point for further discussions. Back matter, geared toward

adults, offers information on the book's content and suggestions to help further explain concepts." "Booklist" "A dynamite job . . . gorgeously illustrated . . . Grandmother Fish is a fun way to start children down a path of scientific literacy and, what's more, can help instill in them a vital sense of connection with the living world." "NPR" "Another GeekMom sent this to me and I fell in love. It is a wonderful, simple, beautiful introduction to evolution for young children. ... Gorgeous contribution to science education and understanding!" "GeekMom" "A lovely contribution to scientific literacy." "Steven Pinker, author of How the Mind Works and professor of psychology (Harvard University)" "Much needed!" "David Sloan Wilson, editor-in-chief of Evolution: This View of Life" "When my 5-year-old daughter asked, 'Who was the first person, and how was he or she borned?' I struggled to explain. Then I got Grandmother Fish, read it to her, and she loved it. This book fills a great need for parents, and answers a question many kids wonder about." "Jonathan Haidt, New York University, author of The Righteous Mind" "I'm extremely impressed by the simplicity of this clever, beautiful, charming project. I'll be first in line to get Grandmother Fish for my own little daughter!" "Daniel Loxton, editor of Junior Skeptic magazine, author of the national award-winning children's book Evolution: How We and All Living Things Came to Be" "Grandmother Fish evokes a sense of profound (and playful) connection to our deep time ancestors that ignites the imagination of all ages!" "Jennifer Morgan, author, president of Deep Time Journey Network"

I can't imagine how my life would be different if I had this book growing up. Everyone should come up in the world understand the most beautiful thing that science has yet uncovered...that all life is connected! Far from being a controversial theory, evolution is the one underlying principle in biology. This book makes the basic tenets of evolution clear for all audiences, and is a beautifully illustrated and charming book. I'm giving it to all my nieces and nephews!

I love this book so much. This has taken 1st place in my Foster child's book ranking list which is surprising because she is generally into the Disney books or any of the other mainstream children's books. Finding something educational that the kids actually enjoy is as close to a miracle as I believe you can get. The pictures are truly works of art and that makes it easier for the adults involved. The kids also ask questions and think about things every time we read this. If you want to raise children with problem solving skills and kids that are curious about the world this book is a must.

Awesome book! I bought this for my son - who, while too young to understand yet (currently ~8mo), loves the pictures & stares with rapt attention when I read it to him. I know it'll be one we reach for a lot when he gets older. It's put in language that's easy for young children to grasp while still conveying the broad concept of evolution. It's definitely a good starting point for a lifetime of learning :) The illustrations are great too! And it has a very helpful resource page in the back for parents to provide more information or to help answer questions a child (or adult!) may have. I wish I could get a copy for every kid in my life!

My niece loved it and the family also loves it as well. My Aunt who is a teacher apparently wants to get a copy to read to her students as she was really impressed with it :) As a person going into the Natural Sciences I really love this book and how it explains the concept of evolution in an understandable way. It also has tips at the end for parents in how to explain certain concepts to children as well as clearing up possible misconceptions many people tend to have when it comes to evolution. It has things both children and adults can appreciate and I would highly recommend it.

excellent book! my 3-year old loves it, and asks for it to be read multiple times in a row. there is an "evolution tree" at the end of it, he loves to look at it, point out all the different animals, and talk about how we are all related to each other. kudos to the authors for making such a complex concept (which many adults struggle to understand, as evidenced by some of the reviews here) accessible to kids!

Fantastic book! Our son is 2.5 years old and loved it! The artwork is great and the message is delivered simply. Don't think it's not worth it b/c there are more explanations written in the back of the book as a guide to slowly deliver more knowledge to children as they grow. I LOVE that it was advised by scientists! Those that believe in creationism have plenty of "Garden of Eden" and "Noah's Ark" books and this is a great tool for those who believe in evolution to have something to show our children.

A Magnificent book. Read to a 6yo who loved it. Engendered a lot of discussion in the days after it about evolution and animals. A great learning experience he will remember for years to come. I look forward to re-reading it with him.

This is a terrific book. I read it to my two year old grandson, and he paid attention! But it's also one of those books that you could give to a ten year old. I learned a lot about evolution also.

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