

# the **STUFF** *of* **LIFE**

A graphic guide to **genetics** and **DNA**



by Mark Schultz

Illustrated by Zander Cannon  
and Kevin Cannon

# the STUFF *of* LIFE

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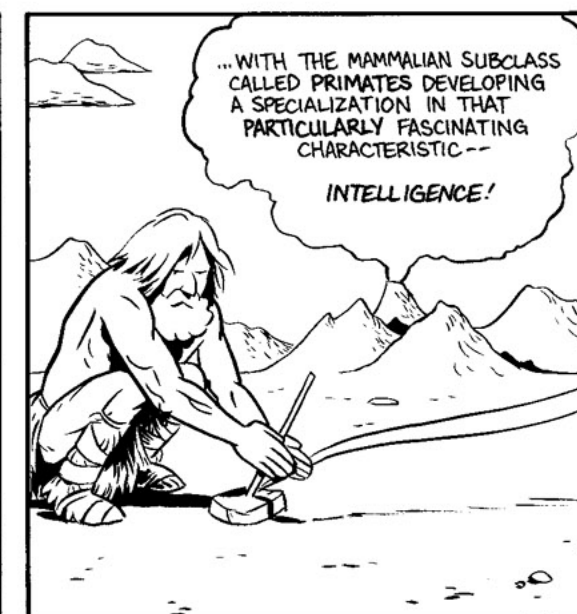
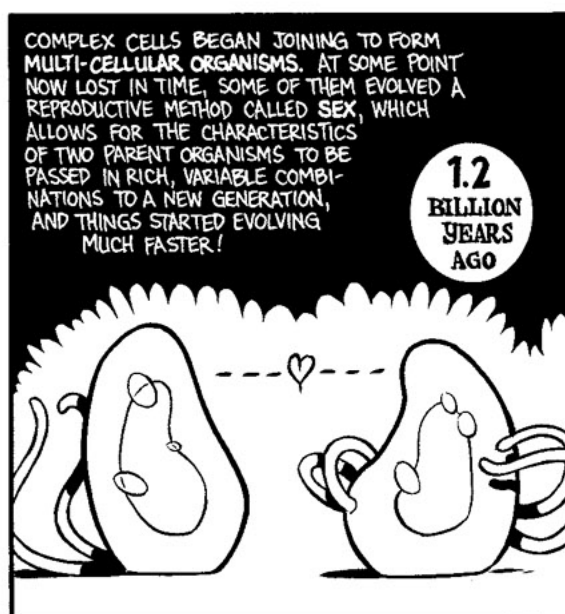
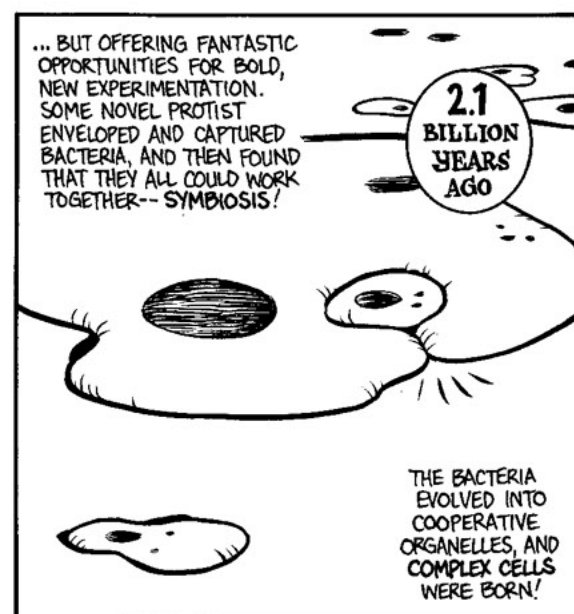
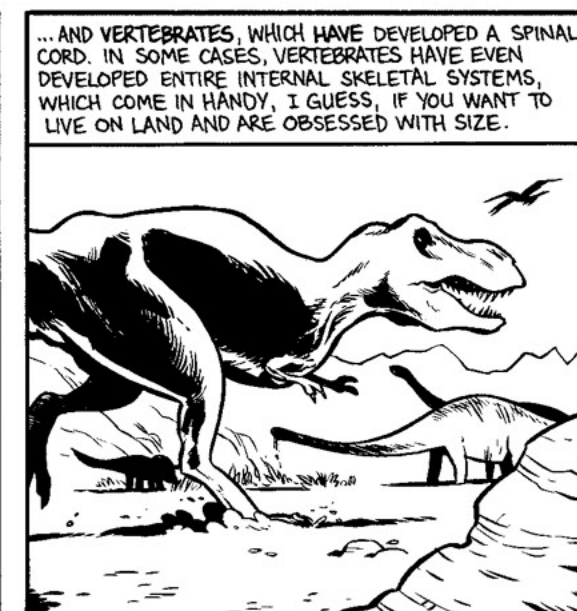
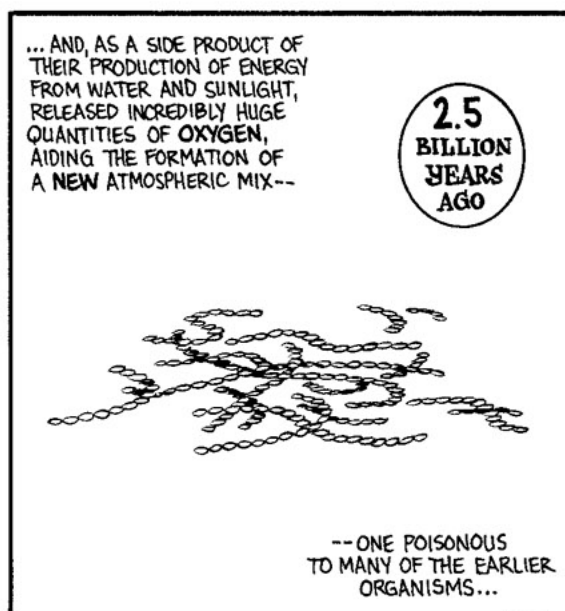
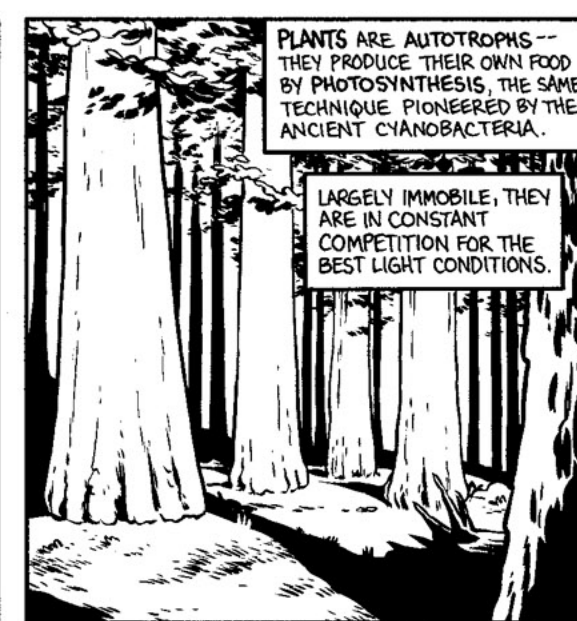
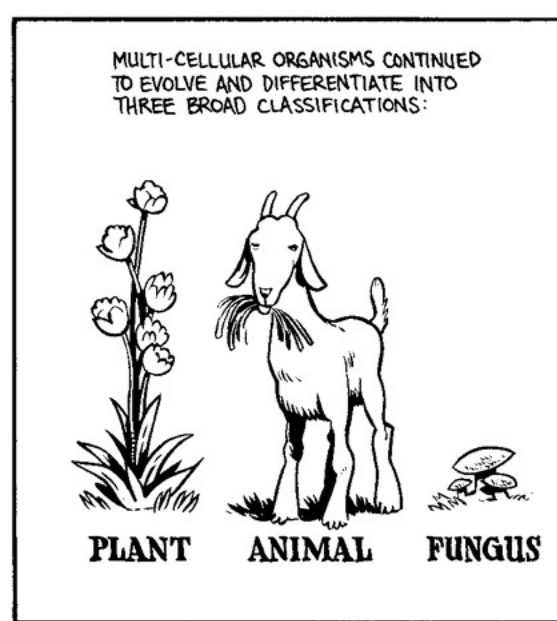
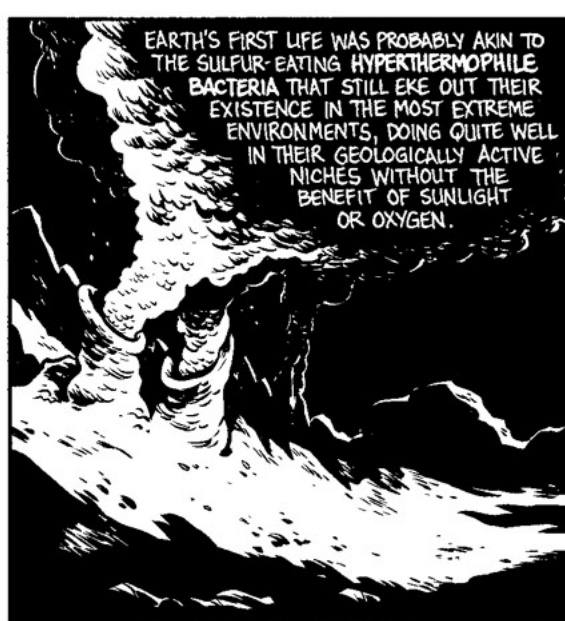
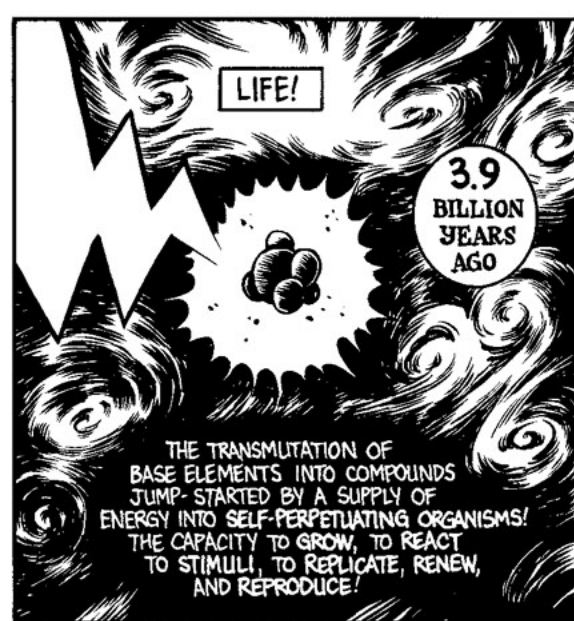
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SO, HERE WE HAVE THE PRIMATE, MAN, IN HIS CURRENT STATE.

MAN IS THE LONE ORGANISM ON EARTH THAT HAS DEVELOPED A SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CULTURE AND IS THUS OF PARTICULAR INTER--

Excuse me...?!



Let me get this straight-- the creature you called the 'sea cucumber'?

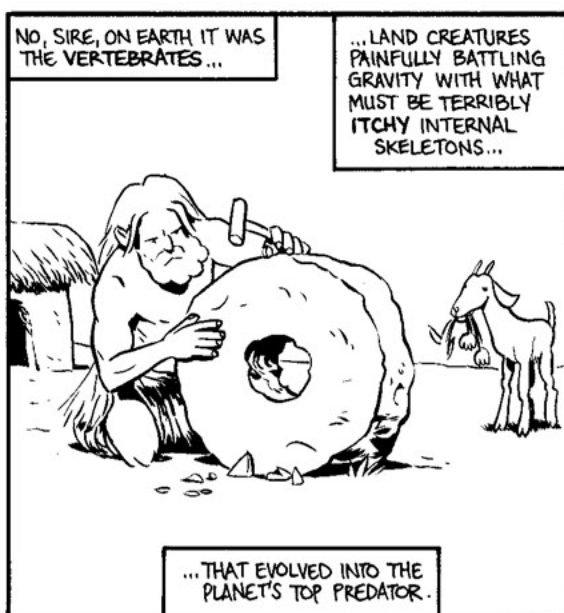
The sea cucumber ISN'T Earth's dominant organism?



WELL, I WAS CONFUSED AT FIRST, TOO, YOUR ROYAL INQUISITIVENESS. I MEAN-- THE CUKES DO LOOK SOMETHING LIKE US.

BUT THE AMAZING TRUTH IS-- THEY ARE AS DUMB AS HAMMERS.

IN FACT, NO EARTHLY INVERTEBRATE HAS EVER DEVELOPED INTO A GLOBALLY DOMINANT SPECIES, AS WE DID HERE ON GLARGAL.



NO, SIRE, ON EARTH IT WAS THE VERTEBRATES...

...LAND CREATURES PAINFULLY BATTLING GRAVITY WITH WHAT MUST BE TERRIBLY ITCHY INTERNAL SKELETONS...

...THAT EVOLVED INTO THE PLANET'S TOP PREDATOR.



-- hairy, bipedal VERTEBRATES...

YES. AND THEY ARE NOW DOING REMARKABLE RESEARCH INTO THEIR BIOLOGICAL COMPOSITIONS AND ORIGINS, AS WELL AS INTO --



OKAY--let's... let's hold up a moment, Bloorr...

... I need some time to DIGEST this.



I mean-- I never considered...

...I never GUESSED that our counterparts on Earth might be so completely-- ALIEN.

Hairy, bipedal, land-dwelling vertebrates-- HMMPH.

Kush 1290-- are we sure that this... HUMAN SPECIES offers anything WE can use?

AN INSIGHTFUL QUESTION, MOST CAUTIOUS ONE. BUT, AS OUR GENETIC CRISIS HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY DIRE, I BELIEVE WE MUST LOOK TO OTHER SYSTEMS FOR HELP.

YES-- THE INFORMATION WILL BE A BIT CHALLENGING. AS YOUR SCIENCE ADVISER, I URGE YOU TO EXTEND A LITTLE TRUST...



...AND I'M SURE YOU WILL LEARN A GREAT DEAL FROM BLOORR 183. HE'S ONE OF OUR FINEST SCIENTISTS-- AN EXCELLENT OBSERVER AND THOROUGH RESEARCHER.

THERE WAS GOOD REASON WE TRANSMITTED HIM TO EARTH...

I MAKE NO ASSUMPTIONS, O MAGNIFICENT CORPULENCE. ALL MY RESEARCH IS BACKED BY EVIDENCE, PRESENTED HERE THROUGH THE SIMULACRON. AND I DO BELIEVE WE CAN LEARN MUCH FROM THE EARTHLY ORGANISMS...



Of course-- very well. You'll pardon me if my concern over the Royal Family's growing... DIFFICULTIES ...with the HERITABLE DISORDER have made me snappish. Of course I trust Bloorr. We expect that what he has learned can only HELP us master our genetic TROUBLES.

It's just, frankly, I'm a bit disappointed. The sea cucumber was so much more RELATABLE.



