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# When Planet Earth Was New



## Synopsis

It has taken billions of years for Earth to become the planet it is today. When Planet Earth Was New looks back to the very beginning, using a poetic approach grounded in scientific fact to give an overview of how the planet has changed over time: from hot lava to the formation of oceans to the evolution of living things in water and on land. The book also includes the relatively recent evolution of humans – who are just a tiny speck in the sweep of Earth’s history. This broad look at the Earth is designed to inspire awe and inquiry. With STEM connections to biology, geology, evolution, and more, it is a springboard for discovery, discussion, and research. A striking design with full-spread, digitally enhanced watercolor art gives the book a rich, atmospheric feel. Back matter includes informational notes about each spread, as well as sources, an author’s note, and a glossary.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 530 (What’s this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Owlkids (September 15, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1771472030

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Product Dimensions: 10.7 x 0.5 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #841,015 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #86 in Books > Children’s Books > Education & Reference > History > Prehistoric #441 in Books > Children’s Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Earth Sciences #542 in Books > Children’s Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Biology

Age Range: 4 - 12 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

## Customer Reviews

"Evocative...bold...poetic...will spark readers’ imaginings of a nascent Earth." (Publishers Weekly)"Beautiful and thought-provoking, this nonfiction picture book has a great deal to offer." (Booklist)"Fusing art and science... Striking, otherworldly illustrations from Katherine Diemert show the constantly evolving landscapes in fantasy-rich hues in this beautifully unique journey through

space and time." (Foreword Reviews, STARRED REVIEW)"An epic retelling of our planet's origin story... When Planet Earth Was New nails the sense of majesty and mystery that ought to accompany any look at the planet's beginnings." (Quill & Quire)"Striking, slightly surreal illustrations complement the prose and offer much to contemplate...a fine addition to science collections." (School Library Journal)"Diemert's images are allusive and striking... A dramatic demonstration of geologic time for thoughtful readers and listeners." (Kirkus Reviews)"Will start a discussion of the Earth's development and future and spark interest in biology, geology, and evolutionary connections." (School Library Journal)

JAMES GLADSTONE is an editor and writer of school and trade books for children. When Planet Earth Was New is his first book with Owlkids. James lives in Toronto, Ontario. KATHERINE DIEMERT lives with her grumpy cat in Toronto, Ontario. A graduate of Sheridan College's Bachelor of Illustration program, she creates images for editorial and interactive media. She uses a combination of analog and digital tools to create her work, which has been included in several shows and garnered awards. She especially loved drawing the weird and wonderful creatures in this book. When Planet Earth Was New is Katherine's first picture book.

When Planet Earth Was New written by James Gladstone and illustrated by Katherine Diemert, is a beautifully illustrated tour (a quick one) of Earth's history from a molten, poisonous ball to the blue marble we now think of. Aimed at younger children, the text is minimal but lyrical and makes use of welcome repetition (always a plus for the youngest audiences). One example (minus the text's more poetic line breaks) reads: "A sky full of water vapor poured down as rain. For millions and millions and millions of years it rained. The rain formed huge oceans. The oceans are where life first grew." The text is quietly engaging, but the true highlights are the illustrations, which employ a variety of methods and are striking across the board. While the main text does not go into much detail, a back-matter page asks readers to "look again at the illustrated changes in the planet, and offers up thumbnails of each page with a small paragraph of further explanation. For example, here is the back-matter description for the aforementioned page on rain and the oceans: "As Earth cools, water vapor in the atmosphere condenses into liquid. Clouds fill the sky and rain pours down. So much rain falls that it collects on Earth's surface and forms the oceans. Towering waves crash and roll." The book therefore will grow somewhat with its audience. With its semi-hypnotic evocation of time and change and the gorgeous illustrations, When

Planet Earth Was New is an easy book to recommend for anyone looking for something for a younger reader/pre-reader.

When Planet Earth Was New by James Gladstone. Illustrated by Katherine Diemert. Owlkids Books. 5 Stars. A swimmingly marvelous tour through the cosmos surrounding the birth of our Earth spanning to now as we live in peopled cities. Suitable color illustrations show the intensity, breadth and remoteness of the atmosphere, the heat, lively expanses of water, etc. An early to middle grade-school educational type of book with added information at the back. Highly recommend. Thanks to NetGalley and Owlkids Books for providing this ebook for review.

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