

EXTINCTIONS: PAST AND PRESENT

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN



WEEK 1 THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING THE PAST

This week we talked about the immense age of the Earth. We also spoke about the fossil record and how it tells us about the origin, diversification and extinction of life. We also had the wonderful opportunity to talk to Professor Ed Rybicki about the microbes and their successful reign on Earth. What is clearly evident is that life extends to 3.8 billion years and, over this time, life increasingly became complex. Now that we have set the scene for life on Earth, next week we're going to begin by talking about the first and second mass extinction events.



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