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Astrobiology of Earth: The Emergence, Evolution and Future of Life on a Planet in Turmoil

By Joseph Gale

Oxford University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Astrobiology of Earth: The Emergence, Evolution and Future of Life on a Planet in Turmoil, Joseph Gale, The study of life in our universe has been given the name 'astrobiology'. It is a relatively new subject, but not a new discipline since it brings together several mature fields of science including astronomy, geology, biology, and climatology. An understanding of the singular conditions that allowed the only example of life that we know exists to emerge and survive on our turbulent planet is essential if we are to seek answers to two fundamental questions facing humanity: will life (and especially human life) continue on Earth, and does life exist elsewhere in the universe? Astrobiology of Earth adopts a unique approach that differs from most texts in the field which focus on the possibility of extraterrestrial life. In contrast, the central theme of this book is the fortuitous combination of numerous cosmic factors that together produced the special environment which enabled the emergence, persistence and evolution of life on our own planet, culminating in humanity. This environment has been subject to constant and chaotic change during life's 3.6 billion year history. The geologically...



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Reviews

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