

“When he saw the drawing, he was astounded. It looked almost exactly like the coelacanth, a fish thought to have died out about sixty-five million years earlier. How could this fish, missing from the fossil record for tens of millions of years, still be swimming in the ocean? Why had it survived when so many other species had become extinct?” (From *Living Fossils: Clues to the Past*)

“Most living things change as the world around them changes. They adapt to new conditions. Usually changes happen slowly. Fossils provide a record of these changes. They are snapshots of moments in time going back millions of years. They show us that living things have evolved into new forms and become new living fossils can help us imagine their ancestors’ lives long ago. Whether living fossils survived because they were isolated, hardy, able to live in a variety of conditions, or lacked competition, they are clues to the past.” (From *Living Fossils: Clues to the Past*)