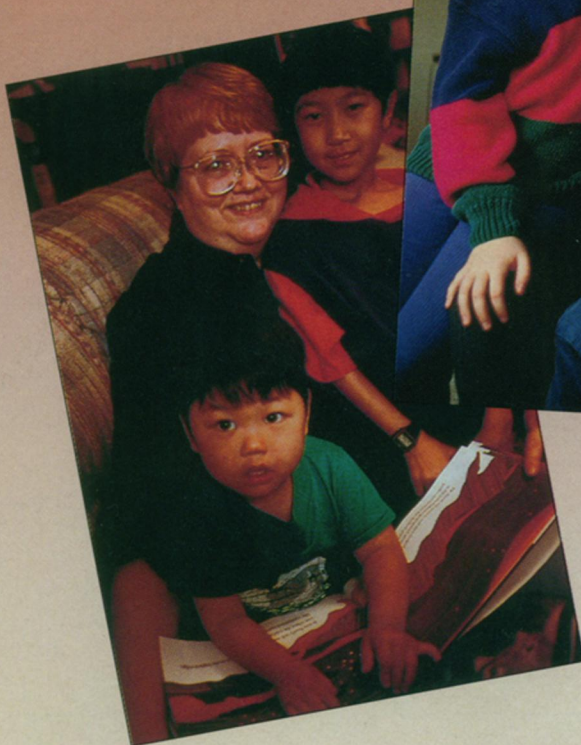
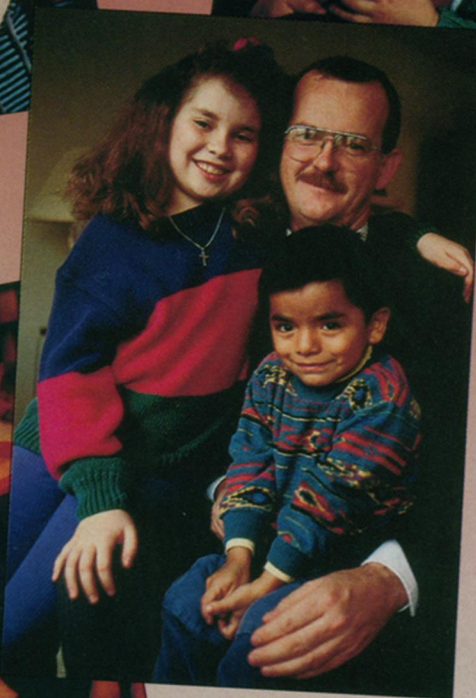
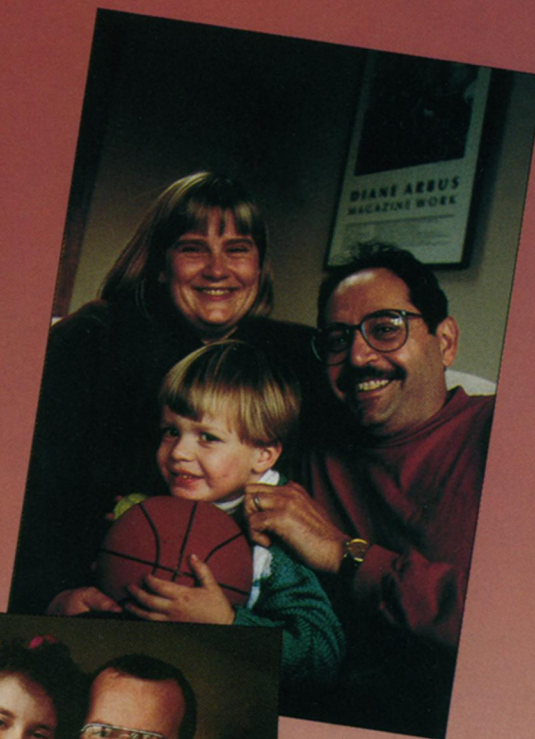
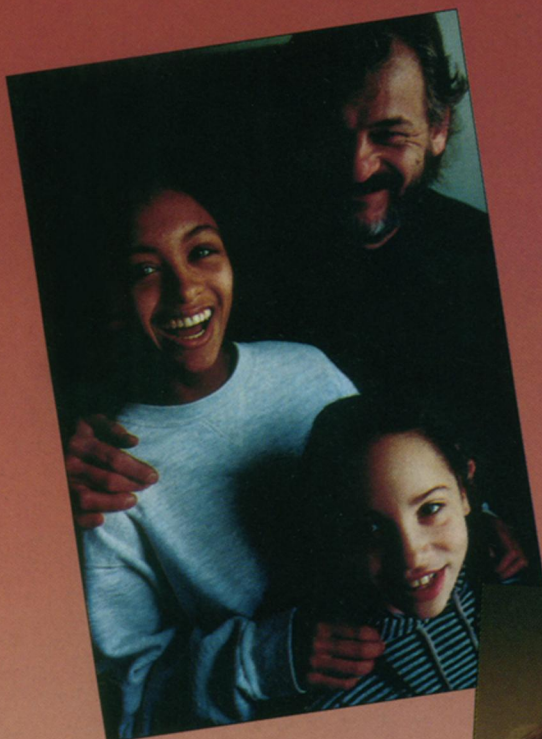


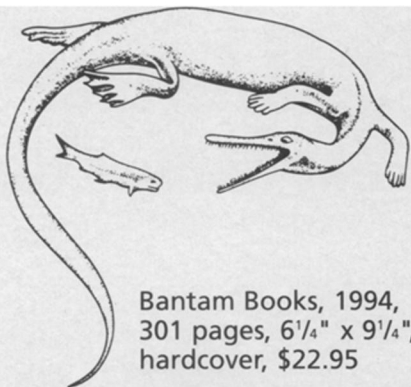
The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

# SCIENCE NEWS

August 13, 1994  
Vol. 146, No. 7  
Pages 97-112



## Beyond the Nuclear Family



Bantam Books, 1994, 301 pages, 6 1/4" x 9 1/4", hardcover, \$22.95

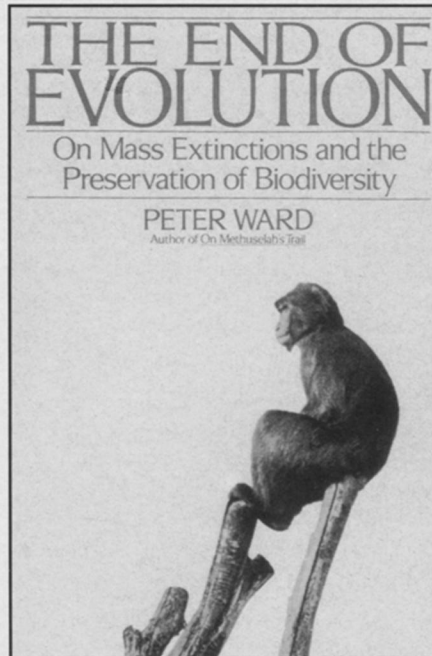
The crystal-clear waters of the Philippine archipelago, eerily empty of sea life... wolves, at one time numbering more than 2 million in the United States, now dwindled to 2,000... a lush Hawaiian paradise now the scene of devastating depopulation.

Twice in the distant past, catastrophic extinctions have swept the earth, causing the "end" of evolution for certain creatures—and the beginning for others. The first occurred 250 million years ago and marked the destruction of 90 percent of all living creatures—and the survival of our first mammalian ancestors. The second great mass extinction took place 65 million years ago and 50 percent of all species—including the last of the dinosaurs—perished in a cataclysm that may have been caused in part by the earth's collision with an asteroid. Now Peter Ward and many other prominent scientists have documented signs that a third mass extinction has already begun on our planet.

Ward's journey progresses from fossil hunting in Africa to following a dinosaur trail in Hell Creek, Montana, and finally to climbing high in the remote Caucasus Mountains to see if its thick white limestone holds evidence of a long-ago planetary destruction. At each stop along the way, Ward documents the rich diversity of life now endangered by changes in climate and the world's burgeoning population.

In this rich, accessible book Ward gives us reason to marvel and mourn, fear and hope—and clearly demonstrates the urgency of the need to preserve life as we know it before our time runs out.

—from Bantam Books



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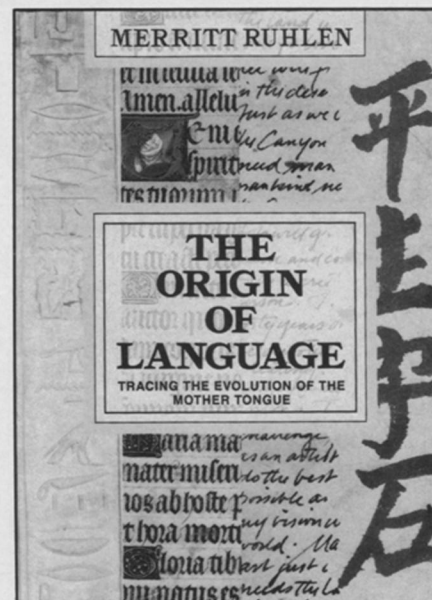
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Requiring no prior familiarity with linguistics, *The Origin of Language* is the first book to explain, in lay terms, the controversial process by which linguists are tracing the development of the vast range of human speech, sweeping aside many traditional assumptions about the spread of language and the roots of the human family. In addition to acquainting you with the manner in which such diverse languages as English and Chinese can be compared, Dr. Ruhlen introduces you to the brilliant mavericks whose linguistic theories are at last gaining worldwide acceptance. He also discusses the exciting new work being done in genetics and archaeology that corroborates much of the controversial linguistic evidence.

But more than simply describing his and his colleague's theories, Dr. Ruhlen invites you to share in the joys of discovery. He arms you with the linguist's basic toolkit and lets you work through the evidence for yourself and draw your own conclusions. You'll classify languages and language families, trace language family trees, and even reconstruct some of the basic vocabulary used by our most distant ancestors.

While *The Origin of Language* is an incomparable introduction to some of the most exciting linguistic research now being conducted by researchers around the globe, it is also much more. It is an inspiring invitation to join the quest for our human roots and to hear the echoes of the Mother Tongue.

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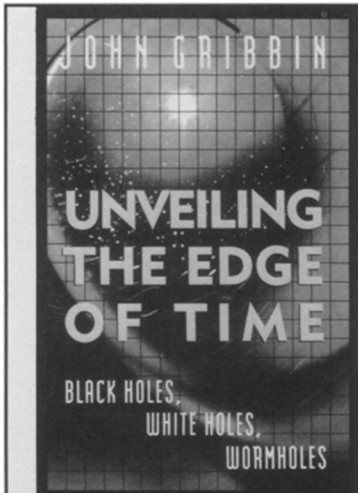
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When Einstein formulated his general theory of relativity early in this century, it shattered deeply ingrained notions about the nature of time. Suddenly, time could contract and stretch, start and stop. And when astrophysicists later discovered celestial objects of incredible density—white dwarf stars, neutron stars, and black holes—they were forced by the predictions of general relativity and quantum theory to reexamine the very possibility of traveling through time.

*Unveiling the Edge of Time* chronicles the theories and discoveries that have brought science to the inescapable conclusion that time travel—into both future and past—is permitted by the laws of physics and may in fact be possible to an advanced civilization. At the heart of these fascinating theories are the now-familiar black holes as well as recently theorized white holes, and even stranger “worm holes,” tunnels through spacetime that could make the ancient dream of time travel a reality.

*Unveiling the Edge of Time*, solidly based on current research, takes readers to the farthest frontiers of today’s science.

*John Gribbin is the author of many books of popular science, including In Search of Schrodinger’s Cat.*

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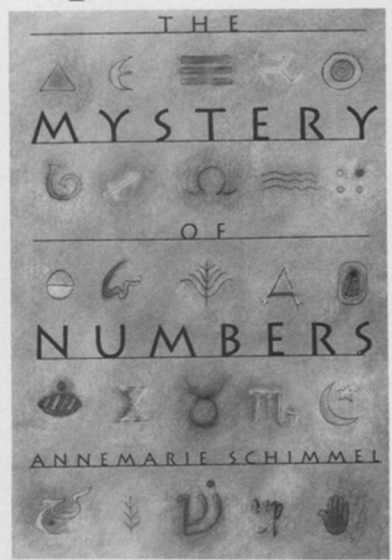
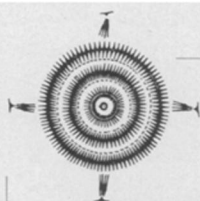
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Beginning with an informative and often surprising introduction to the origins of number systems, Schimmel reveals how our fascination with numbers has led to a rich cross-fertilization of mathematical knowledge. But the heart of the book is an engrossing guide to the symbolism of numbers, which has deep roots in Western culture. After exploring the sources of number symbolism, Schimmel examines individual numbers ranging from one to ten thousand. Ranging from the Bible to the Mayans to Shakespeare, Schimmel shows how numbers have been considered feminine and masculine, holy and evil, lucky and unlucky.

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