

Should “the scourges that were to afflict William Smith’s life – penury and plagiarism...” (Ch. 10) diminish his accomplishments? Why do we celebrate Smith’s map with such fanfare and without negative press?

“He had an apparent aptitude for geometry, he could draw more than adequately, and he had an evident fascination for the rocks among which he lived.” (Ch. 4)

What are the strengths and skills necessary to create a geologic map?

The present is the key to the past. Is this always true? In what context did Hutton come up with this? (Ch. 5)

Why is this book called “The Map That Changed The World”? What’s the big deal about a silly old map?

“Mary Anning was 30 years younger than William Smith, and there is no record that the pair ever met – but her birthplace and scene of all her paleontological triumphs, the small seaside town of Lyme Regis, evidently interested Smith...” (Ch. 8)

What if Anning and Smith had met?

What do you think their “seaside conversation” would have been like?