

THE ZULA PATROL

"Down To Earth"

(note: subtitle for use in language translations is "Adventures in Time")

Digital Dome Show II

Written by
Steve Granat & Cydne Clark

"A Cute Little Planet"
Lyrics by Cydne Clark & Steve Granat, ASCAP

Primary Learning Objectives:

Viewers will learn that:

1. The Earth has physically changed over time. There have been some MAJOR changes.
2. Different kinds of plants and animals have been on Earth at different times.

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SECOND DRAFT	March 3, 2008	*
THIRD DRAFT	March 19, 2008	**
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SYNOPSIS

While fossil-hunting on Earth, the Zula Patrol discovers, buried in the ancient rock strata, a pile of fossilized trash -- with Deliria's logo on it! It turns out that Deliria has been traveling back in time in order to illegally dump her companies' yucky byproducts on primordial Earth. The ZPers must time-travel back to the very beginnings of planet Earth to catch her, before her illegal dumping causes catastrophic consequences. In the process, our heroes learn about the formation and development of Planet Earth, and of the life forms who call it home.

CHARACTERS:

BULA (male)

ZEETER (female)

MULTO (male)

WIZZY (female)

WIGG (male)

GORGA (does not speak only makes animal sounds) DO NOT DUB

DELIRIA (female)

CLOID (male)

ANNOUNCER (Voiceover only)

GIGANOTOSAURUS (does not speak only makes animal sounds) DO NOT DUB

OPEN IN BLACK

<CLICK!> A TV SET appears, projected on the dome's front wall only, as if this were a small-screen presentation.

ON THE TV SCREEN: The REGULAR ZULA PATROL SERIES OPENING and THEME SONG play out, introducing our major characters, and ending on The Zula Patrol logo.

(Theme Song)

WAY WAY OUT
WHERE THE PLANETS DO THE HULA
SPIN AND SHOUT
TILL YOU FIND YOURSELF ON ZULA

LET'S TAKE OFF
WE'RE ALL READY TO ROLL
IT'S FUN TO LEARN
WITH THE ZULA PATROL!

WAKE UP, GORGA!
IT'S TIME TO PLAY
C'MON CAP'N BULA
LET'S WELCOME THE DAY

WHERE'S THAT ZEETER?
ALL READY TO GO
WIZZY N' WIG ARE GOOD TO GLOW

BEAKERS BUBBLIN'
TURNIN' BLUE
MULTO'S MAKIN'
SOMETHING NEW!

WAY WAY OUT
WHERE THE PLANETS DO THE HULA
SPIN AND SHOUT
TILL YOU FIND YOURSELF ON ZULA

SEE YA' ROUND FOLKS
AT MISSION CONTROL
IT'S FUN TO LEARN
WITH THE ZULA PATROL

WAY WAY OUT
WHERE THE PLANETS DO THE HULA
SPIN AND SHOUT
TILL YOU FIND YOURSELF ON ZULA

SEE YA' ROUND FOLKS

AT MISSION CONTROL
IT'S FUN TO LEARN
WITH THE ZULA PATROL

[Time: 60 seconds] As it ends, our camera DIVES into the TV screen and the frame widens to encompass the entire dome - which finds us...

EXT. SPACE

...PANNING OVER star-filled space as:

ANNOUNCER (VO)

(*importantly*) Space -- the endless Universe! Planets! Stars! Galaxies! Yes, I can see everything from out here..... Except you, Joey Miller, in the 3rd row. Will you please sit up straight? (*beat*) Good, now I can see you. Nice shirt.

*

CAMERA PANS TO and PUSHES IN on a barren, pock-marked asteroid.

ANNOUNCER (VO) (CONT'D)

Where was I...? Oh, right. Hmm, that's odd... there's something I haven't seen before. Over there, on that asteroid.....

SPIN TO:

EXT. ASTEROID

A GIGANTIC LOAD OF INDUSTRIAL TRASH (some of it GLOWING) is dumped all over the dome <CRASHING! CLANGING! CLATTERING!>, raising a MASSIVE CLOUD OF DUST.

AS THE DUST CLEARS, we can see that the trash has been dumped from the rear of a SPACE DUMP TRUCK into an already-overloaded crater (the truck hovers in space over the crater). A nervous CLOID stands on the ground next to the crater, directing the flow while dodging flying trash. He yells toward the truck cab:

CLOID

(*worried*) Madam Deliria, please! Dumping trash on an asteroid is highly illegal. And this crater won't take any more garbage.

DELIRIA sticks her head imperiously out of the truck cab and calls back to Cloid.

DELIRIA

Tish-tosh, Clويد, I have to dump it
somewhere. After all, my factories don't
just make useless junk. They also
produce tons of delightfully toxic
trash. What harm can dumping it do?

She stretttttches one arm back several feet to the truck bed and
flicks one last item, a BENT FORK, into the crater. Its tines
pierce the surface <SHOOP!> and stick in the ground, the fork
vibrating. <DOINNNG> It's the last straw. The pierced ground
develops a teeny crack, which starts to spread. Then more
cracks in the ground spider out from the first crack, widening
and becoming huge fissures! <CRACKING SFX> Clويد's eyes widen.

CLOID

(*tiny*) Uh oh.

PULL BACK TO SEE THE ENTIRE ASTEROID <CRUMBLE> AND FALL APART
into a zillion pieces! Clويد, standing on a tiny remaining
piece of asteroid, scrambles to grab hold of the hovering truck.

CLOID (CONT'D)

Yiiiiiii!!!!!!

DELIRIA

Now look what you've done! This is
quite unacceptable. You'll simply have
to find me some stronger asteroids.

Suddenly, Clويد's eyes flash red and green in alarm. The top of
his metal head pops up and down as he spots something far above.

7A) DELIRIA (CONT'D)

(*annoyed*) Oh Jabbering Jellyfish! Now
what?!

CLOID

Er, Madam, I hate to be the bearer of
ill tidings -- but it's time for our
traditional hasty retreat!

DELIRIA

You don't mean...?

CLOID

(*points up*) Yes! Here come the
Defenders of all that's Good and Right
and Just in the Known Universe and
parts of Ohio. It's... The Zula Patrol!

TILT UP TO STARRY SPACE - <HEROIC MUSIC> In a big entrance, the ZULA PATROL SHIP zooms from an infinitely small speck in space, right toward us to fill the entire dome screen! Through the canopy, we see ZEETER piloting, and MULTO, WIZZY, WIGG and GORGA at their stations. CAPTAIN BULA stands heroically, pointing.

BULA

Toxic trash traffickers at ten o'clock!
Zeeter?

ZEETER

I'm on it, Captain Bula!

Gorga puts a FLASHING RED POLICE LIGHT atop the ship. <SIREN!>

BULA (*THROUGH BULLHORN*)

This is The Zula Patrol! Stop in the name of good guys, Mom and apple pie!

DELIRIA

(*yells from her ship*) Try and catch me, ahahahaha!

Up ahead, we see Deliria <ROAR> off in the dump truck ship, as Clويد hangs onto the rear for dear life.

CLOID

Madammmmmmm!!!!!! Waiiiiiittt!!!

In the ZP ship, Zeeter hits a console button. The ship <BLASTS> forward after them. A wild chase ensues, with the ZP ship hot on the baddies' tail as they slalom through a flurry of asteroids (Clويد is whipped around, his metal body <CLANGING> into asteroids left and right), dip down into the <HOWLING WINDS> of Jupiter (Clويد gets twisted into a knot), and careen through the ice-filled rings of Saturn (Clويد sprouts dents and icicles, his teeth <CHATTERING>).

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WIZZY

Do your stuff, Gorga!

Gorga salutes, then the canopy POPS open and he hops valiantly onto the outer deck of the ship. There, he <SNORTS> out a giant HORSESHOE-MAGNET-TIPPED HARPOON on a rope, takes careful aim, then <FIRES> it toward Deliria's ship. The harpoon spirals through space, then finds its mark, <CLANKING> onto the dump truck. The rope goes taut and Deliria's ship is brought to a

*

sudden jerking HALT - causing Clويد to SMOOSH into the rear of the ship, his robot body <SQUASHING> into a flat metal disk.

16A) WIGG

Whoo-hoo! We got 'em!

While Clويد POPS dizzily back out into normal shape and struggles into the cab next to Deliria, the ZP ship pulls up next to the truck cab, where Deliria drums her fingers irritably.

DELIRIA

(*sourly*) Oh goody, it's the Ghoula Patrol. Imagine my delight.

BULA

Alright, Deliria, enough's enough.
We've warned you before about dumping
your trash in non-trash-dumping places.

From his snout, Gorga PRINTS OUT a citation <CLICKETY CLICKETY>, then hands it to Deliria.

ZEETER

(*steamed*) This is your 15th ticket this month! One more and you are *grounded*!
And no video games for a week!

**

BULA

Now start cleaning up this Solar System
- and I want to see every planet shine.

WIGG/WIZZY

(*unison*) Have a nice day!

The ZP Ship ZOOMS away, leaving the dump truck ship behind. Deliria immediately <RIPS> up the ticket.

CLOID

Madam, please, we must obey the law.
We've tried dumping our trash on every planet, comet and asteroid there is, but we always get caught. I fear the time for illegal dumping is past.

DELIRIA

(*considers*) Hmmm... "*time... past...*" Clويد!
You've given me a brilliant idea!

6-MONTH CALENDAR WIPE (6 monthly calendar pages appear one-at-a-time around the dome, covering the previous scene - then each disappear one-at-a-time, revealing the new scene) TO:

EXT. SPACE - SIX MONTHS LATER

The Zula Patrol ship zooms through space. PUSH IN to see everyone at their stations. In the middle, chef-hatted Gorga tosses a SALAD for the crew, juggling tomatoes, sliced carrots, lettuce, radishes, etc. like a circus juggler, while twirling an onion on his snout. One final high toss, and all the ingredients land in six small salad bowls, with the carrots and radishes forming a perfect Zula Patrol "Z" logo atop each salad. Gorga then sails five of the bowls to the other Zpers, who catch them.

WIZZY

Lunch! Thanks, Gorga. Nothing like a green salad made by a green chef.

Multo checks some figures on his computer as he munches a salad.

MULTO

Well, it says there have been no more reports of illegal dumping for the past six months. Deliria must have taken your warning to heart, Bula.

WIZZY

Or maybe it was Zeeter's "I can twist you into a pretzel" look.

26a) ZEETER

Got that right!

BULA

Either way, now we can concentrate on today's Science Mission: hunting for fossils.

Earth rises into view. As the ship heads toward it:

ZEETER

And here we are! Prepare for landing, everyone! Next stop - Planet Earth!

WIPE TO:

EXT. EARTH CANYON - LATER

The ship has landed at the base of a Grand Canyon-esque canyon, with layers of geologic strata visible on the eroded cliffsides (so no digging necessary). Multo, Bula and Zeeter are using HAMMERS, CHISELS and BRUSHES to carefully extract FOSSILS from the cliffside. <CLINKING, CHISELING> Nearby, Wigg and Gorga are placing small SANDWICHES on the ground. Wizzy flies over.

WIZZY

What are you doing?

WIGG

Hunting for fossils. I'm putting out
bait. Sure hope they like peanut butter. ***

WIZZY

Wigg, fossils don't eat sandwiches.

WIGG

Well, what do they eat? Fossil fuel?

WIZZY

They don't eat anything. Fossils aren't
living things. They're what's left
behind from plants and animals that
lived long, long ago. They've been
preserved in these rocks. I read a book
about it. ***

Multo stands, holding up a TRILOBITE FOSSIL he's just unearthed.

MULTO

And here's a perfect example! A fossil
of a trilobite, a kind of sea creature
that lived here millions of years ago,
when this area was part of a huge ocean
that covered most of Earth. **

WIGG

It was? I thought Earth always looked
the same as it does now.

Zeeter joins them, inspecting a fossil she's found.

ZEETER

No way! This planet's gone through more changes than a wet baby. Long before there was a canyon here, there was hot molten lava. And later on, it was covered with ice.

**

WIGG

Wow! And I thought the weather was weird at home!

Bula crosses to them, and points to the vari-colored strata of rock on the cliffside.

BULA

You see those layers of rock? Each one was formed at a different time in the past, when Earth was going through major changes - which it still is.

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As the ZPers examine Multo's trilobite fossil, a TUMBLEWEED blows in and bumps gently into Gorga. Gorga absently kicks it away. The tumbleweed rolls a few feet away and stops - then blows right back into Gorga. Gorga, irritated, kicks it away again, but the tumbleweed again <BUMPS> right back into him. Gorga, getting irked, <GROWLS> at the tumbleweed, which, oddly, <GROWLS> back. Gorga jumps, surprised, then knits his brow, determined. He SHOVES the tumbleweed away, but gets caught in its branches. He tries to wrestle his way out, but gets more and more tangled in it, and ends up rolling end-over-end past the ZPers...

GORGA

<HONNNNNNNNNNK!>

...and over a bush, flattening it, then <BONKING> into the section of cliff face that had been hidden behind the bush. <HONK!>

WIZZY

Gorga, this is no time for bowling.

Zeeter points to the newly exposed section of cliff. Visible is a huge pile of partly-fossilized GLOWING TRASH buried in the rock.

*

ZEETER

Hey! What's that?

41A) BULA

It's Gorga, wearing a tumbleweed.

She crosses over, curious, to examine it. Gorga finally shakes off the tumbleweed and <SNIFFS> at the trash, grimacing.

ZEETER

No, I mean this pile of trash! Here's a bottle cap! And a can with a big D on it!

ALL ZPERS

DELIRIA!

BULA

(*scowls*) She's at it again! Now she's dumping her trash here on Earth!

Multo inspects the rock layer. He looks bewildered.

MULTO

But... this makes no sense. This trash is buried in a layer of rock from Pre-Cambrian time. Which means the trash must be hundreds of millions of years old!

*

WIZZY

Wow, that's even older than Wigg's gum wad collection.

WIGG

(*proudly*) I've got one in the shape of Elvis.

BULA

But if the trash is from millions of years ago, then how can it be Deliria's? I'm pretty sure she's not that old.

ZEETER

Don't count on it.

GORGA (OS)

<HONK!>

They turn to see Gorga pointing at a metal plate buried in the rock, with indecipherable writing on it. Bula takes a close look.

BULA

It's a metal nameplate. (*reads*) "Deliria Brand Time Machine. Where Quality Goes In Before The Name Falls Off."

ZEETER

A Time Machine! That explains it!
She's been going back in time to get
rid of her trash! Into Earth's past!

WIGG

No wonder we haven't heard of any new
dumping. She's been doing old dumping!

Multo inspects the stratified trash with alarm.

MULTO

Oh my stars, we must stop her! There
are things in this trash made of Double
Delirium, which never disintegrates. If
she keeps going back to dump more of it
during Earth's early years, she'll
overwhelm the planet with trash! The
consequences could be catastrophic!

BULA

This is a job for The Zula Patrol!

WIZZY

But how do we stop a crime that was
committed millions of years ago?

Zeeter suddenly brightens.

ZEETER

No problem! I've got just the thing!

She takes a small BOX out of her utility belt, then presses a
button on the box. The box unfolds, then unfolds again, then
again and again - to become a full-sized, 6-person TIME MACHINE!ⁱ

BULA/MULTO/WIZZY/WIGG

A TIME MACHINE!!

ZEETER

It came with the belt. I had a choice of
a Time Machine or a cowboy buckle.

59a) MULTO

Well then, as we say in tick-tock time:
TIME TO BOARD!

59b) WIGG

Wow, this is cool!

59c) WIZZY

Ooooh - neat!!!

BULA

Now we can travel back in time and
catch Deliria in the act!

The ZPers all step inside and Zeeter pulls a lever inside. The gizmo <COUGHS AND SPUTTERS> and shakes to life. Then it starts to SPIN in place, faster and faster and faster, till it corkscrews up through the stratosphere!

INT. TIME MACHINE IN ORBIT OVER EARTH - CONTINUOUS

The Time Machine shoots into orbit and hovers over Earth like a satellite, a large picture window affording a full view of the planet. On the control panel is the AGE GAUGE, showing the various eras on a horizontal ruler-like scale representing the entire history of the Earth. A SLIDER on the gauge is currently set all the way to the right (representing present time).

MULTO

There's the Earth as it looks today.

ZEETER

I'm setting the time machine for 800
million years ago, PreCambrian time! Hang
on! We're going back in time!

Zeeter hits a button and the slider starts to move to the left. Through the window, with SWIRLING VISUAL FX, the Earth quickly regresses (we don't dwell on the changes now as we'll see them again later)ⁱⁱ as we WHOOSH back in time, then head down to:

EXT. EARTH CANYON - LATE PRECAMBRIAN TIME

The Time Machine spirals down from the atmosphere, landing with a <THUMP> next to a group of boulders. It's the same locale as before, but much flatter (because of fewer rock strata) and with no plant life at all.ⁱⁱⁱ The Age Gauge is at late PreCambrian time. The ZPers step cautiously out of the machine and look around.

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WIGG

Wow, weird-looking place! Where are we?

MULTO

Believe it or not, we're in the same canyon as before... but 800 million years earlier, so things don't look the same.

Zeeter shakes her watch.

ZEETER

Hm, better reset my watch. It's 800 million years fast.

WIZZY

Hey, look over there!

She flies over to a huge pile of Deliria's glowing trash. It's the same trash as before, but now lying on the *surface* of the rocky ground (since there are no rock strata around or above it).

BULA

It's Deliria's trash pile! But it hasn't become part of the rock yet. And I don't see any sign of Deliria.

ZEETER

Maybe she went back to the future to get another load. I say we wait here till she shows up, then catch her redhanded!

As they're talking, GORGA <SNIFFS> something in the air, then furrows his brow. We follow as he tracks the scent over rocks and around boulders, the trail dotted with occasional trash. Finally he stops, his eyes widening as he spots in the distance:

DELIRIA AND CLOID, on the far side of the boulders, are finishing a new load of dumping. Nearby is DELIRIA'S TIME MACHINE, hitched to a U-Haul trailer full of new trash. As Clويد shovels more trash from the trailer onto a new pile on the ground, Deliria lounges regally atop her Time Machine.

DELIRIA

Admit it, dumping trash on prehistoric Earth was my most brilliant scheme yet!

CLOID

But Madam, if we keep doing it, isn't there a chance we'll destroy the planet?

DELIRIA

(mock tragic) And no one will miss it
more than I. After all, Clويد.....

She leaps balletically off the Time Machine and begins to gaily dance and sing, while flinging bits of trash like confetti.

DELIRIA

(sings) Destroying the Earth, for what it's worth,^{iv}
Is not the result that I'd choose,
It's a cute little planet of iron and granite,
And a wonderful place to buy shoes.

But where else can I stash all this nasty old trash?
Besides, no one will know what I've done --
Before humans evolve, Earth may just dissolve,
And a girl's just gotta have fun!

She shape-shifts, twisting herself into a multi-armed MAYPOLE,
using trash as streamers. Clويد, unable to resist, grabs a
streamer and dances around the Deliria "maypole".

**

DELIRIA/CLOID

(sing) La-la la-la la la LAAAAAAAAA!

CLOID

(sings) The trash that you dump is not just a lump,
It may turn into something much finer,
Perhaps a rare fossil, a statue colossal,
Or a theme park in North Carolina!

DELIRIA

(sings) Exactly, my friend, so there's really no end
To the good that I'm doing mankind,
I'll save them the trouble and make lots of rubble,
So they won't feel they're falling behind!

**

DELIRIA/CLOID

(sing) La-la la-la la la LAAAAAAAAA!

**

They end the song with a flourish and a grand pose.

**

DELIRIA

(spoken) You see, Clويد, there's no
point in worrying about Earth. Some of
the people who live there don't even
take very good care of it.

**

As he speaks, Clويد picks up more trash to be tossed -- unknowingly lifting up Gorga, who <GROWLS> at him.

CLOID

That's true, but... YIPE!

He drops Gorga, who immediately SNORTS out an <AIR RAID SIREN>, summoning the ZPers. As the SIREN WAILS, Deliria covers her ears.

DELIRIA

It's that Gorgonzola creature! Clويد, make him stop!

At that moment, the ZPers come running from behind the boulders and spot the baddies.

ZEETER

Too late, Deliria! The jig is up!

CLOID

Madam, I believe the appropriate phrase is... RUN FOR IT!

The baddies jump into their Time Machine, which spins, then ZOOMS up and away (the trailer of trash still attached).

BULA

She's getting away! Quick! Back to our Time Machine!

FAST WIPE TO:

EXT. EARTH CANYON - LATE PRECAMBRIAN

The ZP Time Machine spins and LIFTS OFF with the ZPers on board.

INT. ZULA PATROL TIME MACHINE IN ORBIT OVER EARTH - CONTINUOUS *

It reaches orbit. We see the PreCambrian Earth hovering in space below us. They all look around, but there's no sign of Deliria.

MULTO

Oh Moldy Muffins, she got away again!

WIZZY

Maybe she went back to the future. She hasn't had lunch in almost a billion years.

BULA

I don't think so -- she still had more trash to dump. She's probably headed to some other prehistoric time to do it.

WIGG

But how are we going to find her if we don't even know what year to look in? She could be anywhere in time!

ZEETER

Well then, we might as well start back at the beginning! The beginning of Earth, that is.

MULTO

Good idea! We can work our way forward from there. But hurry! We must stop her before she makes Earth unlivable!

Zeeter hits a button and the Age Gauge begins to move to its very start: the formation of Earth. Through the window, with SWIRLING VISUAL FX, Earth regresses (quickly again) back through time to:

INT. TIME MACHINE IN ORBIT / EXT. PROTO-EARTH - CONTINUOUS

*

The planet's fiery origin, 4½ billion years ago. The ZPers hover in space as PLANETESIMALS (orbiting space rocks) WHIZ by them and <COLLIDE> with the nascent Earth (then a much smaller proto-planet), <EXPLODING>. Several planetesimals head right for us.

ZEETER

Whoa! Rush hour!

As Zeeter steers frantically to dodge the oncoming planetesimals:

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MULTO

(*excitedly*) Fascinating! We're watching the actual birth of the Earth! Four and a half billion years ago!

**

WIZZY

It looks more like a game of dodgeball!

BULA

It actually is a little like that. The Earth is being formed from lots of space rocks crashing into each other. Because the rocks were like tiny planets, we call them *planetesimals*.

Gorga zips a TENNIS SWEATBAND onto his forehead, then <SNORTS> out a giant TENNIS RACKET and uses it to lob one of the planetesimals back where it came from. The planetesimal <CAROMS> off of several other space rocks like a pinball game. <CLANG! CLANG! CLANG! CLANG!> A NEON SCOREBOARD inside the time Machine lights up with the score "4,500,000,000". <FANFARE>

WIGG

(to Gorga) Nice shot. I think you just won a goldfish.

WIZZY

Well, if that's baby Earth, I sure don't think Deliria's there.

ZEETER

There's no there there - at least not yet. Now let's move forward in time - to a hundred million years later.

*

She hits a button and the Age Gauge hops forward a hundred million years. With VISUAL FX, we see Earth grow in size and turn into:

INT. TIME MACHINE/EXT. EARTH (DIFFERENT PERIODS) - CONTINUOUS

*

...FIREBALL EARTH. The ZPers hover over a fiery red, boiling, molten, volcanic Earth, now larger, but still being pelted with planetesimals, asteroids and comets. The still-molten Moon appears from behind Earth (closer to Earth than it is now).

WIZZY

Wow! Earth looks like a burning beach ball! And so does its Moon!

MULTO

"Burning" is right! Earth's surface is an ocean of molten rock with temperatures over 8000 degrees Fahrenheit!

Everyone is sweating. Gorga whips off his sweatband and WRINGS it out, producing buckets of sweat.

BULA

(wiping his brow) I don't think there's
much chance of Deliria being here,
either. She doesn't approve of sweat.

WIGG

Then let's get moving. I feel like a
hot dog roasting on a stick!

Zeeter pushes a button. Through the window, we see Earth again
move forward in time. As the Age Gauge advances, comets <CRASH>
into Earth, then clouds begin to form around the planet, as:

ZEETER

In the next few hundred million years,
Earth starts to cool off. Water vapor
from comets and volcanoes turns into
clouds. And you know what clouds bring.

Gorga <SNORTS> out an umbrella and <POPS> it open.

WIZZY/WIGG/GORGA

RAIN!/<HONK!>

MULTO

Absotootly! Millions and millions of
years of rain!

*

WIZZY

I hope everyone down there can swim.

BULA

Well, that's not really a problem,
because there aren't any people yet. In
fact, no life at all.

The rain forms an OCEAN covering 90% of Earth's surface (dotted
with volcanic islands). As the rain subsides, the Age Gauge reads
4 billion years ago. On a 2nd monitor screen, we see ground-
level shots of the GREEN SEA and RED SKY.

*

ZEETER

But lots of water. All that rain formed
oceans, covering most of the Earth.

MULTO

The oceans are so rich in iron, it makes
them green. And there's so much carbon
dioxide in the air, the sky looks red.

BULA

Then half a billion years later, living things start to appear in the water.

WIGG

Like whales and giant squid?

MULTO

(*chuckles*) Not quite. The first life was simple bacteria, but they produced oxygen. And that changed the colors that we see in the sky and water.

*

As the Age Gauge advances to 2.7 billion years ago, Earth's color changes. Then continents start to emerge from the water as:

BULA

Over the next few billion years, volcanic eruptions from under the ocean spewed out lava, which cooled into rock. And that started to form bigger and bigger pieces of land called *continents*.

ZEETER

That's when life really took off! Half a billion years ago in the Cambrian Period. Let's take a closer look!

The Age Gauge reads a half billion years ago, as Zeeter dips the Time Machine down toward the planet's surface.

INT. TIME MACHINE / EXT. CAMBRIAN EARTH - CONTINUOUS

The ZPers skim just above rocky land, then head out over the sea.

WIZZY

I don't see any living anything.

BULA

There isn't any life on land yet - but there's lots of it underwater.

WIGG

Hey, what's that?

They see an object floating on the water. Zeeter steers toward it.

ZEETER

It's a Deliria-brand Floon! A combination fork, spoon and ukelele.

BULA

It must've dropped from her trash. Then
Deliria's here! Deploy submarine mode!

ZEETER

Prepare to dive!

Zeeter hits a button, and the Time Machine transforms into a
SUBMARINE, which <SPLASHES> DOWN into the water.

INT. TIME MACHINE "SUB"/EXT. UNDER CAMBRIAN SEA - CONTINUOUS

As they descend to the bottom, Multo points out some early forms
of life on the sea floor (see drawing, last page).

MULTO

Look, there's an *Opabinia*, with its
long snout - and a *Burgessochaeta*, a
kind of bristle worm. And there's an.....

WIGG

Anomalocaris with a *Waptia* in its claws.

They all stop, startled, and stare at Wigg. He notices.

WIGG (CONT'D)

(*defensive*) What? I read.

EXT. A DEEPER PART OF THE CAMBRIAN SEA FLOOR - SAME TIME

*

Meanwhile, Deliria (in comical scuba gear) and Clويد float near
their own Time Machine, ready to dump their trailer-load of
trash into an open, steaming VOLCANIC VENT on the sea floor.
All around them, other vents STEAM and BOIL, some oozing molten
lava, making "pillow" basalts (see Kevin Grazier for videos).

CLOID

Madam, are you certain this is a good
place to dump our trash? I think this
volcanic vent is about to blow.

DELIRIA

Oh piffle. That's your trouble, Clويد
- you always see the volcano as half
full. Now stop stalling and DUMP.

Clويد sighs, but does as he's told, emptying some of the trash
into the volcanic vent. The trash stops up the vent like a
cork, causing the vent to build up pressure. It starts to
FESTER and BULGE, like it's about to burst. Clويد gulps.

CLOID
(worried) That's bad.

Cloid looks up to see the ZP Sub in the distance, coming this way.

CLOID (CONT'D)
(gulp) That's worse. Er, Madam, look
 who's coming to dinner.....

Deliria looks, sees the ZPers and REACTS.

INT. ZP TIME MACHINE "SUB" - CONTINUOUS

The Zula Patrol Sub scoots through the water over the sea floor, looking around for the baddies. After a few seconds:

WIZZY
 There's no sign of Deliria.

The sub passes Deliria sitting on Clويد's head, the two of them frozen in a silly totem-pole pose. Gorga double-takes, then...

GORGA
(pointing) <HONKS URGENTLY>

WIGG
 What is it, Gorga? I don't see anything. Just that old totem pole.

BULA
(realizing) Hey, wait a minute... this is the Cambrian Period. There aren't any totem poles!

Busted, the "totem pole" starts to hop-hop-hop away (Deliria still on Clويد's head), then breaks into a sprint. The ZPers see.

ZEETER
 It's Deliria and Clويد! *(scowls)* This time we've got 'em!

Zeeter steers the sub into an abrupt U-turn. As the villains dive into their Time Machine, the ZPers bear down. But just then, the overstuffed volcanic vent <EXPLODES>, shooting tons of MOLTEN LAVA, partly melted trash and discarded Floons into the water.

*

ZPERS
 Yiii!! *<panicked yells continue under...>*

Zeeter swerves to avoid it, but the eruption triggers other volcanic vents in the area, which <EXPLODE> one by one.

MULTO

Good galaxies! That volcanic vent erupted! And now the other vents are erupting!

*

The ZPers navigate through columns of <ERUPTING> lava, huge <STEAM EXPLOSIONS> and <BOILING> sea water, around and under jagged rock formations, as they pursue Deliria and Cloid. But just as they start to close in, a gigantic undersea fissure <CRACKS> open right in front of our heroes, sending up a WALL OF MOLTEN RED LAVA between them and the fleeing villains!

ZPERS

Whoaaaaa!/<HONK!>

Zeeter makes an emergency up-turn and races to the surface, just ahead of a rising column of molten lava nipping at their heels.

INT. TIME MACHINE / EXT. CAMBRIAN EARTH - CONTINUOUS

The ZP Time Machine BURSTS out of the water and into the air, as the sea boils right below. In the distance, Deliria's Time Machine also bursts out of the sea, spins in place and shoots into space.

WIGG

There goes Deliria!

Zeeter hits a button. The ZP Machine spins and shoots upward.

INT. TIME MACHINE IN ORBIT OVER EARTH - CONTINUOUS

The ZP Machine reaches orbit, but there's no sign of Deliria.

ZEETER

Oh rat-a-tat-tooties! We lost her again!

WIZZY

What year do we look in now, Bula?

BULA

(sighs) Might as well keep moving forward. Zeeter?

Zeeter hits a button, and the Age Gauge starts sliding gradually forward, from 500 to 250 million years ago. As it does, Europe, Africa and the Americas drift together. [On the 2nd monitor, we can show close shots of the early animals described below.]

WIGG

Hey, the continents are moving!

MULTO

That's right - they drift together for the next 250 million years - what we call the *Paleozoic Era*. The Cambrian Period was just the first part of it.

ZEETER

The Paleozoic Era is when animals start to appear on land: scorpions, insects, and the first four-legged critters.

BULA

By the end of the Paleozoic Era, 250 million years ago, the continents collide with each other - making one huge super-continent that scientists call *Pangaea*.

At 250 million years ago on the Age Gauge, the continents collide.

WIZZY

At least everyone has the same zip code.

MULTO

We're now in the *Mesozoic Era*, also known as...

**

WIGG

The *Age Of Dinosaurs!* I've read lots about them! Most were ferocious creatures with huge teeth!

ZEETER

Then Deliria would fit right in! Let's take a look - a 150 million years ago!

As the Age Gauge moves to the late Mesozoic Era (ca. 100 million years ago), Zeeter dips the Machine down toward...

EXT. MESOZOIC FOREST - CONTINUOUS

The Mesozoic Forest. The ZP Time Machine skims over the treetops, looking for any sign of Deliria.

TILT DOWN TO... DELIRIA, who is right below them, currently having shape-shifted into a giant RUBBER BAND stretched between two big

trees like a huge slingshot. Clويد is straining to pull her back, aiming the slingshot's payload (a load of TOMATOES) straight up at the ZP Time Machine passing overhead.

DELIRIA

Fire one!

145b) CLOID

Yes, madam!

Clويد releases her. <SPROINGGG!> The tomatoes are flung upwards.

INT./EXT. TIME MACHINE - CONTINUOUS

The Time Machine is suddenly pelted with tomatoes <SPLOP! SPLORCH!>, covering everything with a huge gooey mess.

WIGG

We're under attack!

BULA

It's tomatoes from Deliria's trash!
Deploy the Marinara Deflector!

Zeeter pushes a button, but nothing happens.

ZEETER

The gears are jammed with catsup! It's
too late! We're going down!

The Time Machine <SPUTTERS> and <COUGHS>, then goes into a dive.

EXT. MESOZOIC FOREST - CONTINUOUS

The Time Machine bounces crazily between the treetops, before finally tumbling to the ground with a <THUD>. As the ZPers crawl out, the Machine smokes, springs <POP> out all over. It's busted.

MULTO

Oooh, tough tomatoes!

149b) ZEEPER

Aww, the Vacillating Oscillator is broken!

A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY - Rubber-band Deliria MORPHS back to her normal form. She does a triumphant little jig as:

DELIRIA

(cackle) We've got them now, Clويد! All that's left is for us to dump the rest of the trash, then head back home! The Zula Patrollers will be stranded here in the past forever! Because now we've got the only Time Machine that works!

She points to her machine..... just as a MASSIVE DINOSAUR FOOT comes <CRASHING> down on it, squashing it to dust. *

CLOID

Um... Would there be a Plan B, Madam?

PULL BACK to reveal an enormous GIGANOTOSAURUS^v dinosaur (see picture at end) looming over them, glaring down hungrily at Deliria and Clويد. Deliria looks slowly up at it.

DELIRIA

(gulp)

BACK TO THE ZPERS - gazing mournfully at the crumpled remains of their Time Machine. Gorga sits down on a gizmo, which <TOOTS>.

WIZZY

Well, the horn still works.

WIGG

How are ever going to make it home?

DELIRIA/CLOID (OS)

Hellllllllp!!!!

They turn to see Deliria and Clويد hot-footing it across the landscape toward the ZPers, pursued by the dinosaur.

ZEETER

Hey, Deliria and Clويد have a new pet.

Gorga, thinking quickly, <SNORTS> out a huge detour sign (no words, just a big arrow pointing left, with pictures of Deliria and Clويد) and plants it in front of some BUSHY FERNS. Then Bula and Zeeter grab Deliria & Clويد by the hand and everyone dives behind the ferns. Moments later, the dinosaur <THUNDERS> up, sees the sign, turns, and runs off in the direction of the arrow. A beat, then the ZPers, Deliria and Clويد peek their heads out. **

DELIRIA

Whew! (*turns to Bula*) Now, I demand you get us all out of here at once!

BULA

(*pointedly*) That might be a little tough since you sabotaged our Time Machine.

Zeeter is inspecting the disabled Time Machine.

WIZZY

How does it look, Zeeter?

ZEETER

Hard to say. I might be able to get it running again, except the Whenever Lever is totally busted. If only I could get my hands on some kind of titanium rod.....

MULTO

I'm afraid those are rather scarce in the Mesozoic Era.

DELIRIA

Cloid has titanium parts! In his tool chest!

All eyes turn to Clويد, who starts to nervously back away.

CLOID

M-Madam, I protest strenuously! May I remind you that some of my parts are irreplaceable!

WIGG

Well, we'd better do something - and quick! Look!

He points. They all turn to see that the dino has returned, and is a short distance away, sniffing for any scent of his quarry.

FLIP TO:

EXT. MESOZOIC FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

Cloid ~~now has one long arm and one short one,~~ as he watches his ~~forearm~~ a torque wrench from his tool chest being installed by Zeeter as a temporary replacement lever in the side of the dented Time Machine. The other ZPers and Deliria stand around the machine, waiting anxiously.

ZEETER

Perfect fit! Thanks, Clويد, for lending a hand - well, actually a torque wrench.

DELIRIA

(impatiently) Yes, yes, you can all send him a big smiley-face bouquet. Now can we get going? I'm too young to be dinosaur kibble.

**

She points to the dinosaur, still sniffing, but now a lot closer.

MULTO

Excellent idea! I suggest we skedaddle!

The ZPers, Deliria and Clويد crowd comically into the Time Machine, and Zeeter fires it up with a <SPUTTER, WHEEZE, BANG>! But the noise alerts the dinosaur, which narrows its eyes, then <ROARS> toward them, as Zeeter tries to get the Machine to start.

ZEETER

(to machine) Come on... Come on...

Things are looking bad, but at the last possible moment, just as the dinosaur gets there and lunges, the Time Machine <CLATTERS> to life, spins and zooms straight up! The dino SNAPS at thin air.

INT. TIME MACHINE IN ORBIT OVER EARTH - CONTINUOUS

168b) WIZZY

Whew, that was close!... Hey look, the big supercontinent Pangaea is breaking into pieces!

168c) BULA

That's right, Wizzy! Those pieces will drift apart and eventually become the continents we know today!

As the Age Gauge moves forward to the end of the Mesozoic Era (65 million years ago), we see Pangaea break up and the continents drift apart... ending with an EXPLOSION near the Yucatan Peninsula.

WIGG

Whoa! What was that?!

MULTO

The end of the Mesozoic Era, 65 million years ago, - and the end of the dinosaurs, I'm afraid. They were wiped out, when an asteroid hit the Earth and caused drastic changes in the climate.

**

Deliria notices Zeeter and Bula glaring at her.

DELIRIA

Don't look at me. I had nothing to do with it.

ZEETER

(*growls*) Well, that's about the only disaster you're not responsible for.

WIZZY

Aww, no more dinosaurs. But I read that today's birds are the surviving descendants of the dinosaurs.

*

The Age Gauge advances through the Cenozoic Era. On Earth, the continents form into the ones we know - punctuated by a few Ice Ages, the polar caps repeatedly enlarging then retracting, as:

MULTO

We're almost home! We're now in the Cenozoic Era - that's the era that Earth is still in today!

BULA

But at this early point in the Cenozoic, the continents were still forming into the ones we know, even during several Ice Ages, when they're frozen over.

DELIRIA

Again, not my fault.

ZEETER

By this time, there were more familiar animals, like dogs and pigs and horses.

**

The Age Gauge reaches its very end and stops. <DING DING DING>
Outside the window, Earth now looks as it does today.

MULTO

And that brings us to the Holocene
Epoch of the Quaternary Period of the
Cenozoic Era - also known as Today!

ZEETER

Ready to come in for a landing!

Zeeter dips the Time Machine down and heads toward Earth. Bula
turns to Deliria and Cloid.

179b) WIZZY/WIGG

Yaay/Yeah!!!

BULA

Good - because you two have got a
billion years worth of cleaning-up to
do. And this time Gorga's going to
make sure you do it!

Gorga gives Deliria and Cloid a big smile. *

WIPE TO:

EXT. EARTH CANYON - THE PRESENT - LATER THAT DAY

At the original canyon site of Deliria's fossilized trash dump, *
Cloid (his forearm now restored) is <VACUUMING> up the mess with
one vacuum-attachment hand and dusting with the other. Watching
from atop a boulder, Gorga (in a referee cap) runs his paw over
the top of a rock.

GORGA

<"AHEM" NOISE>

Cloid quickly races over and dusts off the rock. Gorga smiles,
satisfied. Clويد then takes all his collected trash (in a trash
bag) over to a large DUMPSTER - which has Deliria's sour face.

CLOID

Open wide, Madam.

The dumpster lid opens up, and Clويد empties the trash into it.

CLOID (CONT'D)

Never fear, Ms. Deliria. Trash pickup day is Tuesday.

DELIRIA (AS A DUMPSTER)

(*grumpily*) Oh, be quiet.

Suddenly, the ZP ship WHOOSHES down from the sky and draws Gorga up into the ship with a Tractor Beam. As it takes off toward us, PULL BACK along with the ship until Earth is far in the distance. The ZPers wave, then ZOOM away, vanishing into STARRY SPACE, as:

ANNOUNCER (VO)

(*big*) So once again, The Zula Patrol bamboozles the baddies, protecting Earth from toxic trash – and talking dumpsters. You know, I once had a wastebasket that sang opera. Maybe I'll tell you about it – on the next exciting adventure of... The Zula Patrol!

*

FADE OUT

THE END

ⁱ FOOTNOTES

Deb will discuss look of Time Machine with artists.

ⁱⁱ There's a terrific example of this fast-reverse Earth, along with many, many other visuals that might be useful as references, in the History Channel special "How The Earth Was Made" (available on DVD at <http://store.aetv.com/html/product/index.jhtml?id=104240>)

ⁱⁱⁱ NOTE TO ARTISTS: We'll need to check with a geologist to find out what the continents looked like back then.

^{iv} "A Cute Little Planet" Lyrics by Cydne Clark & Steve Granat, ASCAP

^v This can alternatively be a T.Rex or a Spinosaurus (but the Giganotosaurus was bigger).



The Earliest Animals

The earliest known animals on Earth were a bizarre collection of life forms that emerged just prior to and during the Cambrian Period, some of which were exquisitely preserved in fossil beds in various parts of the world. Some of the more extraordinary creatures (depicted in this artist's conception) were the formidable predator *Anomalocaris* (foreground upper right) about to make a meal of *Waptia*, which it holds in its extended claws. Just below *Anomalocaris* and slightly to its left is *Opabinia* using its long, trunklike snout to grasp *Burgessochaeta*, a bristle worm. The fernlike objects (left and center) are actually animals, as are the primitive sponges (center foreground) that resemble a saguaro cactus. The depictions of these fernlike animals are based on a group of fossils known as the Ediacaran fossils and date from about 550 million years ago.



Gigantotyrannus

The *Gigantotyrannus*, thought to be one of the largest meat-eating dinosaurs that ever lived, lumbered around South America on two legs about 97 million to 65 million years before present. Weighing between 6 and 8 tons, *Gigantotyrannus* was larger and more heavily built than *Tyrannosaurus rex*. *Gigantotyrannus* fossils were first found in 1995.

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