Mammals: A Very Short Introduction
T. S. Kemp

Mammals: A Very Short Introduction explores the nature, evolutionary history, and modern diversity of mammals. From a little shrew-like, nocturnal, insect-eating ancestor living 200 million years ago (mya), mammals have evolved into a huge variety of different kinds of animals. This VSI explains how it is endothermy—‘warm-bloodedness’—enabling high levels of activity and the relatively large brain associated with complex, adaptable behaviour that epitomizes mammals. It describes their remarkable fossil record, revealing how and when the mammals gained their characteristics, and the tortuous course of their evolution. It reveals the adaptations mammals evolved to suit their varied modes of life, including those of mainly arboreal primates culminating in Homo sapiens.

Reptiles: A Very Short Introduction
T. S. Kemp

Reptiles: A Very Short Introduction introduces the extraordinary diversity of reptiles that have walked the Earth, from the dinosaurs and other reptiles of the past to modern-day living species. It discusses the adaptations reptiles made to first leave the water and colonize dry land, which fitted them for their unique ways of life. Considering the variety of different living groups of reptiles today, from lizards and snakes to crocodiles and turtles, it explores their biology and behaviour. Finally, this VSI assesses the threat of extinction to modern-day reptile species due to over-exploitation, habitat destruction, and climate change, and considers what can be done.