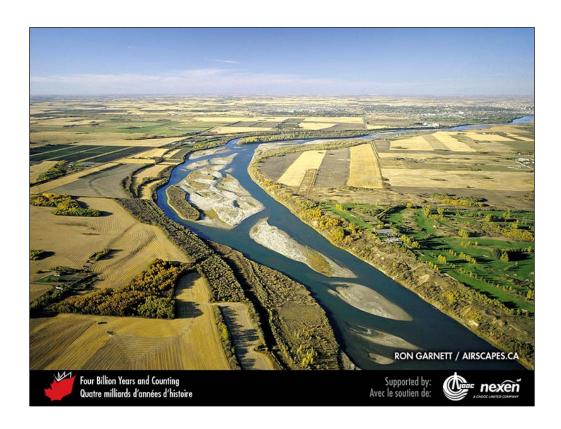
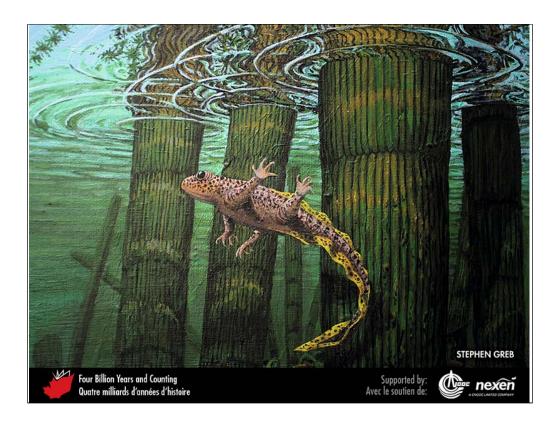
INTRODUCTION

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The vastness of Canada is nowhere better appreciated than in the Prairie Provinces. This aerial view is of the South Saskatchewan River near Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. RON GARNETT / AIRSCAPES.CA.

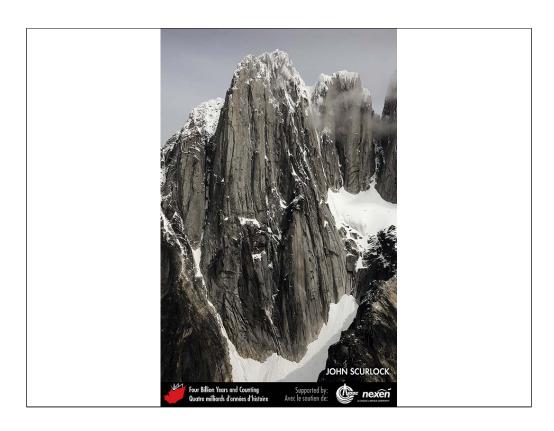
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An early amphibian navigates its way around submerged stems of the horsetail *Calamites* in this scene based on fossil finds from rocks about 310 million years old in the Maritime Provinces. STEPHEN GREB.

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The collision of tectonic plates causes the Earth's crust to be uplifted on a regional scale. As the surface rises it is sculpted by erosion into mountains and valleys, as at North Howser Tower in the Kootenays of southeastern British Columbia. JOHN SCURLOCK.

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