Big History is the history of everything, from the origin of the universe to the present, studied along various time scales. In contrast to traditional world histories, equal emphasis is placed on each epoch: the origin of the universe, the origin of the solar system, the earth, life, human evolution, hunting and gathering, the settled life, towns and cities, civilization, globalization, industrialization, and the recent past.

The role played by our species, Homo sapiens, is examined, including our ability to use technology—here the cave paintings at Lascaux--to transcend our biology and individual lives to affect the world we live in.

We have had an ambivalent effect, however, illustrated here by a photo taken after the attack on Hiroshima.

Big History is all about perspectives, how ours are limited, and how changing them can lead to new understanding and insight.

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