



Prize Winner

Science Writing Year R-2

Benjamin Ghabriel

Burnside Primary School



FOSSIL FRIENDS

Hi Fossil Friends. Welcome to another episode with your host Benji.

Today we have a special interview with SPRIGGINAAAAA!

Please welcome this special fossil. Spriggina was named after Dr. Reg Sprigg who found this fossil in South Australia's Flinders Ranges in the year 1946.



Spriggina: Thanks for having me on the show Benji.

Benji: So, Spriggina for those that don't know, tell us where you were found and why you are so special?



Spriggina: I come from what was a shallow, sandy marine environment. Reg Sprigg found me on what used to be a sea floor. I am the oldest complex life form on Earth, the oldest multicellular organism.

Source:
<https://dinopedia.fandom.com/wiki/Spriggina?file=Spriggina-1.jpg>

Benji: That's amazing. How old are you?

Spriggina: I come from the Ediacaran Period, 550 million years old.

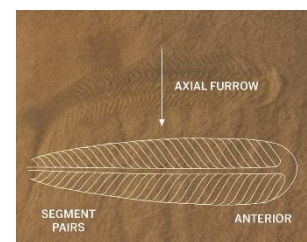
Benji: WHAT! That's 40 million years before the Cambrian explosionnnnnnnnnnn!

Spriggina: Yes, I helped scientists understand the very early stages of life on earth.

Benji: How did you do that?

Spriggina: I am about 3-5 cm long and I have a symmetrical segmented body with a 'head' and 'tail' end. So, I'm the earliest example of how these traits came to exist in more complex life forms.

Benji: Wow! Spriggina, thanks for letting us learn all about you.



Source:
<https://depositsmag.com/2026/03/11/the-weird-and-wonderful-of-the-ediacaran-period-part-9-spriggina-a-segmented-pioneer-of-the-ediacaran-world>

Reference list

1. <https://www.paleozoo.com.au/spriggina.php>
2. <https://ediacarafoundation.org/lifes-beginning/#paleontological>
3. <https://www.gbif.org/species/165833877>
4. <https://sites.flinders.edu.au/vamp/969-2/>
5. www.governor.sa.gov.au/government-house/exhibits-at-government-house/prehistoric-wonders-a-deep-dive-into-fossils-from-south-australias-past
6. <https://ediacarafoundation.org/ediacaran-fossils/>
7. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-02-15/reg-sprigg-recognised-honoured-with-sa-fossil-emblem-spriggina/8271586>
8. <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/the-history-listen/the-curious-geologist/13477534>

Acknowledgment

I researched and put together the information for this interview. My mum assisted me with typing and formatting as I had a broken arm.

Word count: 199