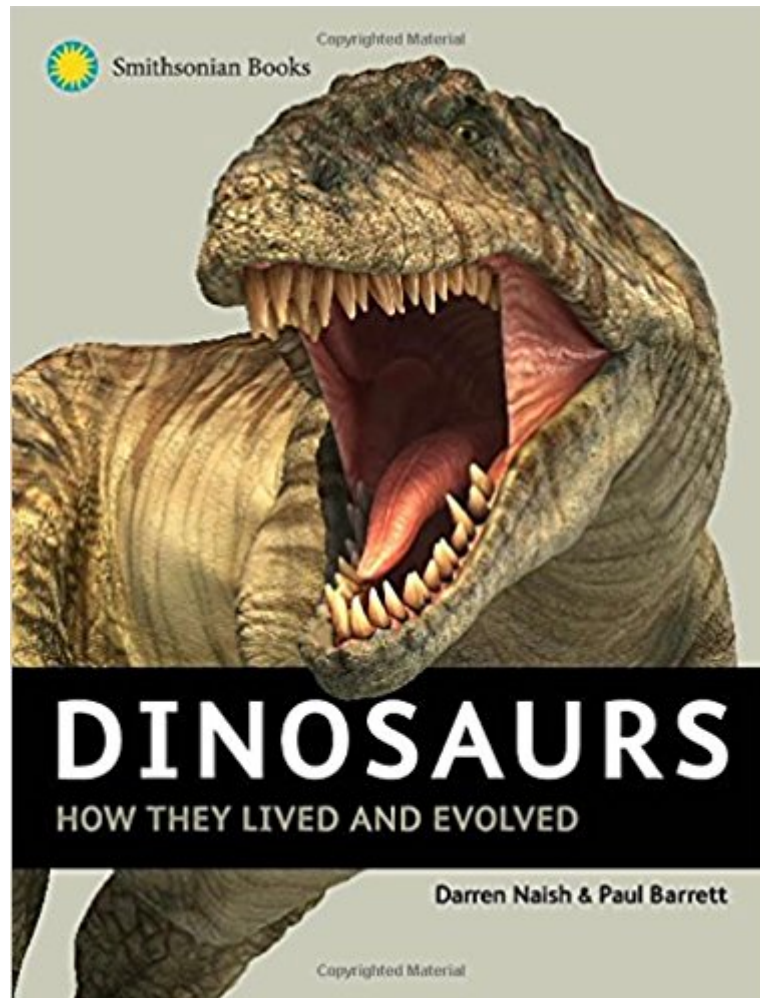




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Dinosaurs: How They Lived And Evolved



Synopsis

Dinosaurs are one of the most spectacular groups of animals that have ever existed. Many were fantastic, bizarre creatures that still capture our imagination: the super-predator Tyrannosaurus, the plate-backed Stegosaurus, and the long-necked, long-tailed Diplodocus. *Dinosaurs: The Ultimate Guide to How They Lived* taps into our enduring interest in dinosaurs, shedding new light on different dinosaur groups. Leading paleontology experts Darren Naish and Paul Barrett trace the evolution, anatomy, biology, ecology, behavior, and lifestyle of a variety of dinosaurs. They also remind us that dinosaurs are far from extinct: they present evidence supporting the evolution of dinosaurs to birds that exist today as approximately ten thousand different species. Throughout their narrative Naish and Barrett reveal state-of-the-art new findings shaping our understanding of dinosaurs. Readers will discover, for example, how the use of CT-scanning enables scientists to look inside dinosaur skulls, thus gaining new insight into their brains and sense organs. *Dinosaurs* is a must-have for all those wanting to keep up to date about these dynamic, complicated creatures.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

QUARTERLY REVIEW OF BIOLOGY Finally, a modern, intelligent, trade book on dinosaurs for thoughtful readers. *Dinosaurs: How They Lived and Evolved* is written by two authoritative specialists, and is beautifully produced with full-color illustrations. It is not a volume to sit down and read cover to cover; it is a little dense for that. Take it in small bits. The book is a startling testament to how far dinosaur paleontology has come. **BBC WILDLIFE MAGAZINE** There are countless books

on dinosaurs, yet this one sets itself aside. Covering everything from digital reconstructions of stegosaur locomotion to overhauling our understanding of the K-Pg asteroid-based extinction 66 (yes, not 65) million years ago, this clear and accessible book will appeal to anyone with an interest in evolutionary ecology. With the authors being titanosaurs of the palaeontological community and brilliant communicators, this book is a must-have.

LIBRARY JOURNAL Those who think dinosaurs are nature's failed experiment with slow-witted, shambling, overgrown lizards will quickly find their minds changed by Naish (Tetrapod Zoology blog, Scientific American) and Barrett (merit researcher, the Natural History Museum, London). In plain language, albeit hindered by passive voice, the authors resurrect fleet-footed, sometimes feathered and festooned, possibly warm-blooded creatures, some of which were direct ancestors of modern birds. Naish and Barrett detail dinosaur anatomy; phylogeny and cladistics; the adaptations that made these Mesozoic giants successful for eons; and maniraptoran theropod dinosaurs' relation to birds. They carefully describe functional morphology, paleoecology, and other methods by which paleontologists reconstruct the past. Images and captions work seamlessly with and enhance the text. However, the authors provide no references to other scientists' efforts. They also fail to translate fully most Latin names. This resource complements several slightly older titles, such as M.K. Brett-Surman and Thomas R. Holtz Jr.'s *The Complete Dinosaur* and John Pickrell's *Flying Dinosaurs: How Fearsome Reptiles Became Birds*, while Stephen L. Brusatte's *Dinosaur Paleobiology* offers a more technical treatment.

VERDICT For those who enjoy science but haven't thought about dinosaurs in a while, this volume brings these creatures to mind in a whole new way.

•Eileen H. Kramer, Georgia Perimeter Coll. Lib., Clarkston

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY More than 1,000 dinosaur species have been named, so describing for laypersons the attributes of this large and complex group of animals is a daunting task, but paleontologists Naish and Barrett largely succeed in this extensively illustrated volume. They provide ample background material demonstrating some of the techniques scientists use to gain a deeper understanding of the evolutionary relationships, anatomy, physiology, behavior, and community ecology of extinct animals. The authors regularly explain how the views of scientists have changed in the face of a constantly growing set of fossils and new methods of analysis. For example, they assert that what had previously been described as a miniature version of *Tyrannosaurus rex*, a dwarf dinosaur called *Nanotyrannus*, is actually a juvenile *T. rex*. Similarly, they reassess the origin of flight in birds as well as the shape of the fleshy parts of many dinosaur faces, concluding that the "standard" interpretations might not be correct. The book's least successful aspect is the overly detailed and technical chapter on dinosaur

cladistics, in which the authors attempt to build a full family tree of all of the subgroups of dinosaurs. Otherwise, Naish and Barrett provide an interesting perspective on the current state of dinosaur knowledge. (Oct.)CHOICE Does the world really need yet another book about dinosaurs? Well, in this case, the answer is yes. This work is well organized, is exceedingly well written, and covers a huge swath of territory, not just about the evolution of dinosaurs and their anatomy (chapters two and three) but also about how paleontologists have used scientific methods to learn about the biology and ecology of dinosaurs. One theme of the book is getting on board with the fact that birds of today are, in fact, dinosaurs. Thus, the end-Cretaceous extinction is really an extinction of the "non-bird" dinosaurs. As a result, there is an entire chapter on the origin of birds and their evolutionary relations to other dinosaurs. A second theme tracks how recent discoveries have truly transformed the science of dinosaur study; therefore, readers are introduced to the history and modernization of dinosaur studies. The book is beautifully illustrated in color and positively peppered with phylogenies; diagrams show evolutionary patterns and relationships. A final chapter on the terminal Cretaceous extinction event is followed by a mercifully short glossary. There are countless books on dinosaurs, yet this one sets itself aside. Covering everything from digital reconstructions of stegosaur locomotion to overhauling our understanding of the K-Pg asteroid-based extinction 66 (yes, not 65) million years ago, this clear and accessible book will appeal to anyone with an interest in evolutionary ecology. With the authors being titans of the palaeontological community and brilliant communicators, this book is a must-have.

DARREN NAISH is a lecturer, academic researcher, and technical consultant based at the University of Southampton. PAUL BARRETT is head of the Vertebrates and Anthropology Palaeobiology division of the Earth Science department of the Natural History Museum, London. He is the author of many books including National Geographic Dinosaurs.

This is a great book. It has many up-to-date facts about dinosaurs presented in a very readable way. It doesn't gloss over the science but covers it in a completely understandable and well-organized way. There are many excellent illustrations as well. I have one other book that is over 1100 pages, yet this much shorter book is far more useful.

Enjoyable, technical, readable, professionally laid out. Possibly my best Dinosaur book. Exceptional in every way. A must for any Dinosaur enthusiast. This is the book you wish the Natural History Museum had in stock, when you visited.

Because this book is up to date and even covers the new spinosaurus, yi qi and even covers Dinosaurs (birds) of the Tertiary and Quaternary later in the book, Worth getting for your Natural History library.

This book has been such a pleasant read and reference for some of the most up to date info on dinosaur physiology and behaviour with plenty of beautiful illustrations within, recommended to any fan of the topic.

Very nice coverage of dinosaurs for the layman who already knows a bit about them.

I bought this to supplement a MOOC I've been taking from Coursera. It is well worthwhile for the purpose and interesting on it's own. IF you're into Dinosaurs you can't go wrong with this, up to date on latest discoveries and totally readable.

I've loved dinosaur books since I was a kid. This is a great one for most people. The text is about high-school reading level, so it's a grown up book, but not so technical as to put off a reader without a science degree. There are pictures and illustrations on every page. There are also some gorgeous dinosaur paintings interspersed throughout that are really imagination stirring. Though the text is written for grownups I think a 9 or 10-year old could get some things out of it, so this would be a good book for a young dinosaur lover who is getting a little old for children's books. One of the better dinosaur books I've come across. Recommended for just about anyone.

This is just a neat book. It's very well-organized, uses good reasoning for its main points, is presented by two enthusiastic authors, and has enough illustrations to re-awaken all the childhood dreams of running with the dinosaurs in the imaginative dioramas of New York's museums. Like many friends, I admit being a dinosaur freak when very young, until all the other demands of life stepped in to make this interest become extinct. This is my first real re-venture into that realm, and I'd suggest this book to old dinosaur aficionados as well as new ones. The authors showed me how much dinosaurs have "learned" over the past fifty years -- their 200 million-year lineage carries on in modern birds, they showed plenty of resilience in adapting to new environments, their anatomy was perhaps as well-adapted as many modern animals, they showed many signs of intelligent behavior,

and they had an amazingly diverse family tree (now called "cladograms"). This is an easy book to investigate but despite the wealth of illustrations, is more technical than entertainment -- the kind of book fathers would read to impress their kids, but not read to their kids. Even though the writing style can be a bit dry at times, the topic is interesting enough to keep the book from becoming boring. The authors give us plenty of information about methodology of dinosaur research, and how creative it can be. You'll find an occasional misstep here and there, our edition had no Bibliography, you'll probably find it left out something or another, and some illustrations may be overdone, but the book seems well-edited and thoughtful. Even though "Dinosaurs" should appeal to people at any stage of life, reading it is a better alternative for a mid-life crisis than a sports car.

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