



Dinosaurs - The Grand Tour: Everything Worth Knowing About Dinosaurs from Aardonyx to Zuniceratops

Keiron Pim, Jack Horner (Contributor)

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A Main Selection of Scientific American Book Club

“Remarkably all-encompassing and superbly illustrated . . . a fascinating tome.”
—*Huffington Post*

A visual trove of more than 300 dinosaurs, with key anatomy, geology, history, and theory at a glance

We live in a golden age of paleontological discovery—the perfect time to dig in to the spectacular world of dinosaurs. From *Aardonyx*, a lumbering beast that formed a link between two- and four-legged dinosaurs, to *Zuniceratops*, who boasted a deadly pair of horns, ***Dinosaurs—The Grand Tour*** details everything worth knowing about more than 300 dinosaurs. The important discoveries and gory details touch on topics from geology, anatomy, and evolution to astronomy and even Native American and Chinese myth. Fascinating facts abound:

Giganotosaurus was longer, two tons heavier, and had bigger jaws than *T. Rex*. The poison-spitting *Dilophosaurus* from *Jurassic Park* wasn’t actually venomous at all.?? Because of its bizarre single-clawed hands, scientists now believe *Mononykus* was a prehistoric predecessor of the anteater! Illustrations on virtually every page, true to the latest findings, bring these prehistoric creatures to life in all their razor-sharp, long-necked, spiny, scaly glory.

Dinosaurs - The Grand Tour: Everything Worth Knowing About Dinosaurs from Aardonyx to Zuniceratops Details

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From Reader Review Dinosaurs - The Grand Tour: Everything Worth Knowing About Dinosaurs from Aardonyx to Zuniceratops for online ebook

Rachel says

This is a simultaneously entertaining and informative book. It's pretty exhaustive. If you (or the kid in your life) love dinosaurs, this is great.

On the flip side, there's a misprint that annoys me. 2.7 meters isn't equal to 89 feet, it's 8.9 feet, in case you're wondering.

Overall, still a pretty great book.

Rob Caswell says

This book is a great primer for the contemporary state of our understanding of dinosaurs - at least up to 2015. It's a field that develops fast so it'd be nice to see them do an updated edition, soon. In buying this I suspected I'd use it more as a spot reference source, but I ended up reading it cover to cover and quite enjoyed the ride.

The bulk of the book looks at a huge sample of dinosaurs, listed in order of their evolutionary appearance. For each dino, the book lists the period it lived, the size, the diet, a name pronunciation guide, and delivers an overview of the critical characteristics as discussing the history of the fossil's discovery. The book provides illustrations, but not for every dino entry.

At random points between clusters of dino spec entries, the book digresses with short treatments on related subjects.... like the value of fossilized dino poo, the famous 19th "Bone Wars", the process of discovering the Chicxulub crater, how we're coming to get a grip on dino colors, and more. The diversions are a welcome break in the books primary m.o. and are quite engaging.

I'd definitely say this book is novice level, but its not a book for kids - but rather for the adult with some interest in the subject and a basic science background.

Raechel says

this was the most informative and intelligent novel about dinosaurs I've read, one finally marketed to adults, instead of the usual child.

Peter Tillman says

Just a quick scan of the ebook. There's some good stuff here for dino-fans, but only three or four color illustrations! Not what I was hoping for.

Brian says

A good dinosaur reference book.

John-Michael Lelievre says

I never did grow out of my childish fascination with Dinosaurs. So this tome holds massive appeal to me.

It's not exactly one that I've read cover to cover as a committed read, but it's a great reference, and chock full of things you probably never knew about our long extinct brethren.

Rebecca says

Wish it had more of the marvelous but scanty color illustrations and a bit more space devoted to the scientific context/ controversy surrounding particular theories and finds. This is a book targeted at adults, so I say the more complexity the better! Still, the sections are clearly laid out to look and feel like a guidebook and this resource succeeds at what it sets out to do: present a clear, somewhat detailed, "quick-facts" look at a great number of dinosaur species.

Natoshia says

The book, Dinosaurs The Grand Tour by Keiron Pim with Jack Horner is just an excellent reference book with all the need to know and interesting facts about dinosaurs. Any child or adult could enjoy this book as it's beautiful to look at the drawings and find some wonderful facts on those Carnivorous and Herbivores that once walked on Earth.

I must say, the information is compete enough to give you a full look into how certain dinosaurs survived and how they actually looked. Also, the book is setup in color for each different time period of the dinosaurs from the Triassic period all the way to the Cretaceous period and Extinction. What is very cool about this book is the side of each page gives you information about that certain dinosaur. There is also a symbol of a weight that shares the weight this type of dinosaur might have been. Now that is pretty neat, as well as the information on it's height and size. There is even parts on the bones and the types of bones certain ones had, such as ones that are hollow like a bird.

Another awesome addition to this book is that it includes many quizzes through each different colored sections, which is pretty cool to test the knowledge of a friend, family member or just yourself. I found that to be pretty neat to read the book and than take a quiz to see what I've just learned. However, it's even a fun way to test my knowledge before reading and than retake it to see if I come up with the same answers or results. Anyways, it just is a very nice addition and the entire book is very helpful with the facts and information on all types of Dinosaurs.

Therefore, I love to keep this nice book, which the front cover is very well designed and something that would be attracting to look at any day! It's packed with information and so very helpful to use as a study helper or just for a collection!

Richard Blackmore says

This has got to be the lowest score I have ever given a book about dinosaurs. The subtitle is accurate, this is a grand tour of 300 of the most important dinosaurs (and other Mesozoic animals) up till the book went to print (there are several big names that are not included because they were discovered or described after this book was published in 2014. This was, of course, inevitable, but calls for more recently published catalogues if the reader wants to stay up to date. Some dinosaurs also have outdated descriptions, such as Spinosaurus. Readers should be aware of this.)

But back to the review. This book is a decent introduction and is factually accurate. All of the facts presented were correct at the time the book was published. Then why the low score? Simply put, this book does not compare to other brilliant books of nonfiction that describe and elaborate on the field of paleontology. Avid readers should be aware of paleontologists who write, such as Donald Prothero and Michael Benton, and professional writers that write about paleontology, like Brian Switeck. Unfortunately, this book lacks in just about every area, except for that it is technically nonfiction. This book does present facts about dinosaurs.

The author says that he has always been passionate about dinosaurs, and it kind of, sort of, shows...barely. Again, the facts are there, but it just seems incomplete. Empty, and here is why...

A bunch of facts with no narrative gives the reader nothing to cling on to. Because there is no narrative in this book, the pages seem bereft of any meaning. The facts on the page are easily forgotten. I found myself having to return back to pages to look up dinosaurs I had already read about (those that I didn't already know) because the information didn't stick.

If we compare this author to another non-paleontologist, Brian Switeck, we see just how empty these pages are. Brian Switeck has a degree not in paleontology, or even geology, but in English. Nonetheless, Switeck has written two nonfiction books about paleontology and writes a paleontology blog for Scientific American called *Laelaps* (it is well worth a visit!) Switeck's research skills, and a life spent following in the footsteps of the pros with a camera and field journal, make up for his lack of a PhD. His writing isn't bare bones facts, but is brimming with personality. His nonfiction seems less like a PowerPoint presentation and more like a conversation over a beer.

Good writers make a world of difference, and it is true that there are not that many scientists who have great writing skills. Luckily, there are great journalists and writers, like Switeck to take up the slack.

This book gets five stars for factual accuracy, two stars for flow, one star for narrative, and two for structure.

Keep your eyes peeled for my next review of a dinosaur book: this one the brand new the *Rise and Fall of the Dinosaurs* by Paleontologist Steve Brusatte, published this year, 2018. I expect to be blown away!

Esmerelda Weatherwax says

I got this for my neices birthday, ahes a dinosur nut and I think she will love it!

This is a gorgeous, well designed book thaths very thorough.

Each page is dedicated to a different dinosaur, there are keys on each page which gives a snap shot of its life style - whether it was a carnivore, omnivore, insectavore, piscasaurus, high grazer, low grazer etc. Height, weight, era it lived in and what area of the globe it inhabited.

Theres a few paragraphs of info on each dinosaur, and an artists interpretation is almost always included, or at least a siloutte of what it would look like if there are no artists drawings.

The book is divided into Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous periods - and they are all color coded so its easy to flip to the era you want. Its also aesthetically pleasing.

The page/ paper quality is fantastic, it will be durable for kids. There are quizzes that accompany each era to make it more engaging. There are small sections dedicated to important scientists in this field and their contributions,small anatomy lessons, diagrams on how the continents shifted through the eras, a few pages dedicated to North American dinosaurs - as well as sites open to the public for people who want to visit fossil sites and dinosaur tracks. Theres also a section at the end on the extinction of the dinosaurs.

If you have a kid that loves dinosaurs this would be a great gift.

Tyler Hayes says

A solid, clear, educational look at both well-known and obscure dinosaurs. This is clearly written by someone with a large body of knowledge about the field with an eye toward a lay audience, but it also doesn't talk down to the reader or otherwise oversimplify; I came away feeling like I definitely knew more and had been let in to the world of paleontology a little bit more, which is exactly what I should feel from a book about dinosaurs. If you want to know more about the subject, this is highly recommended.

Dayna says

Neatly formatted and easy to understand with lots and lots of info

Rachel Holtzclaw says

I'VE BEEN READING THIS SINCE FEBRUARY OFF AND ON AND I FINALLY FINISHED AND I JUST LOVE DINOSAURS SO MUCH YOU GUYS!!!!!!!!!

Sarah says

There is nothing I love more than a good list style book with information, and images about different species of things. This one was fantastic. The author manages, on each dinosaur to give you the facts you need and to make it interesting, at least in some small way. The little asides and one or two page interludes on Dino-adjacent facts were nice touches that broke up the listing style of the narration. The artwork is also fantastic, I loved the full color spreads we got occasionally throughout.

This particular style of book is not one most people try to read cover to cover, but if you are the oddball that enjoys that or have a teen or kid that loves dinosaurs this is a fantastic read. Even if you want to have a handy reference for dinosaurs I think it's worth checking out.

Sean says

If you are a fan of dinosaurs like I am, you will no doubt have spent years three to six of your live devouring everything you could about dinosaurs. You may even have been aware of what a Utahraptor was back before feathered dinosaurs were cool. Nowadays, though, it's a lot harder to keep up. What's this about Torosaurus and Triceratops? What's going on in China now? Bits and pieces of dino-news show up in mainstream media, and it's easy to miss something.

That's where *Dinosaurs: the Grand Tour* comes in. It serves as a refresher course of sorts, bringing the reader up-to-speed with dinosaur science circa printing. Of course, it works fine as an introduction as well, hitting the major highlights of what we understand about dinosaurs.

The pictures seem lackluster, as many are just silhouettes, but I believe this represents how little we really know about what some of these creatures looked like. After all, many dinosaurs are only known by incomplete skeletons.

Anyway, this is a great book. The actual cover is a lovely green, too - I appreciate books that look good without the dust jacket.
