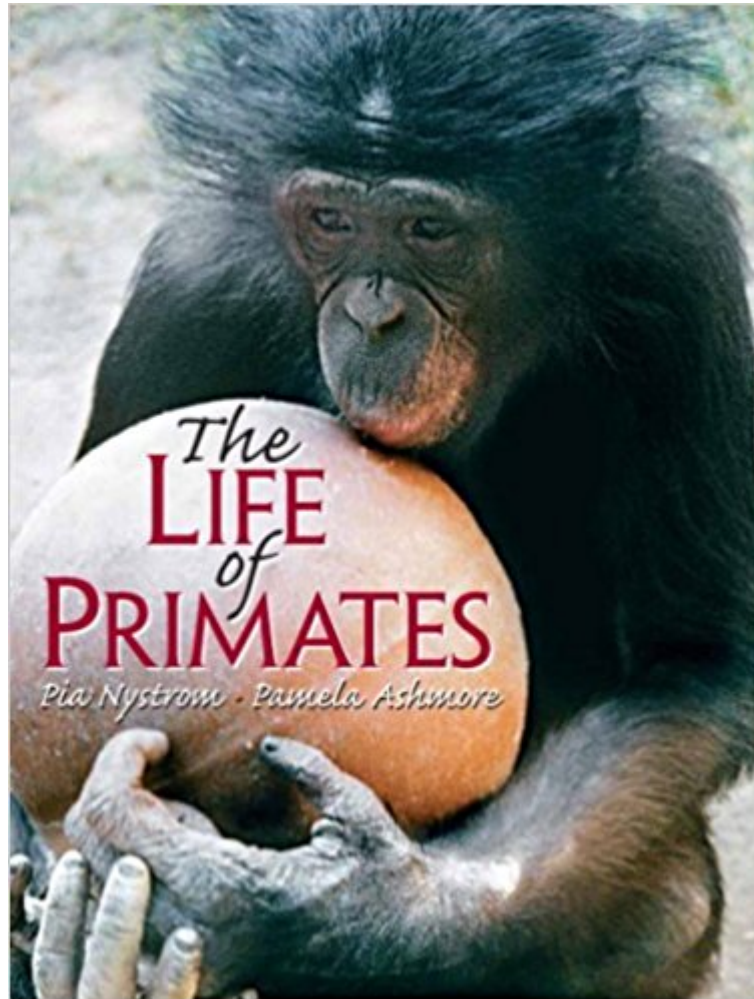




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The Life Of Primates



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Synopsis

The field of primatology has grown to become very complex and now incorporates information from molecular genetics, physiology, and brain studies. Many of the texts imparting this information are much too advanced for undergraduate students. Pia Nystrom & Pamela Ashmore present to you a comprehensive text written about nonhuman primates built from the ground up written for the undergraduate student. *The Life of Primates*, 1/e helps students tackle the complex ideas and issues of primatology by first establishing the context and groundwork from which these studies were conducted.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Both Pia Nystrom & Pamela Ashmore are university teachers and researchers. They have known each other since graduate school and over the years have remained friends and colleagues. Both authors have worked with primates in both captive and field situations and have endeavored to bring their passion for this field of study to students of every age. They each have their own story about how and why they selected primatology as their chosen field of study.

Nystrom came to the field almost by chance, as she initially had her heart set on discovering the Miocene ape which was the progenitor to our own lineage. However, all those plans changed in 1984 when she was given the opportunity to visit the Awash National Park in Ethiopia, to participate in a long-term baboon research project directed by Jane Phillips-Conroy and Cliff Jolly. In her first encounter with a real, live baboon, one look into its eyes changed everything:

those eyes reflected such curiosity and intelligence. It was those eyes that spurred Nystrom on to study primate social behavior and to develop an interest in primate cognitive ability.

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ Early in life Ashmore journeyed to exotic places with anthropologists featured in the pages of National Geographic magazine. She was also an observer of virtually any form of animal life that she stumbled across in the woods of New England where she spent most of her childhood. To the chagrin of her parents many a creature came home for short visits so that she could observe them. As she was sitting in an undergraduate anthropology course taught by Michael Park, she realized that primatology was how she could, in fact, combine her interest in anthropology with her passion for animals. ^

I just received this book so I haven't had a chance to sit down and read it cover-to-cover, but I don't think I'll do that regardless of time. This book appears to be bursting with information - the TOC lists 11 chapters with many sub-chapters listed under each main chapter. For example: CHAPTER 5 Primate Evolution- What Is Evolution and How Does It Work?- How Do We Discern Ancestor-Descendant Relationships?- Evolutionary Models for Primate Evolution- The Nature of the Primate Fossil Record * How Do We Date a Fossil?- Earth Is Constantly Changing * Plate Tectonics * Climate * How Life on Earth Has Evolved- Fossil Primates * The First Primates to Be Recognized: The Euprimates * The First Haplorhines * The Tarsier Lineage * The Platyrrhines: The First Monkeys of the Americas * The First Catarrhines * The First True Apes * Basal Monkey Catarrhines- Summary +- Key Words +- Study Questions +- Suggest Readings and Related Web Sites +(The last four sub-chapters with the "+" at the end are found at the end of each chapter.)As you can see, this book is very thorough. Much more so than what I needed for my purposes, but I'm glad I have it. There is no doubt that if I ever want to know something about primates, I can look through this book and find the information. This book delves into many topics - and appears to covers many subjects in-depth. If you are studying primates or have a strong interest in learning more about them on all levels, you would most likely find this book informative and interesting. I actually purchased this book for an art display, but in perusing the pages I have already learned things I didn't know. It should be noted that this is more like a textbook, not a novel-type book.

I bought this as a text book for my class. It has the same info as a text book but is smaller and more portable (and a lot cheaper) than a regular text book. Also it is not as dry as a lot of text books. I think it is enjoyable enough if you just really like primates you would like the book.

I needed this book for my anthropology class and was too expensive at the school's bookstore. I decided to look for it online and found it here on as I do all of my books :) I was once again pleased when I found the book I needed for a good deal. The book was in great condition and was happy with the overall purchase.

This introduction to the primate world gives the reader an understanding of the social, environmental, and cognitive behavior all primates, in general, have. It is a wonderful book for beginners and for the more advanced. I found the summaries at the end of each chapter to be the best summaries I have ever read. They were concise and captured the entire chapter. Unlike many other summary sections I have read, these did not stray from the topic of the chapter and did not add information not talked about within the chapter. I was very impressed by this book. It has interested me in doing further research pertaining to primates.

This is a great intro-level primatology textbook, which gives the reader a concise and readable introduction to everything primate, from taxonomy to evolution to ecology to behavior and social relationships to cognition and communication (+ more!). Even the book's most challenging chapters (Chapter 5: Primate Evolution) are interesting and easy to read. Recommended for anyone interested in primatology who doesn't have much of a background in anthropology or biology.

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