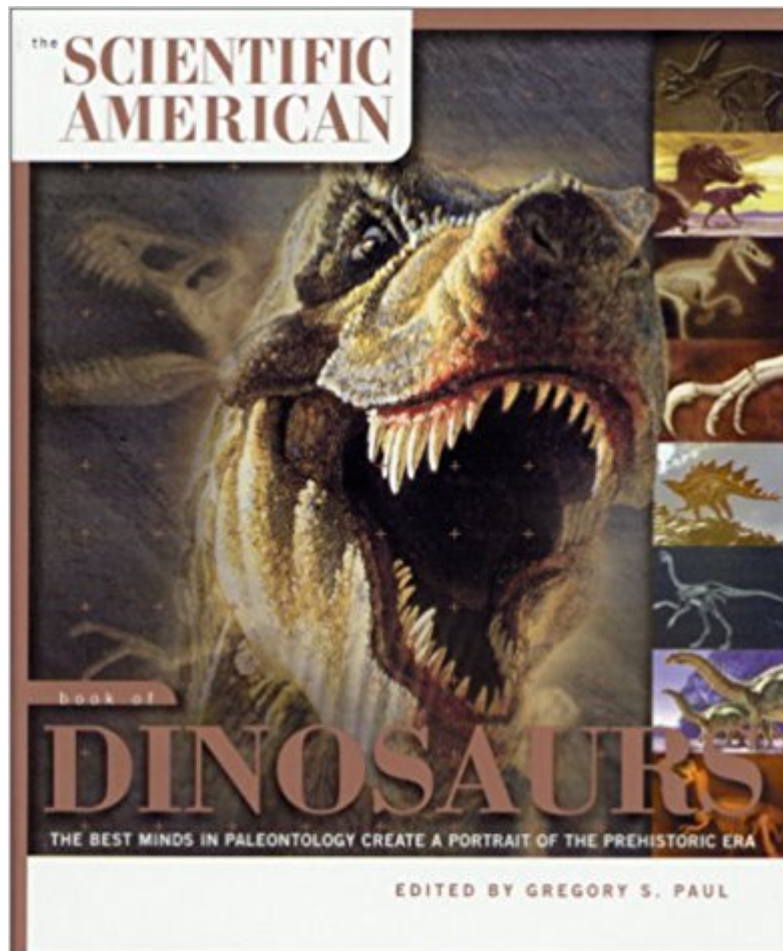




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# The Scientific American Book Of Dinosaurs



## Synopsis

Discover how dinosaurs evolved, how they looked, where they lived, how they behaved, and why they died: the current state of knowledge about the Monsters of the Mesozoic, complete in one volume. Acclaimed dinosaur paleontologist and paleo-artist Gregory S. Paul conducts this definitive tour through the 140-million-year existence of the most exotic and interesting group of animals ever to walk the earth, assisted by the world's leading dinosaur experts. Here you'll find remarkable stories about the first discoveries of dinosaur fossils, the beginnings of dinosaur paleontology, how the field has changed with modern technology, the most sensational finds, and the latest theories. You'll also explore the answers to such questions as:- Did dinosaurs have feathers?- Did dinosaurs fly?- Were the dinosaurs sluggish, cold-blooded reptilians, or something radically different?- What are the different dinosaur families, how were they named, and how are they related?- What was the dinosaurs' world like, and how did it change during their reign?- Are the birds of today the living descendants of predatory dinosaurs?- How and why did the major dinosaur families become extinct? Filled with spectacular full-color illustrations of dinosaurs in action, plus black-and-white art and graphics. The Scientific American Book of Dinosaurs features the latest information from the field of dinosaur paleontology, presented in a fascinating and accessible format. You'll never think about dinosaurs the same way again!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gregory S. Paul is one of America's leading dinosaur paleontologists and also a gifted artist. For his anatomical accuracy, he is considered among his peers to be the "definitive" paleo-artist. Paul has

worked on Disney's animated movie Dinosaur and was a consultant on the motion picture Jurassic Park. His published work includes dozens of scientific papers in magazines and journals, and the books Beyond Humanity, The Complete Illustrated Guide to Dinosaur Skeletons, Predatory Dinosaurs of the World, Dinosaurs of the Air: The Evolution and Loss of Flight in the Mesozoic, and Dinosaurs and Birds. Paul's illustrations have graced dozens of books, periodicals, and televised specials on the fabulous beasts. His art has also been exhibited in the Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibit and has been displayed in ten natural history museums around the world.

This work is essentially a very good anthology of dinosaur science, however multiple articles present an overwhelming predisposition toward cladistics (classification of animals by their anatomy ALONE without ANY regard for their proper chronological placement or occurrence in the fossil record). Thus, in multiple instances, we observe an animal's descendants preceding its ancestors in the evolutionary sequence --- a serious scientific blunder. Also, NO AUTHOR, in ANY of these scientific articles addresses the fact that fossils (in the vast majority of all cases) portray ONLY the organism's skeletal system and thus only 5-10% of its anatomical and physiological evolutionary history. To illustrate this problem, we should imagine ourselves as paleontologists, 20 million years in the future, finding fossils of a Great Dane and a Dachshund. Not knowing anything about their internal anatomy, we would most certainly classify these fossils as not just TWO entirely different species, but, most likely, as two entirely different FAMILIES or ORDERS, instead of properly classifying them (as we now know) as simply two VARIATIONS of the very same SPECIES, *canis familiaris*. Therefore, as many paleontologists have already pointed out, cladistics, as a systematics tool, has very serious limitations in the accuracy of fossil representation. Dr. Paul has otherwise compiled an excellent anthology and his analyses of dinosaur motion, art and art history are superb.

Cool book with excellent pictures and articles. Intelligent and scientific, but not too high brow.

This scientific factual indepth mythical information resource goes back in time of discovery in species evolution and explores the rich lush open diverse mythical landscape of beasts that inhabit it and roam it's area and start's asking a lot of theortical argumentive scientific questions on debate about whether or not they had loose feathers for insulation from the cold winter windy weather or whether they had scaly(plates) on their back but it also asks other argumentive questions of debate about whether or not they were cold-blooded or warm-blooded which means whether they could

raise or regulate their body temperature above the surrounding environment. All in all a superb book with the only unfortunate let down or set back being that it has dull black and white color illustrations in it. Other than that flaw or let down it's a superb book for resource in information on a hot topic of continuous debate

I read Scientific American fairly regularly, and so thought this might be a good book to try. After only a few chapters I was highly impressed. Most books I've bought on the subject are really just lists of dinosaurs with a few blurbs and factoids set against some pretty art, while others are heavy on the mechanics of paleontology and talk about things like the strata of rock you find fossils in (which while important info, can be rather boring.) This book has a high level of detail, while not getting boring. For example, I had only a vague idea of what cladistics was, and thought it would be boring even if I did, but the essay on the subject was very simple without being condescending. If you like dinosaur books, but are tired of too much artwork with no substance behind them, this book is for you.

As a fan of Paul's earlier work, *Predatory Dinos of the World*, I bought this book hoping it would follow a similar format and to some extent, update the previous book. I realize that Paul didn't write this book, but one can always hope for the best. I expected a book that listed all of the known species and gave some info on each. Take note, if this is the type of book you're looking for, keep looking. However, this is a good book, with lots of new and informative info., and well worth having if you are interested in dinosaurs. The drawings, many of them by Paul, are first class and represent the state of the art. The color pictures are also good and represent a nice mix of new and old. Especially good is the chapter on feathered dinosaurs and the one on dinosaur thermoregulation. I've found myself reading some chapters many times over. Not perfect, but a very good read that adults will find geared towards them without having to have a masters degree to understand.

Almost considered using this as a textbook in an undergraduate dinosaur class; it is perhaps a little too difficult for those not already highly interested in dinosaurs. Book consists of reprintings of Scientific American articles with lots of new material and entire chapters by various experts in dinosaur paleontology. Great artwork is also another plus for the book. Editor Gregory Paul did a wonderful job of compiling these articles with major contributions of ideas and artwork by himself. Some of Paul's ideas about dinosaurs are speculative and a little quirky, but are well-presented. Some odd, non-paleontological, speculations at the end of the book by Paul are sort

of out of place.

This book is up to date and very informative. It has various skeletal reconstructions including one of T .rex in four different views, with muscular and life reconstruction all in one page! By Gregory Paul!! This collection of articles from real paleontologists is a must have in any serious dino-freak's library.

I found this to be an interesting, very informative read. It covers the dinosauria well, and would make a great first dinosaur book. The skeletal reconstructions in the back of the book are also particularly useful for any paleoartists.

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