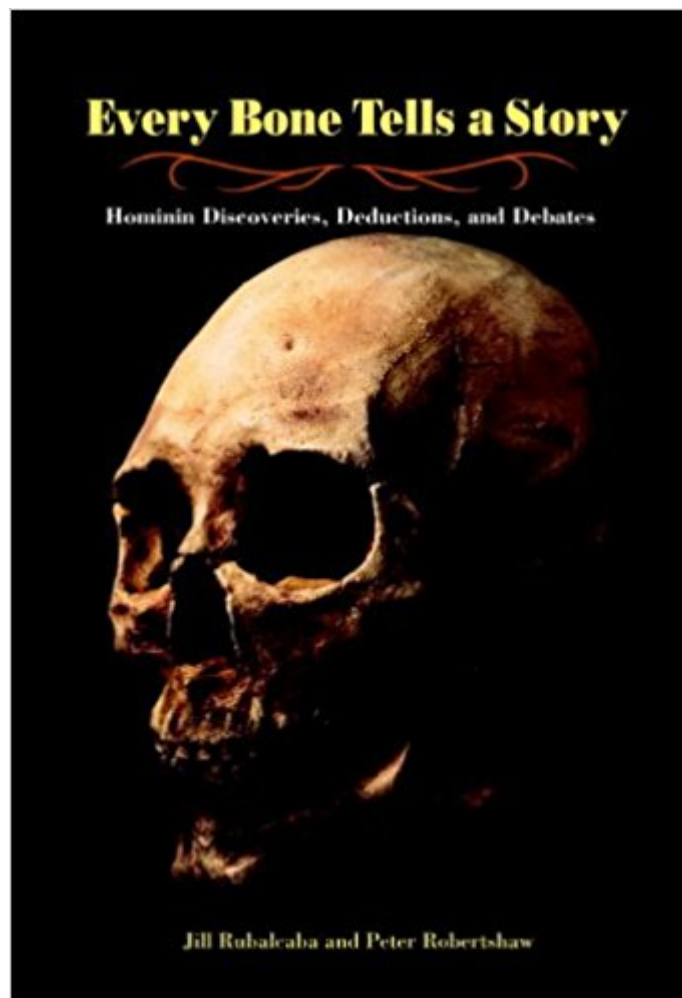




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Every Bone Tells A Story: Hominin Discoveries, Deductions, And Debates



Synopsis

Jill Rubalcaba and Peter Robertshaw recount the unearthing of four hominins--Turkana Boy, Lapedo Child, Kennewick Man, and Iceman. Each discovery leads not only to deductions that scientists made in laboratories, but also to controversial debates over the scientists' differences of opinion over how, or even if, the pieces fit together. Learn how specialized the field of archaeology has become and how new technology can change both scientists' theories and the way we view the past.

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Customer Reviews

Grade 8 Up
•The authors have taken an unusual approach in this look at members of the human family tree. Rather than sketch all of human prehistory, they focus on four particular discoveries, noting the deductions that scientists have made and the debates that these conclusions have sparked. The finds that they detail are Turkana Boy, Lapedo Child, Kennewick Man, and "tzi the Iceman. This approach will be helpful for students as it makes clear the type of work done by paleontologists, archaeologists, and their ilk. There is a lot of painstaking effort and a lot of careful thought. It is particularly interesting to learn what sorts of debates an activity as innocent-seeming as archaeology can engender. Full-color photos, an occasional map or diagram, and an illustrated time line enhance the presentation. As they have focused on only four individuals, readers may miss their personal favorites, such as "Lucy" and the recently discovered Homo floresiensis, nicknamed "hobbits." There are also some scientific points that aren't explained as well

as they might be. In their discussion of genetics, for example, the authors refer to C, G, A, and T without ever explaining that these are the initials of cytosine, guanine, adenine, and thymine. While there are a few print sources from recent years, many go back 10 years or more. Despite a few quibbles, this is an excellent look at an engaging area of science that should find broad readership and use. —Eric Norton, McMillan Memorial Library, Wisconsin Rapids, WI Copyright © 2007 Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Archaeology and paleontology are the exciting focus in this accessible account of four hominins who lived long before recorded history. The authors explore not only how and where their remains were discovered but also what they tell scientists today about how they lived and why they died out. Were Neanderthals brainy or brutish? Man or beast? When did language begin? The informal style never oversimplifies the gripping science and technology, and the authors raise as many questions as they answer in the detailed chapters, which cover each of the four fossils and the research and debate that surround them. The design is lackluster but readable, with clear type on thick paper and occasional full-color illustrations of sites, skeletons, and scientists at work. Meticulous source notes and bibliographies (including Web sites) at the end of each chapter will stimulate further research. Adults will want this, too. Grades 8-12. --Hazel Rochman

I teach 6th grade Social Studies and really enjoy using this book when we are doing our Early Man unit. The language is well-suited for 6th graders without being dumbed down. Wish I could find similar for every unit we do!

great

This was on the NCSS notable list for young adults. I don't see many young adults being interested in the writing for very long. It was pretty dry. I would not have finished if it wasn't for a class and I am fascinated by the topic.

very cool how bones change over years

Love it

I bought this book for my 12-year-old son and he's loving it. It offers clear descriptions of the fossils,

and exciting discussions of related topics, supported by solid anthropological evidence, and all pitched at a perfect level for a young scientist. It was very hard to find something about paleoanthro for a teenager, but this is perfect. Please write more like it!

It was perfect

Good source of factual info to supplement the dull and scant info of our social studies textbook. It's important to show kids what type of work scientist actually do - while getting dirty!

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