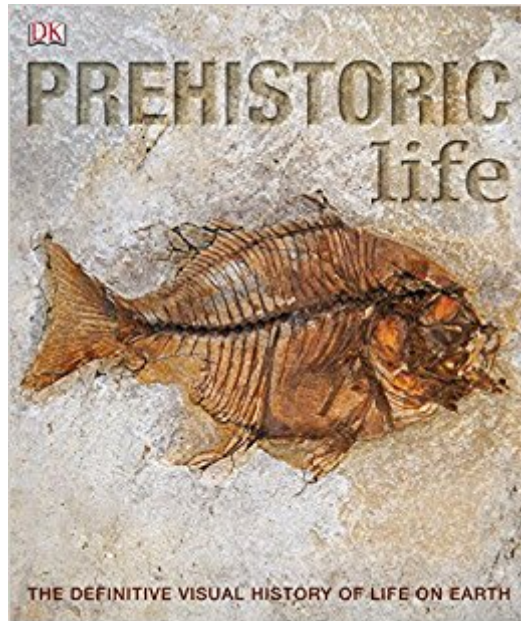


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Prehistoric Life: The Definitive Visual History Of Life On Earth



Synopsis

With an extensive catalog at its heart, *Prehistoric Life* profiles hundreds of fascinating species in incredible detail. The story starts in earnest 3.8 billion years ago, with the earliest-known form of life on Earth, a bacteria that still exists today, and journeys through action-packed millennia, charting the appearance of new life forms as well as devastating extinction events. Of course, the ever-popular and endlessly intriguing dinosaurs feature large, but *Prehistoric Life* gives you the whole picture, and the plants, invertebrates, amphibians, birds, reptiles, and mammals that are the ancestors of today's species also populate its pages, making this book unprecedented in its coverage of prehistory. Specially commissioned artworks use cutting-edge technology to render species in breathtakingly realistic fashion, with astonishing images of prehistoric remains, such as skeletons and fossils, to complete the story. To put all the evidence in context, the concept of geological time is explored, as is the classification of species and how the evidence for their evolution is preserved and can be deciphered.

Book Information

Paperback: 512 pages

Publisher: DK; Reprint edition (July 2, 2012)

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Product Dimensions: 8.4 x 1.3 x 10 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 164 customer reviews

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Age Range: 10 - 17 years

Grade Level: 5 - 12

Customer Reviews

Condensing millions of years of life on earth into a 512-page single-volume encyclopedia, this ambitious work presents earth's history from its formation through the Mesolithic period (Middle Stone Age). Divided into three sections, *Prehistoric Life* begins with a brief look at "Young Earth." Two-page spreads examine topics such as plate tectonics, fossils,

and the geological timescale. The bulk of the volume discusses "Life on Earth" and is divided by era from the Archean through the Quaternary. Each section introduces the plants, invertebrates, and vertebrates (as applicable) representative of that time period. The final section delves into "The Rise of the Humans" and discusses human relatives, ancestors, origins, and migration patterns. Although a wealth of scientific information is provided, the illustrative material is the star of this volume. The collection of full-color photographs of fossils (ranging from spore to dinosaur) and skeletons show amazing detail and clarity. Visitors to a natural history museum could not explore the number of examples contained here. Where actual photographs are obviously not available, DK commissioned 3-D images, "modeled using scientific research" to bring life-forms to the page for readers. Photographs and other images are accompanied by information about the creature such as name, group, date, and location. Scaled images (of either a thumb, a hand, or a human) are used to help readers visualize actual sizes. Geared to adults, this work will find popularity with science enthusiasts and browsers alike. Because of the relatively low cost, public libraries will likely want more than one copy. High schools with a strong science program will want to consider purchase for their library or science department.

--Shauna Yusko --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I'm a big fan of visual presentations of information and over the past few years have purchased all of the major biology, wildlife, and evolution books that appealed to me. This one stands head and shoulders over them all. It is comprehensive, colorful, well-organized, entertaining, and informative. No, not just informative--that makes it sound like a government pamphlet. It is thrilling. Life on earth has been so varied, so fantastical and stunning, that who would have thought that any book could adequately capture it? But "Preshistoric Life" manages to. So good are the organism reconstructions that my girlfriend asked me how they could "get photos of those animals if they're extinct?" And she's the smartest person I know, so if she was fooled by their verisimilitude, you can believe the quality was exceptionally high. And at the risk of sounding like a carnival barker, this book is fun for all ages. I can't imagine a kid not becoming rapt by the astounding dinosaurs and other early animals, but it's also sophisticated enough to act as a reference tool for adults. Best in class; highly recommended.

One of the best texts I have. Clear and well written. A wealth of knowledge and information that covers major topics in clear, well put together text. Illustrations and pictures are wonderful.

Great book. I use this in my earth science class so the students can research the different organisms throughout time.

I started collecting fossils as a hobby and quickly realized I needed to collect some books too. I bought this book because of the excellent reviews and found those reviews are not exaggerations. It provides an interesting review of the history of life on earth as well as the important fossils that helped establish this history. The drawings are excellent as well as the fossil photographs. It seems well reasoned scientifically describing how conditions were in the early earth, and how life itself changed those conditions. It is so easy to understand also, e.g. comparing the size of plants and animals with the size of humans, or a human thumb! They speculate on the causes of extinctions, including the possibility humans may be causing a mass extinction right now. The book itself is great, but at this price everyone should own a copy!

I am from Michigan, and I have collected Petoskey stones (fossilized coral), as well as brain coral fossils, and horn coral from the beaches. I always wondered what was going on when these animals lived, and the format of the book allowed me to put them into context. The only complaints I have are that the maps of the earth are in the center between two pages. Also some of the fonts used are small for my old eyes.

This is really a fantastic book for anybody interested in life throughout Earth's history. A lot of pictures and great information. My one criticism is sometimes a section doesn't focus on some very important organisms. So they might have just a little blurb forcing you to go online for more research. It's still a great book for people interested and even a coffee table book.

This book has knocked it out of the park when I first look at its pages inside and it covers everything paleontology from the birth of planet earth to profiles of hundreds of primitive organisms (and not just non-avian dinosaurs) (There is even a great amount of plants and invertebrates unlike most other books about prehistoric life!) to the rise of the first humans. This book can't be beat! That's what I like about DK. They make well done books like this one!

Very good photos, text a bit hard to read due to colors on background. Lots of good data especially on hominids.

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