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National Geographic Kids Ultimate Dinopedia: The Most Complete Dinosaur Reference Ever



Synopsis

In the crowded field of dinosaur books, this is the very first to offer children ages 7 to 10 those at the height of their enthusiasm for the prehistoric giants complete coverage of all the known dinosaurs. Don Lessem, author of more than 60 books most of them about dinosaurs teams up with Franco Tempesta, a talented illustrator with a fresh and appealing style. The exciting result is an accessible, visually stunning book that's packed with facts that kids can use to impress their friends and families. The Ultimate Dinopedia is organized by the periods that are well known to young enthusiasts: Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous. It includes almost every dinosaur ever discovered, and highlights 125 species that scientists know sufficiently to describe in rich detail. Special features include How We Know What They Looked Like, Baby Dinosaurs, Great Dinosaur Goofs, and much more. Every featured dino gets a fact box that delivers important information at a glance Scientific Name, Discoverer, Place and Date of Discovery, Length, Habitat, Diet, Fossils, Fun Facts, and Range Map. This book provides in fabulously illustrated, kid-friendly form all the information an 8-year-old fact hound needs to lord that knowledge over parents and teachers!

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (256 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

Customer Reviews

I bought this National Geographic Kids Ultimate Dinopedia based on all of the positive reviews for

my 3.5 year old dinosaur obsessed son. My son loves to look at the profiles of dinosaurs and memorize their names, and characteristics (i.e., what they eat, where they lived, etc). So, I perused for a dinosaur encyclopedia to help my son memorize different dinosaurs, which he loves to do. Before purchasing this book, I checked out some of the sample pages of this Dinopedia and I was impressed by the information provided on the pages and the artwork. The few pages I checked out had full profiles of the dinosaurs that they discussed. However, when we started reading the book my son became very frustrated because many of the dinosaurs profiled only have artistic pictures of their heads or parts of their bodies. (See, for example, Tsintaosaurus page 175, Plateosaurus page 181, Muttaburrasaurus page 163, Heterodontosaurus page 157 and the list goes on and on). For us, this makes this book largely ineffective for helping my son identify dinosaur names by sight. This is because many dinosaurs look similar and it is only by seeing a full body profile of each dinosaur that my son can distinguish between many dinosaurs that have similar bodies or features. I should mention though, that on the opposing page of the in-color artistic image of each dino in this Dinopedia there is a small, thumb size, all black, side profile of each dino. However, I don't think a tiny, all blacked out profile of the dinosaurs in this book really helps much with dinosaur identification. We also own a different and much smaller book of dinosaurs that illustrates the full bodies of the dinosaurs and my son has almost all of the dinos in that book memorized based on the pictures in the book.

Short version: If you want the best encyclopedic dino book for casual readers, get Holtz's "Dinosaurs".* Despite its title, Lessem's "The Ultimate Dinopedia: The Most Complete Dinosaur Reference Ever" (i.e. Dinopedia) is a mixed bag at best & a complete failure at worst. Long version: Read on. You could say Don Lessem is the Don Bluth of dinos: Bluth's pre-1990 work is mostly good, while his post-1990 work is mostly not-so-good; The same goes for Lessem's pre- & post-2000 work, respectively. In my previous review, I referred to "Dinosaur Worlds" as 1 of Lessem's best/most underrated books. This review is about Dinopedia, 1 of Lessem's worst/most overrated books: Overrated because it's more popular than it should be; Worst because of the reasons listed below. 1) Dinopedia is a mixed bag in terms of paleoart. In fact, it reminds me of Long's "Feathered Dinosaurs" (Quoting Miller: "I bought the book expecting a more technical discussion of the animals discussed therein...but was surprised to find beautiful paintings of questionably-restored dinosaurs"), but less beautiful & more questionable. For instance, the dromaeosaurs (i.e. My favorite dinos) range from being completely feathered (Microraptor) to lacking primaries (Buitreraptor) to lacking wing feathers altogether (Velociraptor & Deinonychus) to

being completely naked (Utahraptor). I could list the other things wrong with Dinopedia's paleoart, but this review is running long. Instead, I'll refer you to Vincent's "Ten Commandments for Dinosaur Collectibles" (Google "Ten Commandments for Dinosaur Collectibles", which sums up everything wrong with said paleoart).²) Dinopedia is a confusing mess in terms of organization: The 1st section (i.e.

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