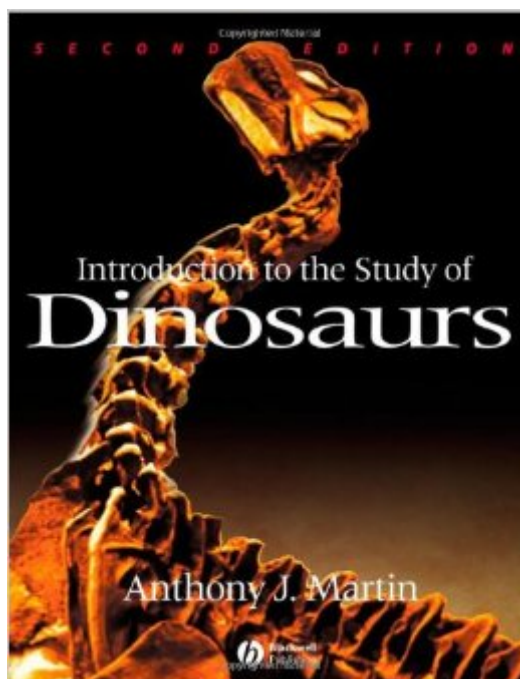


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Introduction To The Study Of Dinosaurs



Synopsis

This highly accessible introduction to dinosaurs places scientific method at the crux of the studies, teaching students about scientific research and principles as they learn about dinosaurs. Now in its second edition, the text includes updates on recent finds, increased coverage of evolution and physiology, and an expanded and improved illustration program. Balances scientific rigour with real world examples. This new edition includes updates on recent finds and an increased coverage of evolution and physiology. Also features end of chapter discussion questions, easy reference glossary, new references at the end of each chapter, and high-quality, full color figures and photographs throughout. Â

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

NOTE: I haven't read this book cover-to-cover (I have a loaner copy from Blackwell), so keep that in mind when reading. Another dinosaur textbook? This book competes directly with older dinosaur textbooks by Spencer Lucas and Fastovsky & Weishampel, as well as quasi-textbooks like the one by Dingus & Rowe. Martin's book covers much of the same ground, but has a different overall focus. Whereas F & W's text is largely focused on dinosaurs themselves, Martin's new book focuses largely on using dinosaurs to teach broader, more all-encompassing concepts. In fact, it does this to such a degree that the title might better be "Introduction to Science via Dinosaurs." Of the 16 chapters in the book, only 11-15 deal directly with the different groups of dinosaurs. (A better organization for the book might be to put these chapters much earlier in the book, since the terms detailed in them are used in most of the earlier chapters!) Other chapters discuss topics of great

importance to paleontologists, and therefore certainly deserve coverage in a book such as this! They include discussions of how science works (in the context of defining things and scientific methodology, Chapters 1-2), how/why paleo and geology are sciences (Chap. 3), history of dinosaur studies (Chap. 4), anatomy, histology & classification (Chap. 5), taphonomy (Chap. 6), ichnology (Chap. 7), eggs & nests (Chap. 8), feeding habits (Chap. 9), evolution (Chap. 10), and extinctions plus birds as dinosaurs (Chap. 16). Some concepts are covered elsewhere in the book, too (e.g., histology in the theropod chapter, genetics in the evolution chapter, paleobiogeography covered throughout the text, etc.) Aside from the above criticism, the organization of the book is pretty good.

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