



The Complete Guide to Prehistoric Life

By Tim Haines, Paul Chambers

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The most exciting view of prehistoric life.

"Comprehensive, illustrated encyclopedia to prehistoric animals... lifelike detail... this easily readable book should appeal to dinosaur enthusiasts of all ages."

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Editorial Review

Review

For the student completing research on dinosaurs, this is a must have. (Philip Mills *Resource Links*)

A must for any library with science collections... this is the type of book that will pull readers into the world of paleontology like few others. (Mark A. Wilson *American Reference Books Annual*)

Amazing facts and stunning illustrations... Besides being visually outstanding, this book is as up-to-date as the field of paleontology allows... the depth of research is impressive. (Gillian Richardson *CM Magazine* 2006-02-03)

Dinosaurs a plenty... but a lot more. Bone-crushing birds, pig-like reptiles, whales that walked on land and crocodiles that swam in the sea are just a few of the weird and scary creatures in this fascinating book. (*Washington Post* 2006-01-29)

Vivid and strikingly realistic images... an informative and entertaining book. (*Globe and Mail* 2005-12-10)

Comprehensive, illustrated encyclopedia to prehistoric animals... lifelike detail... this easily readable book should appeal to dinosaur enthusiasts of all ages. (*Science News* 2005-12-10)

Includes animals that came before and after the dinosaurs -- big ones, scary ones and just plain bizarre ones... should charm small boys of all ages. (Ben Steelman *Wilmington Star-News* 2005-12-18)

This book is packed with facts, stunning visuals and is written in an easy to understand and informative manner. (Elizabeth Shaffer *BC Parent*)

This is it: the book on dinosaurs everyone has been waiting for... this is an amazing book, filled with magic and knowledge, a truly winning combination. (Lincoln Cho *January Magazine*)

About the Author

Tim Haines trained as a zoologist before becoming a scientific journalist. He has worked on the BBC program, *Nature*, as well as its award-winning *Ice Mummy* trilogy. He is executive producer of the *Walking With Dinosaurs* series.

Paul Chambers has degrees in geology and paleontology and has worked at the London Natural History Museum. A writer and scientific advisor, he was researcher for the *Walking With Dinosaurs* series.

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Introduction

Almost ten years ago we started making a television series called *Walking with Dinosaurs*. At the time it was very expensive and high risk because it aimed to use Hollywood technology to educate and inform rather

than simply entertain. We offered the audience a vision of dinosaurs as real animals, not vindictive monsters. Fortunately the series broadcast to record audiences, and has since been seen by almost 400 million people worldwide.

However, we knew at the time that we were telling only half the story. Many weird and wonderful creatures came before and after the dinosaurs. The extraordinary success of *Walking with Dinosaurs* allowed us to complete this story. *Walking with Beasts* detailed the evolution of the mammals after the dinosaurs died out, and *Walking with Monsters* revealed the wonderful variety of creatures that thrived before the dinosaurs evolved. We finished with seven and a half hours of television that covered 4 billion years, cost millions of pounds and told the biggest story of them all -- the evolution of life on Earth.

The combined coverage of these television series has allowed us to fulfil another long-standing ambition -- namely, to produce a book that could tell the same story using the unique high-resolution stills made possible by the materials produced specially for the programs. Across the following pages you will see careful re-creations of dozens of prehistoric animals, each sculpted by specialist modelers, scanned into a computer and then brought to life by talented animators.

Part of making these extinct animals look true to life was ensuring that we accurately portrayed the latest scientific thinking about their biology, behavior and lifestyle. At every stage over the last ten years we have depended on scientists to guide us about the look and feel of the animals we were re-creating. Much of this information is available in books and journals, but our desire for the latest and most up-to-date information often led us to talk to those scientists who routinely work with the fossils of specific animals. Over the years we have contacted more than 600 scientists, all experts in their field, and all of them major contributors to the sum total of our knowledge about the prehistoric world. Much of the information that appears in this book is thanks to them, and has never before been aired in public.

In addition to the computer-generated animals, the landscapes on to which they have been superimposed were also specifically chosen because their climate, plants and topography are a close match to the prehistoric environments in which our various animals lived. The background photographs in this book were taken in a wide range of exotic locations, from the jungles of Indonesia to the deserts of Utah and the coral reefs of the Red Sea and the Caribbean.

We believe that this book presents as accurate a vision of the world's prehistoric past as our technology presently allows, but the fossil record is far from complete, and new discoveries are constantly overturning established scientific 'truths': palaeontological thought does not stand still for long. All we can do is continue to refine our opinions and remain open to new evidence.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

David Dugas:

Nowadays reading books become more and more than want or need but also be a life style. This reading behavior give you lot of advantages. The advantages you got of course the knowledge your information inside the book in which improve your knowledge and information. The details you get based on what kind of reserve you read, if you want have more knowledge just go with training books but if you want really feel happy read one together with theme for entertaining including comic or novel. Typically the The Complete Guide to Prehistoric Life is kind of e-book which is giving the reader unforeseen experience.

William Bellard:

Precisely why? Because this The Complete Guide to Prehistoric Life is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will distress you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who have write the book in such remarkable way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book possess such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to delay having that book? If I were you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

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Nancy Gump:

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