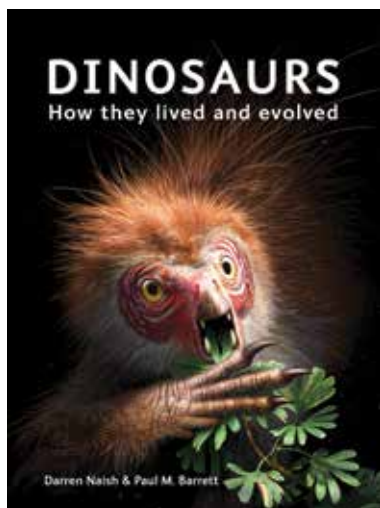


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## Dinosaurs: How They Lived and Evolved

By **Darren Naish and Paul M. Barrett**

CSIRO Publishing

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224 pages, illustrations

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Reviewed by Catherine Jones,  
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Like many thousands of children around the world, I was obsessed with dinosaurs when growing up. I collected figurines, read books and drew my own pictures. I was fascinated with their habits, their physical features, and theories about why they became extinct. Dinosaurs led to my love of the Melbourne Museum and of history. Reviewing this book has reminded me of why this obsession still exists.

*Dinosaurs: How They Lived and Evolved* is a thorough text on the anatomy and behaviour of these incredible creatures. It also provides the reader with valuable information on dinosaur family trees and branches, scientific methods to capture and process fossils, and modelling techniques used to visualise physical features and movements. Alongside the information is a range of visual sources that add depth and context to concepts in each chapter.

What makes this text a must for dinosaur-lovers is the fact that it is such an accessible read. All key ideas are communicated with the perfect amount of scientific and technological jargon, which allows readers to broaden their understanding of the lives of dinosaurs. It acknowledges past research throughout each, giving a nod to the works of palaeontologists who have made key discoveries on the physical and behavioural elements of the species. From there, Naish and Barrett explore more contemporary discoveries, such as the reasons that *T. rex* was such a dominating dinosaur and also the links between dinosaurs and birds still living today.

The other reason this text is so engaging is the range of images used to support information. By including a wealth of artistic impressions, photos of fossils and computer-generated images, the information comes to life. It allows the authors to give further tidbits on specific dinosaurs and their evolution, explaining concepts that younger readers could find hard to understand. The images highlight the advancements in technologies that have allowed our knowledge of dinosaur anatomy to increase. The computer-generated images and artistic impressions allow theories to be 'brought to life'.

This text gives the perfect amount of information about the lives of dinosaurs while also touching on the reasons why some theories about dinosaur extinction need to be rethought. It provides the reader with clear links from these incredible creatures to bird species that are more familiar to us, while also ensuring that the 'favourites' are present.

For the History class, the way that information is presented highlights the need to keep revisiting common theories, and also gives a good example of how to construct a text that is both engaging and informative.

Naish and Barrett, both experts on dinosaurs, let their passion for this subject flow through their words. It is clear that they set out with the goal of making modern theories on dinosaur evolution accessible, and they have certainly achieved it.