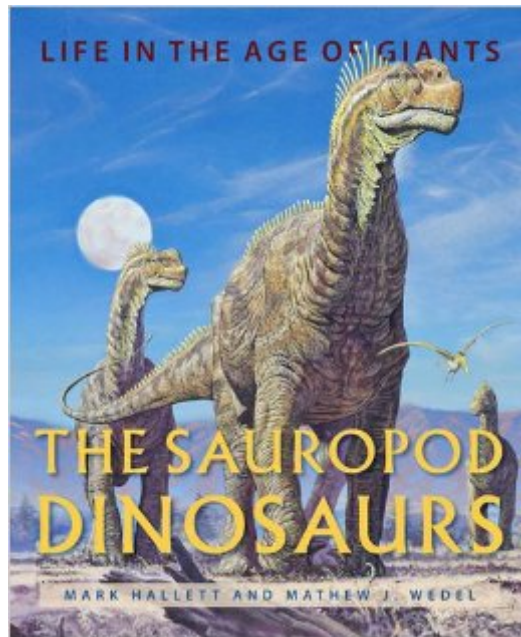


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The Sauropod Dinosaurs: Life In The Age Of Giants



Synopsis

From *The Land Before Time* to *Jurassic Park*, images of fantastically large, long-necked, plant-eating dinosaurs have captured our imaginations. These are the sauropods: centerpieces of museums and gentle giants of the distant past. Imagine what it must have been like to crest a hill and see in the valley below not just one sauropod, but an entire herd, feeding its way across the landscape. The most massive land animals ever to have lived, sauropods roamed widely across the continents through most of the "Age of Dinosaurs" from about 220 to 65 million years ago. They reached incredible sizes, giving rise to the question: Why were they so big? Early guesses suggested that they gained protection from predators by virtue of their size, which also allowed them to reach the tops of trees in order to eat leaves and conifer needles. More recent hypotheses hold that they needed a long and complicated digestive tract due to their consumption of low-nutrient food sources: size was an offshoot of that need. Whatever the explanation, there is little doubt that natural selection produced something extraordinary when the Sauropoda diversified into a wide variety of species. This book combines majestic artwork and the best of paleontological research to resurrect the lives of sauropods. *The Sauropod Dinosaurs* shows how these amazing creatures raised and defended their young, traveled in groups, and interacted with the rich diversity of Mesozoic plants and animals. Beautiful enough to sit on the coffee table, the book also serves as the best reference available on these bygone giants. Anyone with a passion for dinosaurs or prehistoric life will cherish this once-in-a-generation masterpiece. The book includes the following features:Â Over 200 full-color illustrationsÂ More than 100 color photographs from museums, field sites, and collections around the worldÂ Thoughtfully placed drawings and chartsÂ Clearly written text reviewed by major sauropod researchersÂ Descriptions of the latest sauropod concepts and discoveriesÂ A field guide to major groups of sauropodsÂ Detailed skeletal reconstructions and anatomical restorationsÂ A comprehensive glossary

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Customer Reviews

Wow! What a stunning book. Overflowing with Mark Hallett's amazing artwork, Mathew Wedel's writing is both scholarly and accessible to more casual readers. Given the advances in research in recent years, this is a "must-have" for both professionals and amateurs.

This book is great beyond words! Wedel's information is very informative and scholarly, Hallett's illustrations are fantastic! His artwork really adds and enhances the text, he is also very detailed when it comes to sauropod anatomy and possible appearance. Hallett and Wedel cover everything in this volume that you could ask sauropod paleobiology, topics range from diet to reproduction to name just a few. There are previous sauropod volumes, "Thunder-Lizards: The Sauropodomorph Dinosaurs;" by Tidwell and Carpenter. There is also, "The Sauropods: Evolution and Paleobiology" by Curry-Rodgers and Wilson. Both are indeed great sauropod books, and both are technical. Hallett and Wedel's volume is the sauropod volume I have been looking for, it is a popular book, but as mentioned above is a great volume to for any dinosaur lover, be it amateur or professional. This is the book on Sauropods!!!

An excellent book on sauropods for the scientifically literate reader. The authors take time to explain concepts of cladistics, anatomy and physiology, yet incorporate recent research into these magnificent animals. Lots of illustrations and sidebars help as well. Although I would not recommend it as a first book on sauropods, it is a must for any serious dinosaur enthusiast...I learned a lot! Also, key references are provided for those who want to delve into the scientific literature. The only flaws I saw was some typos in converting metric into English units or vice versa. Hopefully JHU press will publish similar volumes on other major groups of dinosaurs...looking forward!

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