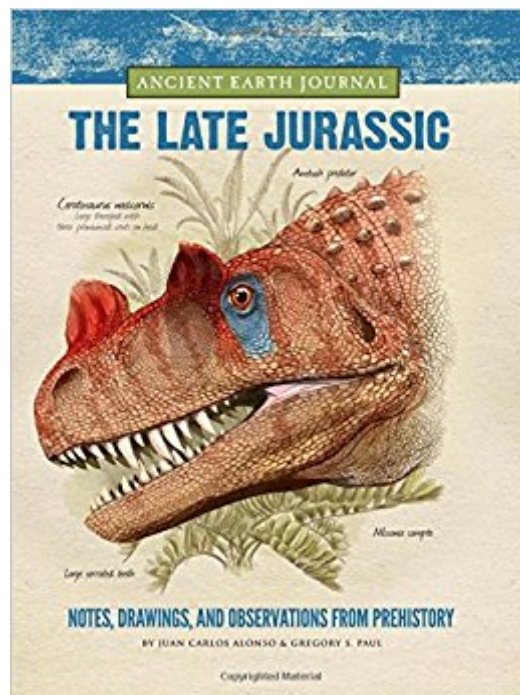




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Ancient Earth Journal: The Late Jurassic: Notes, Drawings, And Observations From Prehistory



Synopsis

A 2017 Outstanding Science Trade Book for Students K-12 (National Science Teachers Association-Children's Book Council) and Prehistoric Book of the Year by the readers of Prehistoric Times magazine. Through detailed illustrations and descriptive narrative, readers will experience a thrilling, thoroughly enjoyable ride through the most popular time period of prehistory. What would it be like to see a living, breathing dinosaur? Following in the footsteps of Ancient Earth Journal: The Early Cretaceous, this next installment, The Late Jurassic, will take readers further back in time to a period when giants ruled the land and early mammals began to secure their place alongside the dinosaurs. The Late Jurassic period was home to many species of our favorite dinosaurs, such as Apatosaurus (or Brontosaurus), Allosaurus, and Stegosaurus, to name a few. The Late Jurassic includes the latest paleontological findings to build an accurate depiction of the dinosaurs, environment, and wildlife of the period. Due to the abundance of fossils available for both plants and animals of this period, the book paints a vivid, realistic picture of the flora and fauna of the time, with more emphasis on hunting and defensive tactics, as well as early mammals and their role in the planet's evolution, for a thrilling, thoroughly enjoyable ride through the most popular time period of prehistory. Written and illustrated in the style of a naturalist's notebook, the reader is given a first-hand account of what it would be like to stand alongside some of the largest creatures to ever walk the earth.

Book Information

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Series: Ancient Earth Journal

Hardcover: 112 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

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Activity Books

Age Range: 8 - 11 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Gr 4 - With the look of a tea-stained field guide, this exploration of the late Jurassic period provides general dino-related information along with a few added bits. For instance, in addition to data on the length, height, and weight of these creatures, some of their temperaments are also discussed. (The allosaurus is described as aggressive and the diplodocus hallorum as cautious.) While dinosaurs are the main course here, Jurassic plants like ginkgo trees and mammals such as the Shenshou lui (a shrewlike creature from China) are also briefly covered. Although this title has a picture book format, the language and the occasional use of a script font would likely be frustrating for most readers below fourth grade. Appended is a handy pronunciation key. VERDICT Consider for serious dinosaur aficionados. - Anne Chapman Callaghan, Racine Public Library, WI

A NSTA-CBC Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12 for 2017 -

NSTA-CBC "The Late Jurassic was a time when dinosaurs were at their peak weirdness, and it looks like you've done a great job of covering their vast diversity. The detailed anatomical close-ups really help drive home the link between form and function. Kudos on another awesome contribution - Jordan Mallon, Ph.D., Research scientist, Paleobiology, Canadian Museum of Nature" "Beautifully detailed and realistically colored line illustrations gave me a vivid feel for what the creatures of the Jurassic world looked like. Add an enlightening and educational narrative with each animal and I was drawn right into how life was so many millions of years ago. Both alien and yet naturalistic, Juan Carlos Alonso and Gregory Paul's prehistoric animals in "The Late Jurassic" are amazing - Mike Fredericks, Prehistoric Times magazine" "Your new book on the Late Jurassic in the Ancient Journal series is a splendid follow up to your previous book on the Early Cretaceous. Both you and Gregory Paul are to be complimented and commended for the brilliant artistic and scientifically accurate presentation of the subject - Sylvia Czerkas, Author and Director, The Dinosaur Museum, Utah" "The artwork is fantastic...really impressive work - Christopher N. Jass, Ph.D., Curator, Quaternary Paleontology, Royal Alberta Museum, Canada

Very nice book

Great book, with awesome color plates!

An exciting and interesting book to read!

How many books have you read where introductory text runs something like: "Imagine a world where giants roamed the earth and reptiles ruled the skies"? Prosewise there is nothing new or extraordinary here. I heard the first book "Ancient Earth Journal: Early Cretaceous" won awards, probably the usual publishing industry awards. There are more award-worthy, informative and highly evocative books of awards on the subject of dinosaurs. The authors and publisher are basically peddling out annual picture books with scant text to, well...Cha ching! \$\$Editorially speaking, instances of period and era where preceded by Jurassic or Mesozoic should be capitalized yet aren't. The specifics are not exactly right either. Pangaea was not quite divided into the continents as we know them, although wording in this book will lead kids to thinking just that. None of the dinosaur names are italicized when they should be. Ok, so many children's books do the same. Comparing the Early Cretaceous book to this one, as I expected in my review last year, the descriptors are too close. That's one issue with doing dinosaur book series like this. You will describe dinosaurs with the same language book to book and it will get tiresome to kids FAST. Compare Carcharodontosaurus in the first book to Allosaurus in this book: massive long legs, powerful forearms, sharp serrated teeth, developed sense of smell, etc. But I am skeptical that this book - series even - was truly designed for kids. The intended audience of kids, at least how their minds process info, seem forgotten as I read the prose. A flood plain is described but not shown. Despite a few trees and plants mentioned in the first few pages, the *habitat* of certain critters like the flying Archaeopteryx, which dwelled in lagoons in ancient Europe, are never shown. Particular environments dinosaurs lived in are omitted and they have a WHOLE BOOK about a specific portion of a period to get into it! We need landscapes in books like this. A kid wants to know what did this Late Jurassic Period *look* like? No stories told by fossils, no visuals of Jurassic waterholes, droughts, conifer forests, nothing. There was plenty of room for this, too. Unlike the jam-packed visual books by say, DK, there's more unused space per page here than actual illustration. Skeleton anatomy diagrams were good to include but there are no sauropod skeletons. Size descriptions are occasionally over or under what is generally understood in the paleo community. It is stated Allosaurus grew to 30 ft (not mentioning the average was actually less) but Diplodocus is only stated to be up to 80 ft (what about 100 ft Seismosaurus hallorum?) There's behavior shown here for which

there's no scientific-backed basis such as the protective parent Guanlong. Oviraptorosaurs yes, but no evidence of strong maternal care in tyrannosauroids like Guanlong. Torvosaurus is the only predator-scavenger? One could surmise theropods were all generally opportunistic feeders so why Torvo was singled out is strange. Evolutionary relationships are not expounded on. Dinosaurs are arranged by order, then alphabetically. Allosaurus appears ahead of Ceratosaurus and there's no real context except that they competed with each other. Determining the temperaments for each dinosaur as extremely aggressive, aggressive, reclusive, etc. is too speculative, a bit spurious, certainly unnecessary. I mean, who says Compsognathus was *shy* - and who the hell would know? Besides, why are its arms so undersized in the artwork than its actual skeleton indicates? This brings me to the mixed bag of artwork. Once again it is 100% by Carlos, not by Paul whose work does not appear in any of these Ancient Earth Journal books, and often contradicts Carlos (see Paul's Princeton Field Guide to Dinosaurs) for comparisons. The eyes are neither convincingly reptilian or avian and appear oversized on most. Carlos apparently believes dinosaur eye whites showed and doesn't subscribe to herbivore jaw adductor muscles. As with his Early Cretaceous sauropods, the ungulate-style mouths are odd features. Considering the teeth were replaced often as they wore down, a small mouth wouldn't make it easy to lose teeth. Each sauropod skull's top section is referred to as "nasal openings" but the nostrils are correctly shown at the front end of the snout on all the fleshed out art. This fact will confuse sharp eyed children because it is simply not explained sufficiently on page 56. Alonso omitted from Brontosaurus the back spines its relation Diplodocus had but theropods are embellished arbitrarily based on less relevancy. Stegosaurus on pages 74 and 90 has too short of a neck, but more importantly plates were drawn in the wrong position. This is because Alonso stuck them on too low so that they are literally on the sides, a misreading of the Paul skeletal he used to draw it. Due to the position of the back leg, Camptosaurus looks as if it is about to fall over. The ankylosaurs look hastily drawn, particularly the armored back on Gargoyleosaurus. The entire image looks like it was based on the exact pose of the skeleton from Denver Museum yet the following pages have it with a longer neck and smaller head. The shape of Kentrosaurus plates, like its head, are entirely made up, even were keratin allowed, not resembling the fossil at all. The other animals in the book are a few pterosaurs and mammals but these are insignificant. Why those are included but not include marine reptiles is another disappointment on our tour of the Late Jurassic. As with the Early Cretaceous book, the biggest missed opportunity is the omission of the stages of each period. The Oxfordian stage, briefly mentioned in the needless Foreword, is conveniently omitted along with other stages. Seems to me that educating kids on the evolutionary or environmental changes in the period stages would have

been an original idea. If including species names with every genus was not too technical for kids, then stages wouldn't be too much more to handle. If I was doing such a book, I would have arranged it by stages then location(s). This way kids would understand which animals literally walked the earth at the same time, and whether they lived close to each other. I expect future researchers to discover the North American Jurassic theropods were feathered too, unlike the naked skinned ones here. Judging by these first two books, the covers will likely all feature open-mouthed theropods. However, Late Jurassic was best known as "the age of giants" as per page 56, referring to sauropods - which would have made a more suitable cover truly evoking Late Jurassic. A final note. Beware of the review padding on here, readers. Those suspicious "Every kid likes dinos .. I got this for my kid and he loves it ... You won't be disappointed" type reviews are not by people who actually have the book and know the subject. They are people sent in to quickly boost ratings. I wasn't overly impressed with the first book's flubs (see my review) but expected improvements this time. Well, as you can see, they weren't all met. What was met was my expectation that the same exact group of researchers would praise this book that praised the first - with the same stock phrases.

Juan Carlos Alonso is a talented illustrator whose first beautiful dinosaur book was on the Early Cretaceous. His new book covers the Late Jurassic age and like the first book, was co-written with dinosaur expert Gregory S Paul (whose articles we have all enjoyed in Prehistoric Times magazine). This new book is packed with information about the many different prehistoric animals of that time with really beautiful illustrations by JC Alonso. First covered are the meat-eaters which includes such theropods as Allosaurus, Ceratosaurus (as seen on the front cover) Torvosaurus and more. Next up are the sauropods - Brontosaurus, Camarasaurus, Diplodocus and Greg Paul's favorite Giraffatitan. Many other dinosaurs are included like Camptosaurus, Stegosaurus, Kentrosaurus, Rhamphorhynchus and even a couple of extinct mammals that ran around under the dinosaurs' feet at the time. The authors wrote the book with younger readers in mind (the front cover is 3D to the touch) but all ages will love this beautiful book and others in the series (more are coming) for the interesting facts and the amazing artwork. The colorful illustrations are large and the text is written as if the reader is on a journey back through time. JC has tried to illustrate the Jurassic as a snapshot of what it must of been like to walk the earth millions of years ago. I like the idea of these books and love the writing and of course the artwork.

Once again, JC. Alonso wows. On the latest installment (of hopefully more to come) of his Earth

Journal series, Alonso tightens up the storytelling, sharpens his pencils and delivers an ever better immersion into the world of dinosaurs. My kids (and other grown ups at home, i.e., me) loved the first book, and this new edition is, well... downright beautiful. Impressive and a work of art. Kudos!

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