

# SALEM PRESS

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## **Salem Press Announces a New Title: *Ancient Creatures***

Transport yourself hundreds of millions of years back in time with *Ancient Creatures*, a new encyclopedia presented by Salem Press. From *Abelisaurus*, a close South American relation to *Tyrannosaurus rex*, to *Zigongosaurus*, a 50-foot-tall herbivore with a neck half the size of its body, *Ancient Creatures* offers a comprehensive look at the 100 most studied prehistoric creatures in educational curriculums today. Edited by American paleontologist Spencer G. Lucas, Ph.D, *Ancient Creatures* is designed for students of paleontology at the high school and undergraduate level, as well as for others with a serious interest in life on Earth millions and millions of years ago.

Since the first large reptilian fossils were discovered and the term *Dinosauria* (“terrible lizards”) was coined in 1841, nearly 500 distinctive kinds of dinosaurs have been named by paleontologists. *Ancient Creatures* provides information on 93 of these species and seven other non-dinosaur genera, as well as 25 general essays and paleontological resources across three informative sections and a detailed Index.

**Section One** offers 100 essays on individual prehistoric creatures arranged by period (Permian, Late Triassic, Early Jurassic, Middle Jurassic, Late Jurassic, Early Cretaceous, Late Cretaceous), all of which include history, behavioral patterns, living conditions, and information on when and where the animal was discovered. All essays in this section are supplemented by innovative, detailed color drawings, maps, charts, and other graphics that educate the reader about individual dinosaurs’ physical appearance and habitat. A vocabulary list and bibliography complete every essay.

All dinosaur genus entries:

- Are written in a standardized format;
- Include a phonetic pronunciation of the dinosaur’s name and the name’s meaning;
- Introduce the reader to the dinosaur and place it into biological classifications relative to other dinosaurs;
- Feature a 3-D CGI picture representation of what the animal looked like in its habitat;
- Review the dinosaur’s anatomy (size, shapes, and distinctive features), as well as its estimated size in comparison to an average human;

- Include scientific inferences about relative intelligence, metabolism, mode of reproduction, diet, and other aspects of behavior, including attack, defense, running speeds, and locomotion;
- Describe the geological time period and geographical location in which the dinosaur lived; and
- Provide the latest information on the creature, including new discoveries in paleontology, current scientific classifications, and terminologies to describe a dinosaur's species or group, as well as websites and other sources for further research.

**Section Two** offers 25 informative, general essays that cover a myriad of topics, including:

- The history of dinosaur discoveries;
- A review of geological time intervals relevant to dinosaurs, including the Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic eras and the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous periods of the Mesozoic era, during which the dinosaurs lived;
- Methods of biological classification used by scientists to decipher evolutionary history and construct the major taxonomic categories of reptiles and the major groups of dinosaurs;
- The geological context of what is known about dinosaurs, from fossilization to fragmenting and drifting supercontinents; and
- The process by which scientists estimate a dinosaur's intelligence relative to that of other dinosaurs and relative to other animals, including mammals and birds.

**Section Three** continues with a Resources section with information for further exploration of paleontology, including schools that offer related fields of study, museums that focus on paleontology, web sites with detailed resources for the serious researcher, a comprehensive, current bibliography, suggestions for further reading, and an easy-to-follow chronology.

Finally, *Ancient Creatures* concludes with a detailed, alphabetized **Index**, making vital research time quick and simple.

This new resource from Salem Press is guaranteed to provide a wide array of advanced scientific and biological information on the creatures of yesteryear. Though written for upper-level high school and undergraduate students, *Ancient Creatures* is the perfect encyclopedia for both serious paleontologists and amateur *Jurassic Park* fans alike.

### **Free Online with Print Purchase**

*Ancient Creatures* is available at no additional cost to buyers of the print volume online through Salem's online platform, <http://online.salempress.com>. A single purchase of the printed version is all it takes to gain access to this important title on the web.

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