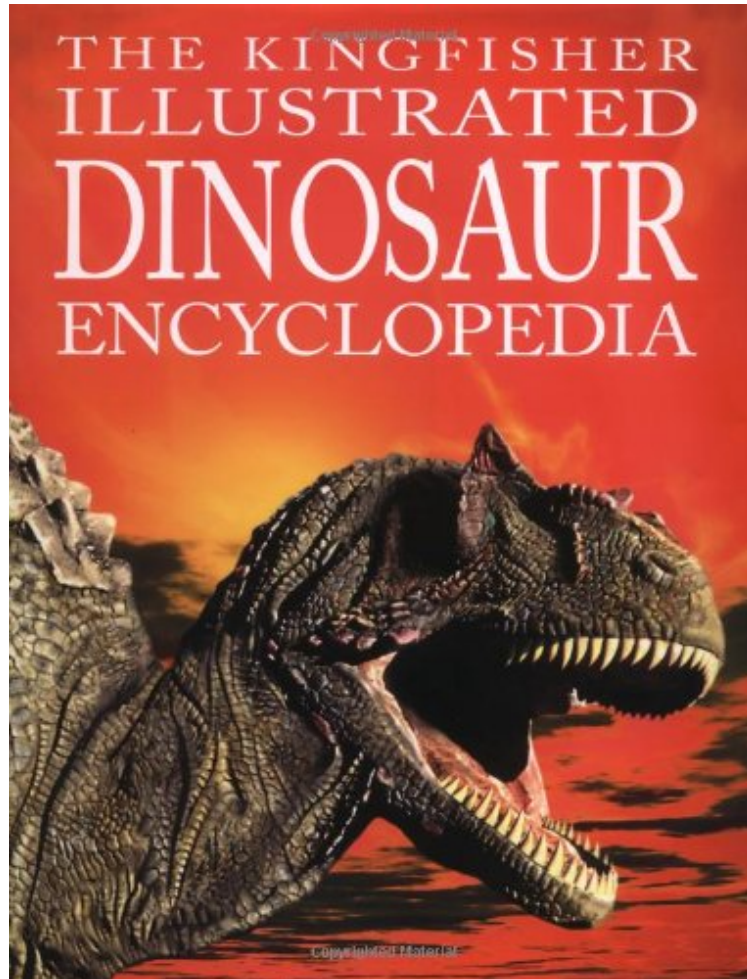


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From School Library Journal
Grade 5-10-A chronology of life on Earth from its earliest beginnings in a primordial sea to a brief look at the Tertiary and Quaternary (including a quick flick into human evolution). Divided into broad subjects ("The Age of Ancient Life," "Armored Dinosaurs," etc.), which are again subdivided ("The Burgess Shale," "Triassic animals," etc.), the book focuses on dinosaurs, but provides a broad spectrum of other life-forms and the evolutionary landscapes in which they lived. With a longer and more cohesive text than David Lambert's *Dinosaur Encyclopedia* (DK, 2001), this volume demands a more concentrated effort to read. However, Burnie's style is quite approachable and should prove no problem to determined dinophiles. A time line across the tops of relevant pages allows easy placement in time of referenced animals. The numerous illustrations are colorful and inviting; color photos are used where possible. Diagrams include such disparate subjects as a stegosaurian nervous system and a cladogram of advanced theropods (the sole mention of cladistics in the book, other than the glossary). Theories on dinosaur endothermia, the cause of mass extinctions, and the course of bird evolution are included. Though a list of Web sites is given, no further readings are suggested, and no bibliographic/source notes are provided. More demanding and more up-to-date than Dougal Dixon's *The Macmillan Illustrated Encyclopedia of Dinosaurs and Prehistoric Animals* (1988), this new fodder for budding paleontologists will be met with pleased approbation.
Patricia Manning, formerly at Eastchester Public Library, NY
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One of the strongest features of this information-packed work lies in the many illustrations sprinkled across virtually every page. Artist John Sibbick does a splendid job of interpreting and recreating the habitat and habits of dinosaurs and prehistoric mammals. This is an outstanding reference book and one that youngsters with a bent for the ancient "Terrible Lizards" will want to possess. Children's Literature
More demanding and more up-to-date than Dougal Dixon's *The Macmillan Illustrated Encyclopedia of Dinosaurs and Prehistoric Animals* (1988), this new fodder for budding paleontologists will be met with pleased approbation. School Library Journal