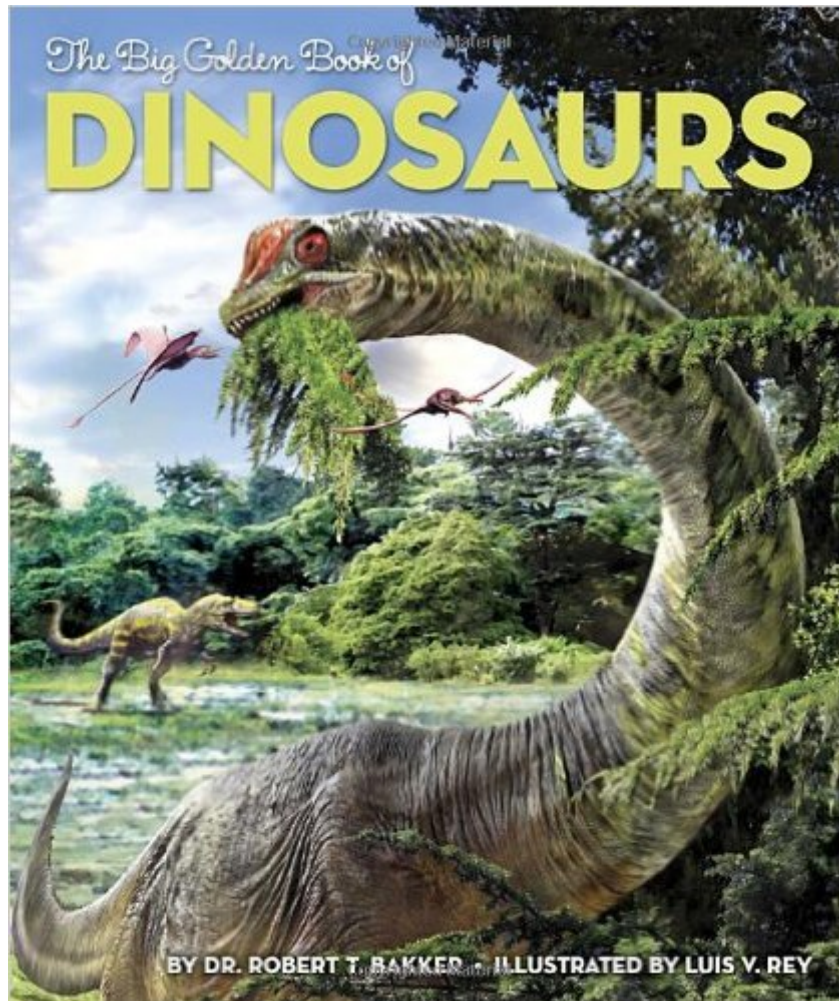


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# The Big Golden Book Of Dinosaurs (Big Golden Books)



## Synopsis

Renowned paleontologist Robert T. Bakker and award-winning paleoartist Luis V. Rey combine forces in this oversized picture book about the evolution of dinosaurs. From the conquest of land by dino ancestor Acanthostega during the Devonian Period, through the mass die-off of dinosaurs at the end of the Cretaceous Period, Bakker and Rey take readers on a safari through time while paying subtle homage to the 1960 Giant Golden Book Dinosaurs and Other Prehistoric Reptiles that inspired them both as young dinophiles. With stops along the way to look at monster bugs, ferocious fin-backs, fluffy dinosaurs, sea monsters and the 12-year-old girl who discovered them, dinosaur orchestras, tickling tyrannosaurs, and much, much more, this is a journey readers will never forget. It's a perfect gift for young dinosaur lovers as well as adult fans of Dr. Bakker and Luis Rey!

## Book Information

Series: Big Golden Books

Hardcover: 64 pages

Publisher: Golden Books; First Printing This 2013 Ed edition (September 24, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375859586

ISBN-13: 978-0375859588

Product Dimensions: 10.3 x 0.4 x 12.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (17 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #334,157 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #37 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Prehistoric #223 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Earth Sciences #538 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dinosaurs

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

I bought this book for my son. He's much too young to read it yet, but my enthusiasm got the best of me. I think it's great. Both the text and the art will give a young reader a great feel for how paleontologists currently view dinosaurs and related animals. (For anyone who may not already know, Bakker is one of the most influential living paleontologists.) There are no featherless velociraptors (thank goodness) and even the Tyrannosaurus rex is painted with a feather-like

covering. The book doesn't try to be an encyclopedia; instead serving as a nice introduction to the place of dinosaurs in the history of animal life, describing (or at least speculating about) their emergence, evolutionary history, notable characteristics and behavior, and finally, their extinction. Although there are paleoartists whose work I like even more than Rey's, his paintings are colorful, lively, and dynamic. (There are some really amazing paleoartists out there; even if he's not your favorite, Rey's work is still pretty great. I did find Ichthyosaurus on page 29 a bit odd. On the other hand, Rey's pterosaurs consistently impressed me.) I'm looking forward to reading this to my son when he's old enough. It's nice to have available a scientifically reliable, up-to-date treatment of dinosaurs aimed squarely at young children.

This golden book of dinosaurs was around for a long time, my son had it in the 80s! But it's been updated with all of the latest findings in the paleontology world. Extremely accurate. Love it. And it's written with kids in mind. My 4 yr old and I have a number of dino books, and he likes this one the best!

This book is an updated, contemporary version of the Giant Golden Book of Dinosaurs and Other Prehistoric Reptiles, one of the great children's dinosaur books of all time. It is even laid out very much like the original, including its (over-sized) dimensions, the Brachiosaurus cover and the fossil maps on the front and back endpapers. The original was authored by children's book writer Jane Werner Watson and was pedestrian at best. But it featured the magnificent artwork of Rudolph Zallinger, which was and remains the central appeal of the book. This new version is written by Paleontologist Robert Bakker. Dr. Bakker's expertise gives his highly readable, engaging and understandable text a dimension completely lacking in the original. He manages to combine a coherent, if concise, historiography of dinosaur science with current prehistoric taxonomy. He also addresses the questions of dinosaur origins (reptiles vs. birds), cold-blooded or warm-blooded, and feathered dinosaurs, while offering the scientific basis for each. It's a children's book, so it's far from comprehensive, but as an adult who has not stayed current with the seemingly dizzying changes in dinosaur science, I found Dr. Bakker's explanations enormously helpful in sorting it all out. The book is beautifully illustrated by paleoartist Luis V. Rey. He had a tough act to follow in Rudolph Zallinger, one of the greatest dinosaur artists of all time. Rey's dinosaurs are quite different than the images I grew up with, but beautifully rendered and far more reflective of the contemporary understanding of dinosaur biology. His blue feathered Tyrannosaurs are striking and strange. The one criticism I have is that Rey's illustrations use perspective to dramatic effect, featuring many close-up images.

Consequently, the backgrounds are often lost, while in other cases, multiple images create significant differences in scale on the same page. The result is a little bit of incoherence. Compared to the sprawling prehistoric landscapes of Zallinger, seamlessly filled with various dinosaurs, Rey's illustrations suffer. But I'm splitting hairs. This is an outstanding book. Without question, it is the best combination of educational content and artwork I have yet seen in a children's dinosaur book.

Ideal for ages 3 and up... My three year old grandson wore this book out and my 8 year-old was thrilled to receive it as a birthday present... and when my daughter, my wife and I read it we all learned something...

I'm giving this book five stars because it's only fair not to compare it to the original "Giant Golden Book of Dinosaurs and Other Prehistoric Reptiles" [by Jane Werner Watson (Author), Rudolph F. Zallinger (Illustrator)]; standing alone, it deserves five stars, but it's hard to compete with the original which was so outstanding. That having been said, the real pleasure of this latest edition is the illustrations, which are extremely vibrant and show the dinosaurs as the powerful, wondrous beasts that they must have been. The text is also good, but somehow not quite as enthralling as the first book (there I go again, I'm really trying hard not to compare them!). Really, in the end, I just wish this book were about twice as thick. It feels like there's so much missing that could have been in there, particularly further information about just HOW we know all of this stuff about dinosaurs, and what paleontologists do to learn about them. The best I could ever recommend would be to get both this book and its predecessor. The first one has tons of information and beautiful illustrations, but it's out-of-date. The latest book is an excellent supplement which shows how our knowledge has changed over time.

Great book. One of the museum curators at my local Natural History Museum encouraged me to purchase this book to teach my two year old about dinosaurs. I found it very dense but informative. My child enjoys looking through the beautifully illustrated book. It is definitively worth the \$.

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