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Bugs Before Time: Prehistoric Insects And Their Relatives



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Synopsis

Did you know that for every pound of people on earth, there are 300 pounds of insects? Or that millions of years ago some of these bugs actually weighed that much? Well, during prehistoric times, before dinosaurs ruled the earth, bugs did; and just like today the seas, skies, and lands were covered by these creepy-crawlers. There were dragonflies with wings that reached a yard across in length, and millipedes that grew to over six feet long! But what is even more fascinating is the fact that all of these creatures in some form or another learned to adapt and survive to become the insects and sea beasts of today. In this fully illustrated picture book, readers will be captivated by the detailed information of prehistoric insects, arachnids, and their relatives. Chock-full of facts about fossil formation, insect evolution, flight theories, and geologic time, Bugs Before Time will mesmerize entomologists of all ages. Author Cathy Camper's absorbing text, and artist Steve Kirk's extraordinary paintings combine to re-create a world where giants reigned.

Book Information

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Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

Customer Reviews

Grade 4-7-A handsome introduction to prehistoric insects and other arthropods. Camper's up-to-date, conversational text and informative captions and data boxes investigate such disparate matters as insect evolution, theories on flight development, continental drift, and fossil formation. While not an in-depth dissertation, there is plenty of meat here for young researchers, assisted by

an excellent list of further readings and some Web sites. Kirk’s eye-catching, realistic watercolors portray a fascinating array of creatures, some with evolutionary existing descendants: trilobites, ants, eurypterids, and dragonflies among them. Neither an index nor a table of contents is provided, which may cause some dismay, but the chapter headings on every other page (and those nifty illustrations) should assist readers. A colorful time line is appended to assist in placing the discussed creatures in Earth’s prehistory, as is a helpful glossary of the many unfamiliar terms. The book is sure to entrance budding entomologists and surprise dinophiles with the Arthropoda’s long evolutionary history (which ante- and postdates their beloved beasts by a good many millions of years).Patricia Manning, formerly at Eastchester Public Library, NYCopyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Gr. 3-5. Camper introduces a variety of insects and their arthropod relatives that lived during prehistoric times. She describes several common bugs--among them, ants, spiders, and cockroaches--still thriving today, as well as other, now extinct creatures such as trilobites and erypterids. She also includes sections on fossil formation, evolution, the location of continents, and geological time. Kirk’s brightly colored watercolor illustrations, from large double-page spreads to small inset drawings, add informational value. Many are captioned; unfortunately a few (such as the scene of a prehistoric cave shared by humans and large cockroaches) are melodramatic. There’s not enough information to satisfy report writers, but browsers will be captivated by the cover art showing a dragonfly winging its way through a prehistoric forest with its dinner in its clutches, and by the catchy title. This will be popular with dinosaur enthusiasts who are ready to branch out to other prehistoric species. Kay WeismanCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

My daughter loves the book, but I have found two errors already and I have read less than 10 pgs. One was about the Ancient Egyptians using resin MILLIONS of years ago. I laughed at it and passed it as an editing mistake, but the next page had one as well. Makes me wonder what other mistakes are present.

Very interesdti g book. Satisfied information I was looking for.

Definently a kids book. Gave to a neighbors kid, and his mother asked if I had any more.

I bought this book for my 8 year old nephew who has a serious interest in bugs. While the book

would be good for a wide range of age and interest levels, it was particularly gratifying to find a well-written book for a smart kid. The illustrations are excellent, and the material thoughtful and well-compiled. A good book for any child to read on their own, or with a parent (or an aunt).

This is the best book! I teach elementary school students, and they love it. Ms. Camper has hit on the perfect topic for kids: giant insects and dinosaurs. "Bugs Before Time" is filled with vivid illustrations to complement the fun and highly informed text. Even two sentences can inspire long and lively conversations in class. It’s a joy to see my students so excited.My students, who happen to be learning English as a second language, are eager to read this and they even take it home to enjoy. I couldn’t think of a greater success for an educational publication.This is everything a science book should be: alive, witty, and inspiring. It is a pleasure for adults, too, and makes me want to learn even more. Cheers!!

This is a science book for children that has real scientific content. Parents who appreciate a children’s book that is based on solid research, and reflects the latest ideas in entomology, paleontology, geology, and other related fields, will enjoy this book as much as their children. Although the reading level is set at 9-12 years, I would recommend it for parents of children aged 7-9 who like to read together with their children. The author lives in Minnesota, where as Garrison Keilor says, all the children are above average. She must be writing for young Minnesotans.

This book fills a long-neglected space on the shelf in the library where I work.There has been so much written for children about dinosaurs and so little about the "smaller" inhabitants of the prehistoric world. The author’s text is wonderful. It is a challenge to make "dry" facts fun for kids to read.The artist’s images are vivid and pleasing to the eye. This book does not stay on the shelf long. The kids grab it as soon as it comes in!Kids who love bugs will love this book! Get this title for your library.I promise you will not be disappointed.

You won’t believe what you read in this book. To think that there were once bugs SO BIG crawling and flying around this earth. Spiny things, brightly colored things ... if you’ve had a chance to hear author Camper talk about her great bug models, well, that’s a treat. If you have, I bet you’ve bought this book. If you haven’t, then you should read the book for the best information about an amazing group of entomylogical wonders. Well researched, it’s a worthwhile book for any bookshelf.

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