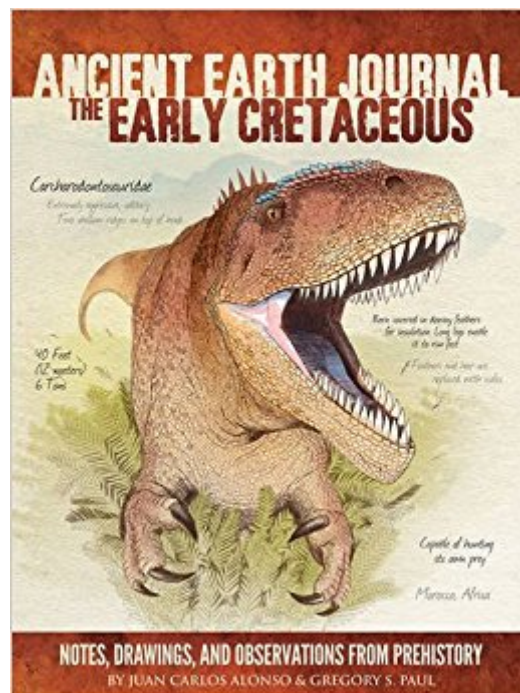




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# Ancient Earth Journal: The Early Cretaceous: Notes, Drawings, And Observations From Prehistory



## Synopsis

A 2016 Outstanding Science Trade Book for Students K-12 (National Science Teachers Association-Children's Book Council) The Early Cretaceous brings readers closer to prehistoric life than ever before. What it would be like to see a living, breathing dinosaur? The Early Cretaceous brings readers closer to prehistoric life than ever before. By combining the latest paleontological findings with highly detailed, intimate drawings of wildlife from the Early Cretaceous, readers will look into the eyes of some of the most fascinating creatures to ever inhabit the earth. Written and illustrated in the style of a naturalist's notebook, the viewer will be given a first-hand account of what it is like to stand alongside everything from the first birds to flying dinosaurs to some of the largest creatures ever to walk the earth. Through detailed illustrations and descriptive narrative, readers will discover how some dinosaurs survived polar blizzards, while others were able to pump blood five stories high to reach their brains. While many books on prehistoric life lump dinosaurs into the general timeline of the Mesozoic Period, no book currently dissects plant and animal life during one specific period. This allows the book to explore wildlife seldom featured in publications, many of them recent discoveries. The Early Cretaceous is backed by the research of one of paleontology's most acclaimed theorists, giving the book the most up to date scientific interpretation regarding animal behaviors, interactions, and recreations. "The illustrations and artistic layout are exceptionally beautiful. This is a book children will cherish, keep, and remember, and adults will be delighted to add to their collection." - Sylvia Czerkas, Author and Director The Dinosaur Museum, Utah "The illustrations are fantastic! The Nigersaurus 'grazing' is one of the nicest reconstructions of a rebbachisaurid I've ever seen." - Matthew C. Lamanna, Ph.D., Assistant Curator, Section of Vertebrate Paleontology, Carnegie Museum of Natural History "Fantastic artwork!" - Andrew Milner, Paleontologist and Curator at St. George Dinosaur Discovery Site "The art is amazing" - Phil Hore, National Dinosaur Museum, Australia "I \*love\* it! The style reminds me of a very cool sci-fi book that I had as a kid (and still have), Dougal Dixon's After Man: A Zoology of the Future. Dixon's book is a wonderful, lavishly illustrated introduction to evolutionary principles that helped set me on the path to becoming a professional paleontologist. I suspect your book is going to be similarly inspirational to many of today's aspiring scientists." - Matthew C. Lamanna, Ph.D., Assistant Curator, Section of Vertebrate Paleontology, Carnegie Museum of Natural History

## Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 11 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

"Presenting current facts with a soupcon of creativity, this eye-catching title will be coveted by young dinophiles." - School Library Journal

"Two accomplished paleoartists invite armchair paleontologists to go eye to eye with 21 dinosaurs and flying reptiles....Eye candy for both serious and casual dinophiles." - Kirkus Reviews

"I think the entire project was well thought out. By concentrating on the early cretaceous you guys were able to highlight a large number of species often overlooked by other books - making this a must-have for any dinosaur fan." - Phil Hore, National Dinosaur Museum, Australia

"I absolutely love the book that you and Paul have put together! I'm a huge fan of your artwork and really enjoy the layout. It's not too heavy on the science and I can see that it will be easy enough for young people to understand." - Andrew R. C. Milner, Paleontologist and Curator, St. George Dinosaur Discovery Site at Johnson Farm

"I think this book is a wonderful addition to dinosaur literature for young readers. The illustrations are superb and the text is precise and accurate. Well done!" - Peter Larson, Paleontologist and President at Black Hills Institute of Geological Research

"The high-quality illustrations of this short but fascinating book are a sign of the expertise of the creators....sure to be popular with dinosaur-mad" - Booklist

Juan Carlos Alonso is a Cuban American graphic designer, creative director, and illustrator. He has over 30 years experience in the graphic design/illustration field. In 1992, he founded Alonso &

Company, a creative boutique specializing in branding, design, and advertising. He has been working with clients of all sizes from Fortune 500 to local businesses and has forged strong relationships with companies including the NBA franchise The Miami Heat, Bacardi Rum, Ryder System, Pitney Bowes, and Capitol Records. Alonso & Company has attained international acclaim for work in advertising and graphic design. His passion for nature has taken him around the world from Australia to the Galapagos Islands to study animals. Along with his work in the graphic arts, he is also an accomplished wildlife sculptor focusing mostly on prehistoric animals. Gregory S. Paul is an American freelance researcher, author, and illustrator who works in paleontology. He is best known for his work and research on theropod dinosaurs and his detailed illustrations, both live and skeletal. Professionally investigating and restoring dinosaurs for three decades, Paul received an on-screen credit as a dinosaur specialist on Jurassic Park and Discovery Channel's When Dinosaurs Roamed America and Dinosaur Planet. He is the author and illustrator of *Predatory Dinosaurs of the World* (1988), *The Complete Illustrated Guide to Dinosaur Skeletons* (1996), *Dinosaurs of the Air* (2001), *The Princeton Field Guide To Dinosaurs* (2010), Gregory S. Paul's *Dinosaur Coffee Table Book* (2010), and editor of *The Scientific American Book of Dinosaurs* (2000). From 1977 to 1984, Paul was an informal research associate and illustrator for Robert Bakker in the Earth and Planetary Sciences department at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. He has been a member of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology since 1979, the National Center for Science Education since 1992, and the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators since 1986.

Dinosaurs! My kids love them. I love them. My dog loves them (chews up the kid's Dino toys). This book is a virtual time machine to the amazing Cretaceous era. The illustrations are detailed, fresh, accurate and... full of personality. Sure, some of these big lizards are fierce and terrifying, but the artist has managed to imbue personality and emotions to many of them. In my eyes, he shows that these were creatures with complex lives, social interactions, emotions and families. Not just cold-blooded killing machines. Impressive! Buy it for the kids, revel in the artwork and learn a thing or two. Highly recommended.

Beautiful artwork, unique style. More of a "field sketch" guide, makes it unique and very nice. I will definitely buy the next book in this series (Jurassic coming soon).

A super book for young minds interested in learning about the "Early Cretaceous." The drawings are exceptional.

If you are a dinosaur fan, or no someone who is, get this book immediately. Some of the finest dinosaur illustrations I have seen. Covers only the early Cretaceous so don't expect T-Rex and Triceratops (late Cretaceous). What you get is a diverse collection of great but possibly dinosaurs that are little less familiar. Reads like a field guide. I hope Juan Carlos Alonso teams up with Gregory Paul again to do Late Cretaceous and Jurassic era dinosaurs as well because this one deserves companions to sit proudly on your dinosaurs book shelf (even though it stands out all by itself). Kudos for the embossed (raised) cover!

Very nice book!

Well made book with beautiful color plates.

Great book with beautiful illustrations and easy for children to read. Two thumbs UP ! ! !

The main selling point of this book, for me, was the drawing of the roaring Carcharodontosaurus on the cover, which caught my eye. I expected to see more interesting and accurate portrayals of dinosaurs throughout the book. However, I was disappointed. One who is not familiar with anatomy and paleontology could be forgiven for not noticing the following mistakes, however I feel I must point them out, regardless:- The ear opening is in the wrong place on all (or nearly all) of the dinosaur reconstructions. The ear should be behind the inferior temporal fenestra, and slightly above the jaw joint. This is true for all living birds and lizards (but not crocodilians, because their ears are modified to sit on top of their heads), so there is no reason to think it would be otherwise in dinosaurs. The inferior temporal fenestra would actually hold muscles, as Gregory S. Paul's own diagrams show.- There is no evidence for scales on the snouts of feathered dinosaurs. As in birds, their snouts should be devoid of scales and only covered in skin and/or keratin. (Larger dinosaurs may have had them on their faces, and/or cracked skin as in crocodilians, though. As with the decision to cover the teeth with lips, this is still a topic of debate amongst paleoartists and researchers.)- Similarly, I found the decision to have scaly hands for Beipiaosaurus and the other winged dinosaurs to be a bit strange. These hands should probably, for the most part, either be covered in feathers or bare skin.- For the Acrocanthosaurus, the first two claws of the hand should never form a straight line with the rest of the finger. Instead, these claws were permanently flexed- meaning that they were curved inwards at all times. Only the third claw could form a straight line

with the rest of the finger when extended. Admittedly, this information is from a 2005 paper by authors Phil Senter and James Robins, a paper that is generally overlooked and not even museum mounts of *Acrocanthosaurus* have gotten this correct.- For *Microraptor*, its feathers should definitely be hiding most of its body contours / outline. This is generally accepted to be the case for most feathered dinosaurs- and in particular flying / gliding ones!- Feathers are often referred to as "hair". Hair is exclusive to mammals. Dinosaurs and pterosaurs never possessed hair. Pterosaurs had pycnofibers, and dinosaurs had feathers. The single filament ones could just be called "simple feathers". Overall, I really did like some of the artwork despite these issues. The stripes on the *Acrocanthosaurus* were visually interesting, the hatchling theropods were completely adorable, and the eyes of most all of the dinosaurs are lively and vibrant. The scales and feathers are highly detailed. While I do agree with another reviewer that the drawings are a bit flat, I can't really complain about that aspect. In my own past, published artworks, looking back on it mine were similarly flat. Perhaps the artist was under a time constraint as I was, and did not have the time to properly shade each dinosaur. Still, it would have made the drawings "pop" a lot more with shading. TL;dr: I felt some of the mistakes really took away from the educational value this book would have for children and readers not familiar with dinosaurs. They also could have used a bit more shading.

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