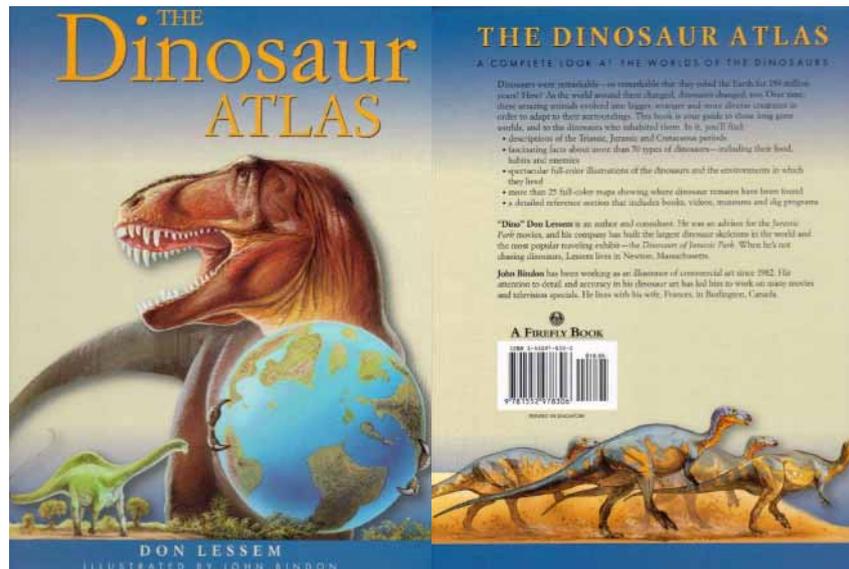


## Lessem, D. (illustrations by J. Bindon). 2003. The dinosaur atlas. – USA, Firefly Books

Book review by A.J. Veldmeijer



Few things interest children as much as dinosaurs. Often, children are capable of pronouncing the, admittedly sometimes tongue twisting names, without any difficulty. And in the last decennia, especially since the Jurassic Park trilogy, this interest has become even greater than ever before. I'm convinced that the enormous increase in popularity is also due to the fact that an increasing number of artists are involved in palaeontology, producing the most beautiful works of art of these extinct creatures.

The book by "Dino" Don Lessem is a book that can only further increase the enthusiasm of children in palaeontology. The layout of the book, for kids aged 8-12, is conveniently arranged and starts, obviously, with the late Triassic and continuing through the Jurassic to the Cretaceous, as indicated by the time balks at the top of the pages. Various topics are touched. Lessem chooses to arrange the information on geographical topics, like a chapter with the heading 'the African giants' and another one headed 'the swamps of England', which is, to my opinion, the best way to arrange a children's dinosaur book. The topic is dealt with on overleaf pages, with the map of the geographical setting as background and the reconstruction of one or few of the occurring dinosaurs large on the foreground. Various text blocks, one with details on size, food, systematics and another (with the heading 'Dino Don says') with short remarkable stories and black and white photographs, complete the information.

If it were for me, however, I would have left out the multiple photographs of Dino Don; but I can imagine that children like it.

In conclusions, the dinosaur atlas is one of the best children's books (in this age category) on dinosaurs available at the moment, despite some inaccuracies in the text. The book is well organized and written in a clear, understandable prose. The illustrations by John Bindon are beautiful and complete the book. A must for every child that likes dinosaurs!

Lessem, D. (illustrations by J. Bindon). 2003. The dinosaur atlas. – USA, Firefly Books. 64 pp. ISBN 1-55297-830-3. Price US\$ 18.95 (hardcover) (for kids ages 8-12 years).