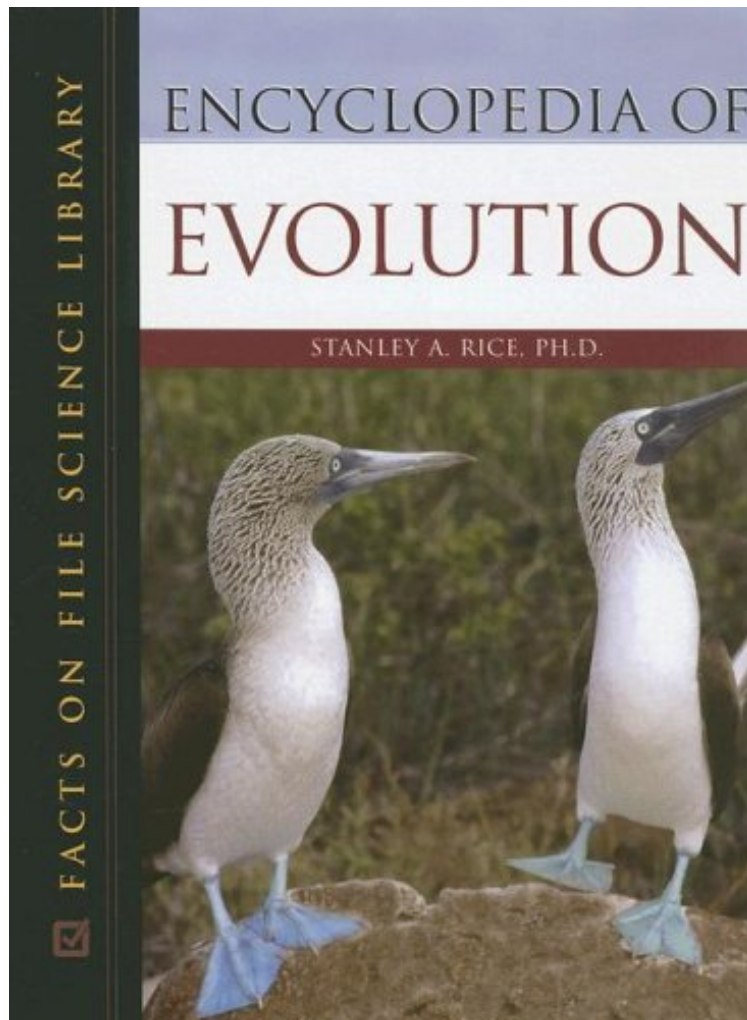


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Encyclopedia of Evolution

Stanley Rice

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Stanley Rice : Encyclopedia of Evolution before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Encyclopedia of Evolution:

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Top book for students of evolution By Frank Mundo I started reading books on evolution 2 years ago. I stopped counting at 35. Authors such as: Mayr, Goulding, Simpson, Huxley, Ridley, Zimmer, Goldsmith, Margulis, Simpson, Dawkins, Easley, Darwin, Dennett, Eldredge, Greene, Futuyma. I consider this book to be among the best. A great tool to get a handle on the most significant facts, discoveries and personalities in the field. This would be a great book for college and high school libraries. I would never have thought that an Encyclopedia type format would be so interesting to simply sit down and read. One has only to turn to the first pages of the book in the Acknowledgments to see the people who have reviewed the volume... basically a who's who of leaders in the field of Evolution... to realize that this book is a significant contribution... and worthy of anybody's time.

I checked the book out of the library... but I'm afraid I'm going to have to go out and buy my own copy. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. AN EXCELLENT RESOURCE FOR ANY LEVEL By Philo I began studying the subject of evolution about 2 years ago. Like many people, most of my prior knowledge of the science of evolution was sketchy: I had seen numerous documentaries on the History Channel, Nat. Geo. Channel, etc., but didn't have anything close to a firm grasp of the subject. When I became interested in studying this subject "seriously" I began exploring more print material. Here was the BIG problem I encountered: A lot of the resources were very poorly written. Many were not suitable for the beginner, even the ones that professed to be. Also, there were many gaps in the explanations, very poor cross references, contradictory information, and numerous other issues. Very frustrating. What I like about Rice's book is that it is written lucidly. Topics are explained well and there is ample amount of detail (or course, if you are a complete beginner on this subject, you're still going to have to put forth some effort). This source is also loaded with excellent "bonus material" : there are great essays on religious topics, politics, philosophy, biographies, etc. Rice has a varied background in many subjects, for sure. He incorporates many fields of knowledge nicely into this work (there is much more in here than just BIOLOGY). A few things I was disappointed with: It should have a geologic time scale, but does not. There was very little information on the origins of animal life (invertebrates). I thought the entry on the evolution of fish was weak. I thought the entry on the evolution of religion was weak (not enough on the various theories for this phenomenon). Overall, an excellent resource. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A surprisingly fun read By DR P. Dash One doesn't usually think about reading an encyclopedia straight through, but I really enjoyed doing so with this one. The entries are clearly written and interesting, illustrating the breadth of evolutionary science. Of course, it can also be used as a reference source to review brief summaries of the key concepts in evolution. An intriguing perspective is provided by Rice on creationist nonsense as he was once one himself and openly shares how his viewpoint shifted to the other side. He is a botanist and so many of the references to evolution from the plant perspective were refreshingly new to someone like me who has been more interested by animal evolution. The Appendix is a very nice summary of the Origin of Species; reading it really made me appreciate just what an incredible genius Darwin was. Strongly recommended!!

Evolutionary science is not only one of the greatest breakthroughs of modern science, but also an area that draws a great deal of interest on the part of students and the reading public. Perhaps more than any other scientific area, evolutionary science has caused us all to question what we are, where we came from, and how we relate to the rest of the universe. "Encyclopedia of Evolution" contains more than 200 entries that span modern evolutionary science and the history of its development. This comprehensive volume clarifies many common misconceptions about evolution. For example, many people have grown up being told that the fossil record does not demonstrate an evolutionary pattern, and that there are many "missing links." In fact, most of these "missing links" have been found, and their modern representatives are often still alive today. The biographical entries represent evolutionary scientists within the United States who have had and continue to have a major impact on the broad outline of evolutionary science. The biographies chosen reflect the viewpoints of scientists working within the United States. Five essays that explore interesting questions resulting from studies in evolutionary science are included as well. The appendix consists of a summary of Charles Darwin's "The Origin of Species", which is widely considered to be the foundational work of evolutionary science and one of the most important books in human history.

From School Library Journal Grade 9 Up This wide-ranging work covers topics from adaptation and extinction to genetics and the origin of the universe. The introduction discusses the medical evidence for evolution, such as the rise of antibiotic-resistant bacteria; the origins, politics, motives, and theories behind creationism and intelligent design; and the basics of evolutionary theories. The more than 200 articles are alphabetically arranged, and most range from one to three pages in length. They include biographies of significant contributors to this important and controversial field. In addition, several longer essays scattered throughout the work discuss topics such as the role of genes in human behavior, religion and evolutionary scientists, the biological basis of death, and the question of other life in the universe. Difficult terms and concepts are defined in context. Both the essays and the general articles include lengthy further-reading lists consisting of print materials and Web sites. An appendix summarizes Charles Darwin's The Origin of Species, which the author points out is a much-discussed but seldom-read work. Unremarkable black-and-white photographs and charts and illustrations relate directly to the text but do not contribute significantly to the work. An excellent addition. Eva Elisabeth VonAncken, Trinity-Pawling School, Pawling, NY Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Authored by an evolutionary biologist, this encyclopedia's tone is set in the beginning, where it is dedicated not to Charles Darwin but his wife, Emma, for "without Emma Darwin's help, Charles Darwin would most certainly have failed to complete his most famous works." Written in an engaging style at a level accessible to a nonspecialist audience, the volume provides a bridge between nonscientific and scholarly works. The 215 alphabetically arranged entries, ranging in length from a few paragraphs to several pages, span the development of evolutionary science. Examples include Adaptation; Character displacement; Eugenics; Language, evolution of; Linnaeus, Carolus; Mendelian genetics; Neandertals; Punctuated equilibria;

Sociobiology; and Wilson, Edward O. References for further reading are provided at the end of most entries. A unique feature of this encyclopedia is the inclusion of five essays, written by the author, that explore particularly interesting topics related to evolutionary science: "How Much Do Genes Control Human Behavior?"; "What Are the 'Ghosts of Evolution'?"; "Can an Evolutionary Scientist be Religious?"; "Why Do Humans Die?"; and "Are Humans Alone in the Universe?" A 15-page appendix provides a summary of Charles Darwin's foundational 1859 work, *On the Origin of Species*, written at a level accessible to a modern reader. It would be impossible to write a reference work on evolution geared to a general audience without including information on creationism and its variations, such as intelligent design; author Rice takes the critical view of creationism that is prevalent among most scientists. The text is augmented by about 100 black-and-white illustrations, photographs, and charts. A comprehensive, well-constructed 29-page index provides subject access to the contents. Notable for its accessibility, the volume is recommended for high-school, public, and undergraduate academic libraries. The two-volume *Encyclopedia of Evolution* (Oxford, 2002) is a more comprehensive and proportionately more expensive set distinguished by overview essays written by prominent scientists and articles authored by 330 individual subject experts. Cannon, Nancy Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved