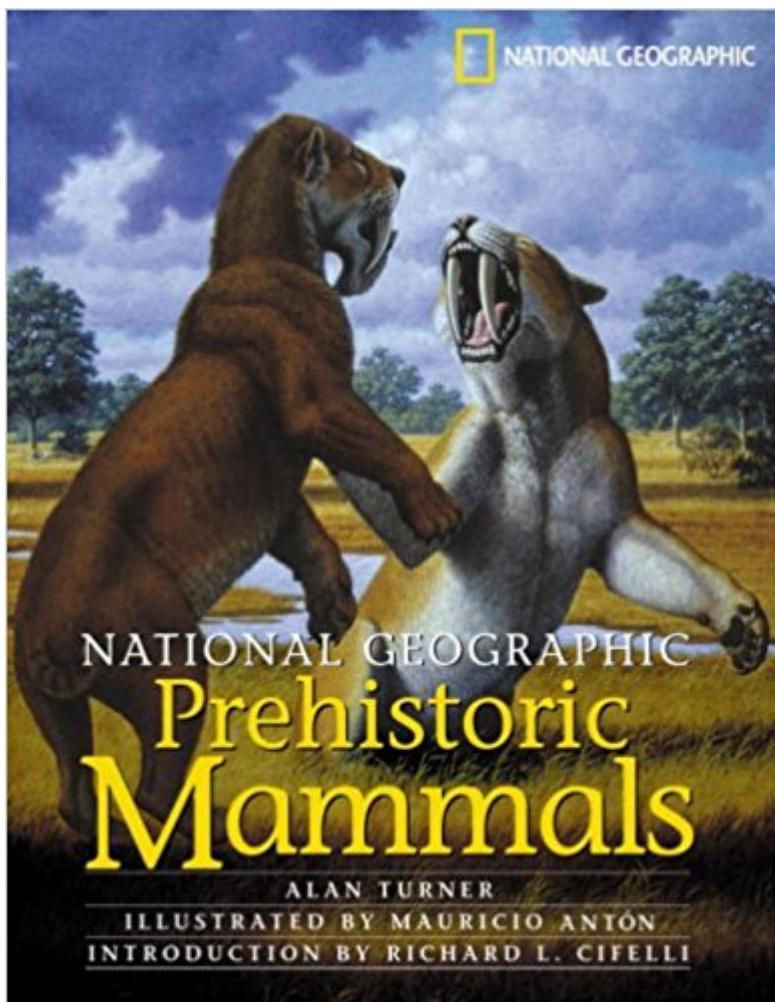


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# National Geographic Prehistoric Mammals



## Synopsis

Written by one of the world's foremost paleontologists, *Prehistoric Mammals* gives children a rare glimpse at a world gone by in a stunningly illustrated, incredibly comprehensive reference book.

## Book Information

Series: National Geographic

Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: National Geographic Children's Books; Revised ed. edition (October 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0792271343

ISBN-13: 978-0792271345

Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.7 x 11.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 43 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #153,540 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Prehistoric #200 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Mammals #209 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Zoology

Age Range: 7 - 9 years

Grade Level: 2 - 4

## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 5-10 - Except for stars such as saber-toothed tigers and woolly mammoths, prehistoric mammals get short shrift when compared to dinosaurs, pterosaurs, and toothy marine reptiles. Therefore it is refreshing to see a colorful compendium of these neglected beasts, ranging in size from the rather insignificant representatives from the Age of Dinosaurs to the ponderous Indricotherium of the Asian Oligocene. Dramatic full-color pictures (many encompassing entire spreads) and captions enhance the brief, informative text. Divided by orders and species, each two- to four-page section contains a time line, fact file, global distribution map (where possible), representative beasts, and those nifty illustrations. A ghostly shadow of a six-foot modern human is offered for scale purposes (for a small creature like *Eomaia*, for example, only the foot is shown). Primates are included, among them Australapithecines, *Homo erectus*, and *Homo sapiens*. For lovers of the BBC production *Walking with Prehistoric Beasts*, it's a treasure trove. For students, it's an important source of information. - Patricia Manning, formerly at Eastchester Public Library, NY

Gr. 4-6. *Deinotherium, Gomphotherium, Arsinoitherium*. Budding paleontologists who take joy in tackling such scientific tongue twisters will glue themselves to the polysyllabic commentary accompanying this extensive gallery of extinct mammals. Working carefully from the latest fossil evidence, veteran science illustrator Anton has created finely detailed portraits of more than 100 vanished creatures, from early whales and tiny proto-shrews to Neanderthals. Most of these he poses sedately against simplified natural settings, sometimes adding images of fossil skulls or other remnants for comparison. Along with the picture of the animal comes a distribution map, a time line, a human silhouette or other indicator to establish scale, and a fact box. As there is some repetition in the text, and, after several introductory spreads, the 20 animal groupings are not arranged in discernible order, this survey is better designed for browsing than systematic reading, quick reference, or efficient research. However, as an informative, eye-catching link between resources on modern animals and the ever-popular dinosaurs, it's sure to be a draw. John Peters  
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This is a wonderful book. I oftentimes feel as though the age of prehistoric mammals, approximately 63 million years ago to about 10,000 years BC, is largely overlooked, and this tome does a satisfying job of chronicling and organizing the ascension and evolution of mammals. The artwork in this book is superb. Based upon the book's contents, I'm not quite sure why some people are calling this a children's book. Certainly, it's not as technical as a college textbook, but I doubt that was ever the author's intention. Unless you are a hardcore paleontologist or taking a college level course on the subject, this book provides more than enough information to educate and entice all people, both young and old. Would highly recommend to anyone wanting to know a little bit more about the fantastic (and hairy) beasts that used to walk the Earth.

I have enjoyed reading this book and studying the illustrations, which have a wealth of detail. I now know more about these magnificent beasts (not just my favorite ones), and how they lived. Teenagers would probably love this book.

Very cool & interesting book. It is mostly illustrated but with some photos. The illustrations are great with lots of cool info. on these once living mammals.

This is an excellent overview of mammalian evolution for the general reader. In no way would I consider this a "children's" book. The book covers representative species of the major mammalian orders, which include range maps, a colored species time mark on a geological time line, a species size graphic, and a basic narrative. This is all the information that is necessary to get an overview of mammalian evolution. Each species is covered on a two page spread using the same format making it easy to locate items of specific interest. If I have one issue, it is that the geological is often not linear, such as the 2 million year long Pleistocene era being shown as 3 inches long, and the 3 million year long Pliocene being shown below the Pleistocene as 1 inch long. However, I don't know if a linear scale would be practical. In the normal National Geographic fashion, the graphics are excellent.

National geographic have once again brought out and presented us readers with prehistoric mammals a recognisable familiar world with stunningly breathtaking photograph-like illustrations that are like transporting you back in time machine but without any need to go anywhere and with all sorts of structural, size charts detailed profiles on each individual species and whole stack more scientific information which is interesting to read because it's fascinating for reference in discovery of new worlds. Finally I would like to add that the only put off to this book is that the scientific names are incorrect or to more naturally put it wrong because of it's classification data but it is still nonetheless worth buying whether you borrow it or keep it for reading four and half stars from me.

I read this book before, when I was a child, and I can tell you that this book is amazing. This book is made for a child but if you love prehistory animals you will love this book as well, no matter how old you are.

I can't help but compare this to National Geographic's Dinosaur book. Standing on its own, this is a solid book - the artwork is beautiful and accurate. I would say that the written content is a little thin, and that the organization is odd. I would have preferred to have seen the animals organized chronologically rather than grouped by type as they are. It makes for a little bit of a confusing presentation. That's a minor drawback, however. This is a good, basic resource for amateurs.

The book was described as Very Good with some wear on the cover. Actually the cover was torn on the exterior binding about 1" and the front cover was barely attached on the inside. The pages of text were clean and in good condition provided the cover does not fall off. The shipping speed was

good.

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