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### Dinosaurs A to Z The Ultimate Dinosaur Encyclopedia

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Lessem, Don. *Dinosaurs A to Z The Ultimate Dinosaur Encyclopedia*. Illustrated by Jan Sovak. Scholastic, Inc., 2003. ISBN 0439165911. \$22.95. 223 pp.

Reviewer: AnnMarie Hamar;

Reading Level: Primary;

Rating: Outstanding;

Genre: Non-fiction;

Subject: Dinosaurs--dictionaries; book--reviews;

This engrossing reference book is a wonderful starting point for young readers interested in learning more about dinosaurs. The first seven chapters discuss what a dinosaur is, when they lived, what happened to them, how paleontologists excavate fossils, and how dinosaurs are classified. The actual alphabetical listings include correct pronunciation of the dinosaur's name as well as who or what it is named after. Other information in each entry includes the dinosaur's classification, it's length, the time period in which it lived, where it lived, and it's diet. Each entry is rounded out with some additional information on the dinosaur's size, how it received it's name, or some other interesting trivia. There is a chapter devoted to recent discoveries, a glossary, and a reference section listing books, videos, and web sites. The text is well-research, concise, and easy to read. Don Lessem has written more than 30 books about dinosaurs for children and adults, and has also founded the largest charitable organization for dinosaur research. Illustrator Jan Sovak's works have appeared in such prestigious magazines as National Geographic.