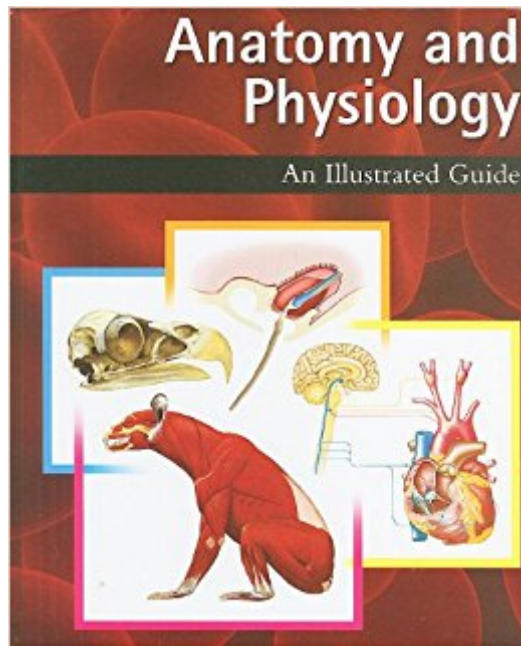




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Language: English

ISBN-10: 0761478817

ISBN-13: 978-0761478812

Product Dimensions: 9.9 x 8.2 x 0.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds

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Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Up

•These attractive print editions of selected articles from the publisher's Animal and Plant Anatomy database may be useful where the comprehensive 11-volume encyclopedia (2006) or its updated online version are unavailable or too expensive for scanty budgets. Anatomy and Physiology covers cell biology, genetics, and no fewer than 13 body systems; Mammal Anatomy contains chapters on 14 representative types of mammals (including "Human") from chimpanzee to zebra. In both volumes, each chapter pairs extensive and detailed descriptions of functions, structure, behaviors, distinguishing characteristics, chemistry, and other information as appropriate with large color photos or well-designed, clearly labeled diagrams. Contributors are listed at the front of the volume with their academic credentials; back matter includes keyword indexes. Though the information is not hard to find elsewhere, serious middle-grade researchers with limited access to science resources may find these detailed surveys valuable, and older students will also find them useful. In future printings (if there are any) a zany claim in Anatomy and Physiology that mammalian cells don't have nuclei will probably be corrected.

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This highly illustrated resource offers students a comprehensive overview of the inner workings of

the systems of a variety of organisms, primarily plants and animals. The first article focuses on cell biology and genetics. The other nine articles are devoted to the various systems (circulatory, muscular, nervous, reproductive, etc.). The volume is a repackaging of selected content from the larger encyclopedia *Animal and Plant Anatomy* (2006), which is available both in print and online via Marshall Cavendish Digital. Each article begins with a boxed area offering a mini table of contents for the systems covered in the article. Also appearing throughout the book are various types of sidebars, among them "Comparative Anatomy," "Genetics," and "Close Up," which highlight and provide more information on specific topics. Some articles also offer a "Connections" box that directs readers to make comparisons between species or systems. The "Connections" feature would seem to be more useful in the larger set or in the digital edition, since in many cases the reader is referred to topics that have no entries here, not even in the index. Each article concludes with a listing of books and Web sites for further research. A glossary and pronunciation guide would have been useful, especially for those new to the subject. The illustrations are large and colorful and clearly labeled. In addition, detailed annotations add to the material presented in the text. At least one of the entries in the index is incorrect. Despite some editing issues, this title would be a useful addition to public and high-school libraries that do not own or have access to the larger *Animal and Plant Anatomy*.

Grades 8-12. --Maren Ostergard

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