

The Princeton Guide to Evolution, Editor in Chief Jonathan B. Losos,
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The cover blurb for this extraordinary volume states its purpose as being 'an essential volume for undergraduate and graduate students, scientists in related fields, and anyone else with a serious interest in evolution'.

The importance of having a clear understanding about Evolution, at least to counter arguments for the notions of Intelligent Design, or a biblical view of Creation, cannot be over-estimated at a time when many school curricula in the United States, and some, I suspect, in the United Kingdom are putting what they call the 'theory' of Evolution against the theory of 'Intelligent Design' and telling students to make up their own minds.

For those of us who salute Darwin, Alfred Russel Wallace and others who revealed the truth about the origin of life and the development of species, the arguments that seek to ridicule and undermine them, based on a fundamentalist religious stance, can only be refuted by a secure knowledge of the facts.

If any one volume can provide that information it is The Princeton Guide to Evolution which is divided into eight sections: Introduction; Phylogenetics and the History of Life; Natural Selection and Adaptation; Evolutionary Processes; Genes, Genomes, and Phenotypes; Speciation and Macroevolution; Evolution of Behaviour, Society and Humans; Evolution and Modern Society.

The list of contributors, most of them from universities across North America, is stellar and though some of the material may require keeping a dictionary of Science close at hand, it is not all abstruse science and obscure jargon, indeed sustained and serious engagement will bring its own reward and a huge growth in personal knowledge.

Princeton University Press, together with the editors and contributors to The Princeton Guide to Evolution, deserve massive congratulations for having produced an exhaustive and fascinating guide to one of the most important of all scientific truths.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh