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From Chartwell Books : The Encyclopedia of Animals by Alderton, David (October 15, 2013) Hardcover before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Encyclopedia of Animals by Alderton, David (October 15, 2013) Hardcover:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Lots of info; very good.By cccBought this for a preschooler and he loves it.Pros: There are a lot of animals in here and theres a lot of detail. I like that there are a lot of simple facts that are easy (and exciting) for the kid to read (or have you read to them as the case may be). I particularly like that every animal has a picture reference to the size of a person or the size of your hand so your child can easily understand the scale. Its the best animal encyclopedia Ive found.Cons: Its heavy so climbing into bed with the thing at bed time and trying to hold it open for a kid laying down is a little difficult. A lot of the text is quite small so trying to read with a tiny 40watt bed lamp is tough. But these are minor gripes and understandable considering the volume of information. The one thing I consider more significant is that there really isnt a solid summery of each animal. Theres a very brief introduction, but I wish there was a solid two short paragraphs that provide an overview. That would make it a little easier to read to a child instead of hopping all over the page (and them trying to follow). This is less of an issue for a child who can read, but for a preschooler through a first grader, this is a little annoying.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I thought this may be too intensive reading for my 3rd grader who loves animals, but I was quite wrong...By Ian McGregorLet me qualify this a bit by saying that many of the words were indeed challenging for him, and he needed more help than usual in sounding some of the words out, but he loved the book so much he didn't

mind working harder. My son is a good reader, but he doesn't typically enjoy reading - he does it because he has to at school or he wants to see what his friends are laughing at - you get the idea. But with this book he reads on his own time almost every night - let me emphasize the on his own time part. While that may not be revolutionary to everyone, if my nine-year-old is choosing to read over watching Dude Perfect or Minecraft videos, or whatever other digital crack he can get his grubby little hands on, it gets my attention. All the things he usually complains about with books, that they're too big or heavy or have too many hard words - not a peep with this one. We can barely get him to stop reading to go to bed some nights. It's a book that's good enough that it makes your kids want to learn the hard words. My only complaint would be that for kids (and grown-ups maybe... other grown-ups, not me of course) the indexes - yes there are two - can be hard to use if you don't know the exact name of an animal or its scientific nomenclature. It happens just enough when you first start using them that you'll begin to question if the people who wrote an encyclopedia of animals, a work which by definition should be a fairly exhaustive catalog of animals, kind of mailed it in and managed to leave out several of the ones you know quite well. Fear not - swallow your pride and realize that unless you are a zoologist or something (in which case, yes, go cry yourself to sleep on Linnaeus' grave), the average person simply isn't going to look under "Laughing" or "Spotted" to find a hyena, and there is no generic hyena entry. But, in other cases the indices are quite adequate and I can simply look up chipmunk or baboon with having to know they will be under Siberian or Hamadryas, and it's that inconsistency that throws you off. If you're the type who likes the thrill of a challenge, I recommend trying to look up the jackal via index. I'll take pity on you and reveal two things: it's not a typo, there is no J section in the General Index, and if you're finally pulling your hair out, look up *Canis aureus* or *mesomelas*. If you're the type who hangs out in sub-Saharan Africa a great deal, I concede you may not find this difficult. If you're the type who enjoys the guilty pleasure of cheating when no one is looking you know who you are just look in the section with all the other canines and you'll come across them. So maybe make the common index a bit more common, but beyond that the info, pics, and layout are so excellent that occasionally having to wander through the pages to find a particular species is often a more rewarding journey anyway and I forget the minor annoyance, and I have no reservations about whole-heartedly recommending this book to anyone. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Impressive book, wonderful gift idea. By AngeA very impressive book, large and heavy with a striking cover. The photos are stunning, high quality thick glossy pages and it's very easy to navigate. This was a gift for a friend who was graduating veterinary school and she absolutely loved it. I think this would be a wonderful gift for adults or children.