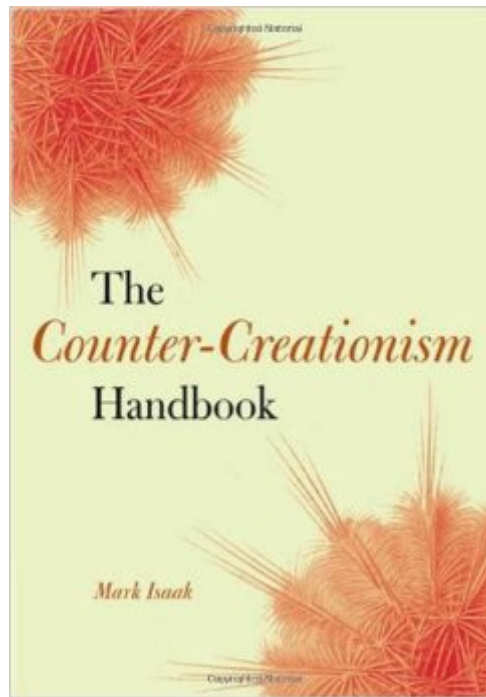


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The Counter-Creationism Handbook



Synopsis

Those opposed to the teaching of evolution often make well-rehearsed claims about the science that sound powerful and convincing. And many people who support the teaching of evolution—students, teachers, parents, administrators—do not have the background to respond. They know that scientists have thoroughly dismantled these arguments, but they don't have a handy way of responding to these attacks. The Counter-Creationism Handbook is a one-stop resource for addressing over 400 of the most prevalent claims made by creationists. Each claim is followed by a succinct and scientifically valid rebuttal, and the book includes print and on-line resources for further reading and information. The Counter-Creationism Handbook: * Covers claims made about the disciplines of philosophy, biology, paleontology, geology, astronomy, physics and mathematics, history, and more. * Addresses the claims of Biblical creationism, intelligent design creationism, and some creationism based on non-Christian religions. * Includes an introduction on how to address creationists in different venues, how to deal with novel claims, and why accurate science is important. * Is organized thematically, with extensive cross-referencing.

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Customer Reviews

This is a subject that has absolutely fascinated me since I was a small boy, which was many, many years ago. First, just for the sake of background before I write a brief review, it needs to be known just what I am and what I am not. I am not a theologian and I am not a scientist. I am a Christian (admittedly, probably not a good one by many standards, but hey, I try) and I am a strong believer in evolution, ergo, Darwinism. Part of my fascination with this subject is the problem that many have

with the concept of Christianity v/s evolution. I have never for the life of me been able to fathom where there is a problem in this area, nor why there should be in this day and age. I avoid arguments and even discussions in this area with most people as I have found that the creationist among us can and do become quite heated, some, almost to the point of being physically aggressive and can say some pretty nasty things. This, again, is part of my fascination with this subject. How can a discussion bring out so many supposedly non Christian characteristics in an otherwise rational individual? I also cannot stand to hurt peoples feelings and find attacking any religious beliefs quite distasteful. That being said....I do like this book! The author has taken all the standard arguments, and some not so standard, used by the creationists and answered them one by one. Not to be cruel, but he, the author, has actually shredded these arguments, although in a civilized and gentlemanly way. So often, when I drop my guard and do get into a discussion on this subject, I simply do not know what to answer the creationist simply as I am not trained in that area, and unlike many of them, have not memorized well rehearsed party lines, i.e. dogma.

This is an interesting resource regarding the creationism-evolution "debate." It might usefully be read in conjunction with Eugenie Scott's "Evolution vs. Creationism," which provides quotations from major works from each sphere, to allow readers to compare arguments. This book has a perspective: it contends that standard arguments by creationists and intelligent design advocates are off the mark. I would doubt that creationists/intelligent design advocates would even read this. However, it might be worthwhile, to engage substantive discussion. Champions of Darwinism will find this a good piece of work, a source of many counterarguments to contentions by creationists. However, this might be best of all for those who are uncertain, confused, have not thought about the issues involved. The book's structure is quite straightforward. The author, Mark Isaac, organizes his book along a number of thematic lines (e.g., Philosophy and Theology, Biology, Geology, Physics and Mathematics, Other Creationism). He notes assertions from advocates of creationism/intelligent design. Then, he engaged in a demolition project. For the most part, his comments are not emotionally charged and are worded fairly neutrally. He says (Page xxiii): "The book replies to more than 400 of the most common claims that creationists make. Each creationist claim comes with a brief rebuttal showing faults with and, often, counterevidence against the claim." Let's take a look at a few examples, to give a sense about this volume. Page 9: "Fairness demands that evolution and creation be given equal time." His response? That's an erroneous equation. Evolution is a scientific approach; creationism has no scientific grounding (in its research or methodology).

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