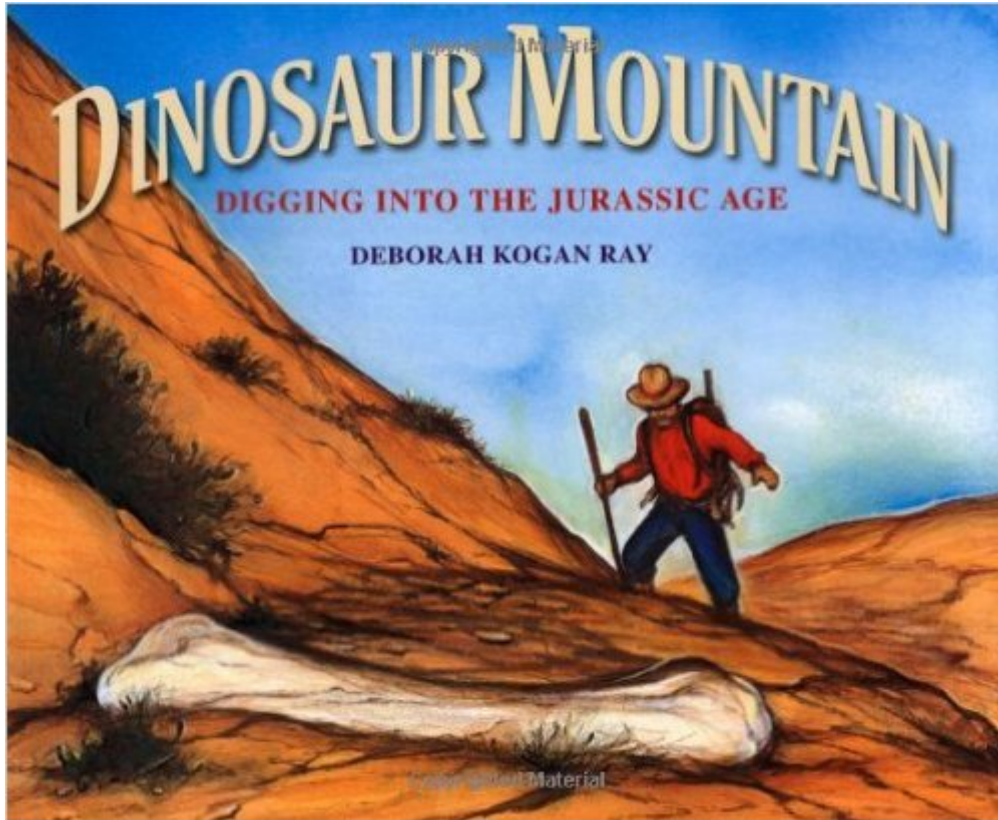


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# Dinosaur Mountain: Digging Into The Jurassic Age



## Synopsis

Earl Douglass was a teenager when he first heard about the Bone Wars—the frenzied race between paleontologists to unearth and classify dinosaur fossils—and he remained fascinated with these prehistoric giants for the rest of his life. As a geologist and botanist working at the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Douglass had a hunch that the vast untouched rock strata in northeastern Utah just may have been a haven for Jurassic fossil beds. In 1908, he set out by mule team to the Uinta Basin to dig and discover. Find me "something big," Andrew Carnegie instructed. Little did Carnegie know exactly how well Douglass would heed those words. Sixteen years and 350 tons of fossils later, Earl Douglass emerged as one of the most prolific and successful dinosaur hunters of his time. Using entries directly from Douglass's diary along with her own evocative storytelling and artwork, acclaimed author and illustrator Deborah Kogan Ray paints the life of this adventurous bone hunter in memorable detail. *Dinosaur Mountain* is a 2011 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year and a 2011 NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Book.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1140L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars— See all reviews— (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,275,075 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #102 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Archaeology #132 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Fossils #710 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Science & Technology

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 and up

## Customer Reviews

Crowds of people were amazed at the dinosaur skeleton they saw at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. It was 1868 and it was like nothing they had ever seen before. Each

individual had to gaze a full three stories high to see the skull of the amazing dinosaur. The curators of the museum had hoped that interest in dinosaurs would be sparked by this exhibit and they certainly weren't disappointed. Anxious to find additional dinosaur skeletons to exhibit curators and bone hunters alike sparked what became known as the "Bone Wars." By 1877 the Bone Wars were becoming heated when site after site in the West uncovered "huge dinosaur bones." "Bone hunters" (paleontologists) were anxious to not only garner large numbers of bones, but also fame. Edward Drinker Cope and Othniel Charles Marsh had the distinction of being two of the best bone hunters. Their relationship was not a partnership, but rather a rivalry in which they "are said to have stooped to underhanded methods, including spying, bribery, and even hijacking fossil shipments bound back east for each other's museums." It was a "dinosaur craze" that even the likes of Andrew Carnegie could not resist. In this book you will read about Earl Douglass, a quiet, but persistent fossil hunter and expert, how he methodically searched for bones, you'll get to see drawings of ancient fossilized creatures, you'll read about Dr. William Holland and "Dad Goodrich" who joined Douglass, their amazing discoveries, you'll get glimpses of Earl's diary, and much more! This is an amazing tale of discovery that will rivet the young, curious dinosaur lover. Many books, that keep the dino lover's attention, focus on the dinosaurs themselves, but few seem to discuss the actual discovery of their fossilized remains.

I read the daily reports on the current ecological disaster in the Gulf of Mexico and I think about how it is going to take the Best and the Brightest of this and the next couple of generations to possibly mitigate the catastrophic and interrelated environmental problems that continue to stack up around and above our planet like a house of cards. Unfortunately, it's the only house we've all got, the only hand we're being dealt, and we either address these problems in a serious manner pronto or the game is going to be over. We need exceptional science curriculums in our schools and we need to persuade lots of our most talented young people that science is an exciting frontier awaiting them. We also need great books like **DINOSAUR MOUNTAIN: DIGGING INTO THE JURASSIC AGE**. **DINOSAUR MOUNTAIN**, the story of Earl Douglass' discovery, a century ago, of a mother lode of dinosaur bones in eastern Utah, is science and biography writing for children at its finest. You have the excitement of finding seventy-foot long dinosaur skeletons. You have the danger of working with TNT, living in tents in the middle of nowhere, and sometimes working in temperatures of forty degrees below zero. You have great explanations -- with accompanying illustrations -- of how the work of excavating and preserving these fragile bones was actually conducted. And you have a great photo on the back cover of Earl Douglass. I adore this photo. He's in front of a wall of

sandstone marked with grids, with his hand on a bone that's almost as long as he is tall.

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