

preface

Everywhere you look in this edition you will see a new Raven & Johnson's *Biology*. From the new author team, to the new design and art program and the completely revised content, *Biology* has undergone a transformation. This “new” text maintains the clear, accessible, and engaging writing style of past editions and the pervasive emphasis on evolution and scientific inquiry that have made this a leading textbook for students majoring in biology. Now we have coupled this approach to a modern integration of the exciting new research in molecular biology and genomics to offer our readers the most significant and important revision of our text since the first edition.

Our New Author Team

Perhaps the greatest change to this edition is the change in authoring responsibilities. Two of us, Jonathan Losos (Harvard University) and Susan Singer (Carleton College), became new co-authors in the seventh edition, and now we've taken on full authoring responsibilities for the eighth edition as we welcome Kenneth Mason of Purdue University to our team. Ken served as a key contributor in the genetics unit for the seventh edition. The quality of the work he provided, his expertise in genetics, and his experience in teaching majors in biology at the university level made him a natural choice to join our new author team.

We're excited about the opportunity to take what was already a high-quality textbook and move it forward in a significant way for a new generation of students. All of us have extensive experience teaching undergraduate biology and we've used this knowledge as a guide in producing a text that is up-to-date, beautifully illustrated, and pedagogically sound for the student. We've also worked to make it even easier to use and more closely integrated with its media support materials to provide instructors with an excellent complement to their teaching.

Our New Visual Program

Even a casual look through the pages of the eighth edition will show the care that went into developing the art and photo program and the related page design. A brand new visual program is rare in a revision, and our team found the opportunity to reevaluate the effectiveness of the artwork and photos to be an exciting challenge. Our goal has been to provide a clear, consistent, accurate art program that is easy-to-follow and beautifully three-dimensional.

To prepare for the revision, a variety of specialists reviewed the seventh edition art and photo program to assess its instructional effectiveness and presentational value. We

worked closely with the artists and medical illustrators to produce sketches that effectively convey the chapter's most important concepts or that provide students with a particularly thought-provoking or dynamic example. A separate panel of reviewers then evaluated each newly rendered figure for pedagogical value and accuracy.

Our text-paging team then worked in conjunction with the artists to create innovative page spreads where the visuals and textual content function together in a well-coordinated and closely integrated manner. For complex processes, figures use numbered text boxes to lead the student step-by-step through the figure. For others, where the whole is more important than the pieces, the figure is not interrupted by text but explained thoroughly in the legend. Multilevel figures take students from a macro to micro view using “blow-out” arrows. Where figures can be put “inline” within the text this has been done to intimately connect the art with the text narrative and to allow the artwork to visually enliven the page.


Our Modern Content and Approach

One goal that unites our author team is the attempt to bring students an exciting and up-to-date view of modern biology. The extensive nature of this revision has produced exceptionally current content throughout. Likewise, rather than pasting paragraphs of new material into selected chapters, we have carefully worked together to reconsider our text's outline and coverage to provide a more consistent approach to concepts so that the reader is not buried in detail in one chapter and left wondering how something works in another.

Two new chapters in the evolution unit perfectly illustrate the importance of this goal. Chapter 24: *Genome Evolution* describes comparative genomics and explains how exciting new discoveries resulting from the genome sequencing of so many different species is revolutionizing our understanding of evolution. Chapter 25: *Evolution of Development* follows with a discussion of how changes in genes can produce changes in development patterns, which result in new characteristics and sometimes in speciation.

We've expanded our coverage of patterns of inheritance into chapter 12 on heredity and Mendelian principles and chapter 13 on chromosomal theory of inheritance. We've created a new chapter 23: *Systematics and the Phylogenetic Revolution* and we now provide chapter 26: *The Tree of Life* to offer a broad overview as a way of introduction to the unit.

Another individual example of the current content is the coverage of the newly discovered fossil that is transitional between fish and amphibians, *Tiktaalik*, which was announced in mid-2006 (see figure 35.14b). Similarly, our discussion of the



state of the environment is based on up-to-the-moment data on population trends, global temperatures, and CO₂ levels.

The physiology unit has been reorganized and includes a new introductory chapter 43: *The Animal Body and Principles of Regulation*. This is designed to introduce the tissues and organ systems covered in later chapters and provide an understanding of control systems and their associated feedback mechanisms.

Our Consistent Themes

It is important to have consistent themes that organize and unify a text. We met extensively to discuss our approaches to teaching biology and to design the most effective text possible. A number of themes are used throughout the book to unify the broad-ranging material that makes up modern biology. This begins with the primary goal of this textbook to provide a comprehensive understanding of evolutionary theory and the scientific basis for this view. We use an experimental framework combining both historical and contemporary research examples to help students appreciate the progressive and integrated nature of science.

Biology Is Based Upon an Understanding of Evolution

When Peter Raven and George Johnson began work on *Biology* in 1982 they set out to write a text that presented biology the way they taught in their classrooms: as the product of evolution. Much as all biology “only makes sense in the light of evolution,” this text is enhanced by a consistent evolutionary theme that is woven throughout the text, and we have enhanced this theme in the eighth edition.


The enhanced evolutionary thread can be found in obvious examples such as the two new chapters on molecular evolution, but can also be found throughout the text. As each section considers the current state of knowledge, the “what” of biological phenomenon, they also consider how each system may have arisen by evolution, the “where it came from” of biological phenomenon.

Our approach allows evolution to be dealt with in the context in which it is relevant. The material throughout this book is considered not only in terms of present structure and function, but how that structure and function may have arisen via evolution by natural selection.

Biology Uses the Methods of Scientific Inquiry

Another unifying theme within the text is that knowledge arises from experimental work that moves us progressively forward. The use of historical and experimental approaches throughout allow the student to not only see where the field is now, but more importantly, how we arrived here. The incredible expansion of knowledge in biology has created challenges for authors to decide what content to keep, and to what level an introductory text should strive. We have tried to keep as much historical context as possible and to provide this within an experimental framework consistently throughout the text.

Rather than interrupting the text with an experimental box, we describe experiments in the context of the concepts being provided. This keeps experimental approaches relevant to the story being told. Data are provided throughout the text



and figures to illustrate how we have arrived at our present view of the various topics that make up the different sections of the book. Students are also provided with “Inquiry Questions” to stimulate thought about the material throughout the book. The questions often involve data that are presented in figures, but are not limited to this approach, also leading the student to question the material in the text as well.

Biology Is an Integrative Science

The explosion of molecular information has reverberated throughout all areas of biological study. Scientists are increasingly able to describe complicated processes in terms of the interaction of specific molecules, and this knowledge of life at the molecular level has illuminated relationships that were previously unknown. Using this cutting-edge information, we have made great strides to more strongly connect the different areas of biology in this edition.

One example of this integration concerns the structure and function of biological molecules, an emphasis of modern biology. This revision brings that focus to the entire book using this as a theme to weave together the different aspects of content material with a modern perspective. Given the enormous amount of information that has accumulated in recent years, this provides a necessary thread that integrates these new perspectives into the fabric of the traditional biology text.

Likewise, all current biology texts have added a genomics chapter, and our text was one of the first to do this. This chapter has been updated, but, more importantly, the results from the analysis of genomes and the proteomes that they encode have been added throughout the book wherever this information is relevant. This allows a more modern perspective throughout the book rather than limiting it to a few chapters. Examples, for instance, can be found in the diversity chapters, where classification of some organisms were updated based on new findings revealed by molecular techniques.

This systems approach to biology also shows up at the level of chapter organization. We introduce genomes in the genetics section in the context of learning about DNA and genomics. We then come back to this topic with an entire chapter at the end of the evolution unit where we look at the evolution of genomes, followed by a chapter on the evolution of development, which leads into our unit on the diversity of organisms.

Similarly, we introduce the topic of development with a chapter in the genetics section, return to it in the evolution unit, and have dedicated chapters in both the plant and animal units. This layering of concepts is important as we believe that students best understand evolution, development, physiology, and ecology when they can reflect on the connections between the microscopic and macroscopic levels of organization.

Our Enhanced Readability and Learning System

Biology has always been considered a user-friendly text, but the sheer volume of information in a major's biology text demands that authors do everything possible to make the content clear



and well-organized to aid the student. In this eighth edition we have taken steps to help our readers through careful scrutiny of the narrative and thorough redesign of our pedagogical learning system.

Telling the Story of Biology

We had the benefit of an excellent developmental copyeditor who worked with us on each revised chapter prior to turning the manuscript over to production. The copyeditor focused on improving the use of headings to organize the content, improving the clarity of the writing, making the writing consistent between chapters, consistently identifying and defining the key terms, and eliminating redundant material within and among chapters. This process removed the clutter that can accumulate over several editions and ensured that each chapter reads smoothly from start to finish.

Providing a Learning System

Part of what makes *Biology* such an easy book to learn from is its consistent pedagogical framework, and we have strengthened this learning system in the eighth edition. Each chapter opens with an outline consisting of the numbered headings and the supporting headings. Throughout the chapter the interior design works with the content to remind the students of where they are in the chapter.

Each concept within a chapter is clearly demarcated at beginning and end. The declarative main headings and sentence-style supporting headings provide an excellent overview of each concept to be covered. Short interim summaries following each main concept within the narrative remind students of the most critical information they need to take away from that reading.

Extensive figure legends in conjunction with the new visual program provide a “visual outline” of all major ideas in

every chapter. Great care was taken during the paging process to ensure that with few exceptions figures are displayed on the same pages where the narrative detail supporting those figures is provided.

We’ve also created an extensive set of summary tables throughout the text to make study and review as easy and efficient as possible. Content reviews at the end of the chapter recapitulate important content within the same conceptual framework provided in the opening outline. We’ve also developed new Challenge Questions to promote active learning and higher level critical thinking.

Our Commitment to You

We are united in our excitement about this opportunity to take a textbook that was already accurate and innovative and move it forward in a meaningful way. We believe our research and teaching experience provides us with the tools to couple the most significant modern research findings and scientific approach to an engaging pedagogical presentation.

In working with reviewers, contributors, focus group participants, students, and our colleagues around the globe, we have been impressed with the level of energy, thoughtfulness, and dedication faculty and students bring to the study of biology. It is a privilege to serve you through the pages of this textbook and its media support program.

Please let us know how we can serve you better by writing us at ravenbiology@mcgraw-hill.com. Best wishes to you in your own classroom. We look forward to hearing from you.

Jonathan Losos

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Susan Singer

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A revision of this scope relies on the talents and efforts of many people working behind the scenes and we have benefited greatly from their assistance.

Jody Larson was our developmental copyeditor who labored many hours and provided countless suggestions for improving the organization and clarity of the text. Her contributions had a tremendous impact on the quality of the final product.

We were fortunate to have Electronic Publishing Services on our side for the overhaul of the *Biology* art program. Kim Moss, Jen Christiansen, Martin Huber, Eliza Jewett, Patty O'Connell, and the rest of the team did a fantastic job in developing art and photo concepts and page spreads based on our manuscript and the ideas exchanged in our development meetings. Our close collaboration resulted in a text that is pedagogically effective as well as more beautiful than any biology text on the market. This was a giant undertaking and the staff at EPS handled it all with professionalism, skill, and good humor.

We were fortunate in our McGraw-Hill book team led by Patrick Reidy, executive editor, Anne Winch, senior developmental editor, Chad Grall, marketing director for life sciences, Peggy Selle, lead project manager, Michelle Whitaker, senior freelance design coordinator, Linda Davoli, production copyeditor, and many more people behind the scenes.

During this revision we have had the support of spouses and children, who have seen less of us than they might have liked because of the pressures of getting this revision completed. They have adapted to the many hours this book draws us away from them, and, even more than us, look forward to its completion.

As with every edition, acknowledgments would not be complete without thanking the generations of students who have used the many editions of this text. They have taught us as least as much as we have taught them, and their questions and suggestions continue to improve the text and supplementary materials.

Finally, we need to thank our reviewers and contributors. Instructors from across the country are continually invited to share their knowledge and experience with us through reviews and focus groups. The feedback we received shaped this edition, resulting in new chapters, reorganization of the table of contents, and expanded coverage in key areas. Several faculty members were asked to provide preliminary drafts of chapters to ensure that the content was as up to date and accurate as possible, and still others were asked to provide chapter outlines and assessment questions. All of these people took time out of their already busy lives to help us build a better edition of *Biology* for the next generation of introductory biology students, and they have our heartfelt thanks.

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Biology Symposium Attendees

Every year McGraw-Hill conducts several General Biology Symposia, which are attended by instructors from across the country. These events are an opportunity for editors from McGraw-Hill to gather information about the needs and challenges of instructors teaching the major's biology course. It also offers a forum for the attendees to exchange ideas and experiences with colleagues they might not have otherwise met. The feedback we have received has been invaluable, and has contributed to the development of *Biology* and its supplements.

2006

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