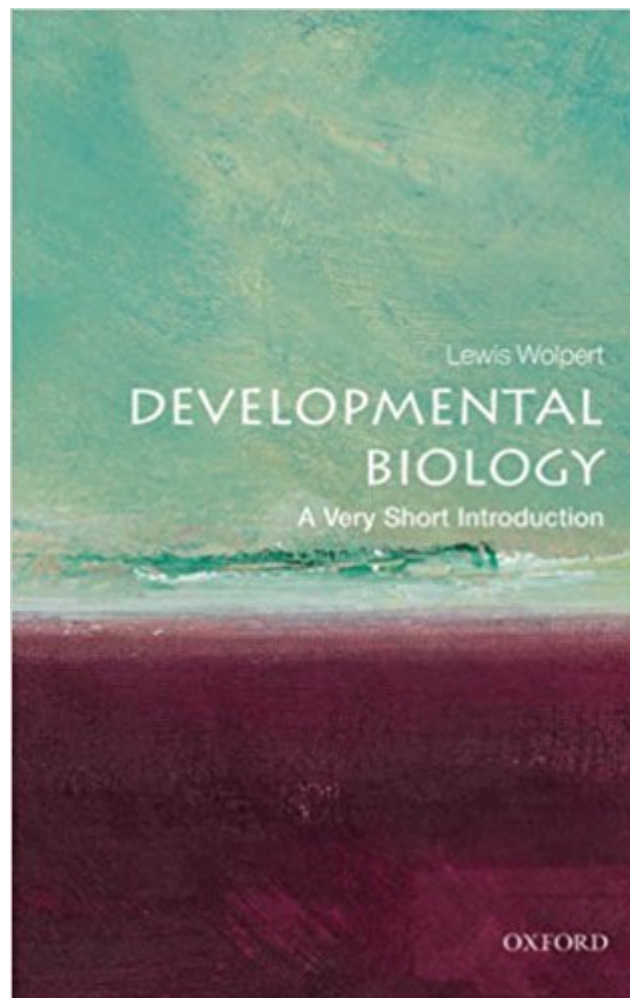




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Developmental Biology: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)



Synopsis

From a single cell - a fertilized egg - comes an elephant, a fly, or a human. How does this astonishing feat happen? How does the egg 'know' what to become? How does it divide into the different cells, the separate tissues, the brain, the fingernail - every tiniest detail of the growing foetus? These are the questions that the field of developmental biology seeks to answer. It is an area that is closely linked to genetics, evolution, and molecular biology. The processes are deeply rooted in evolutionary history; the information is held in genes whose vital timings in switching on and off is orchestrated by a host of proteins expressed by other genes. Timing is of the essence. Here, the distinguished developmental biologist Lewis Wolpert gives a concise account of what we now know about development, discussing the first vital steps of growth, the patterning created by Hox genes and the development of form, embryonic stem cells, the timing of gene expression and its management, chemical signalling, and growth.

ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

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Customer Reviews

I just needed a brief review of developmental biology. I was impressed that it covered more than just vertebrates. This book served my needs quite well. The only problem I have is that I have not figured out how to enlarge the images when reading on the Kindle fire. It was difficult to see the images in great detail.

I love this book, it answers a lot of questions that could only be answered otherwise in much more cumbersome searches among several volumes.

A great primer of recent ideas related to plant and animal evo devo.

Garbage. Science texts should refrain from offering philosophical 'evidence' as a scientific proof on hot button issues - such as abortion and human, two such examples this author addresses in a condescending and unprofessional manner. In light of this egregious error, it's hard to take this text as a serious scientific work.

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