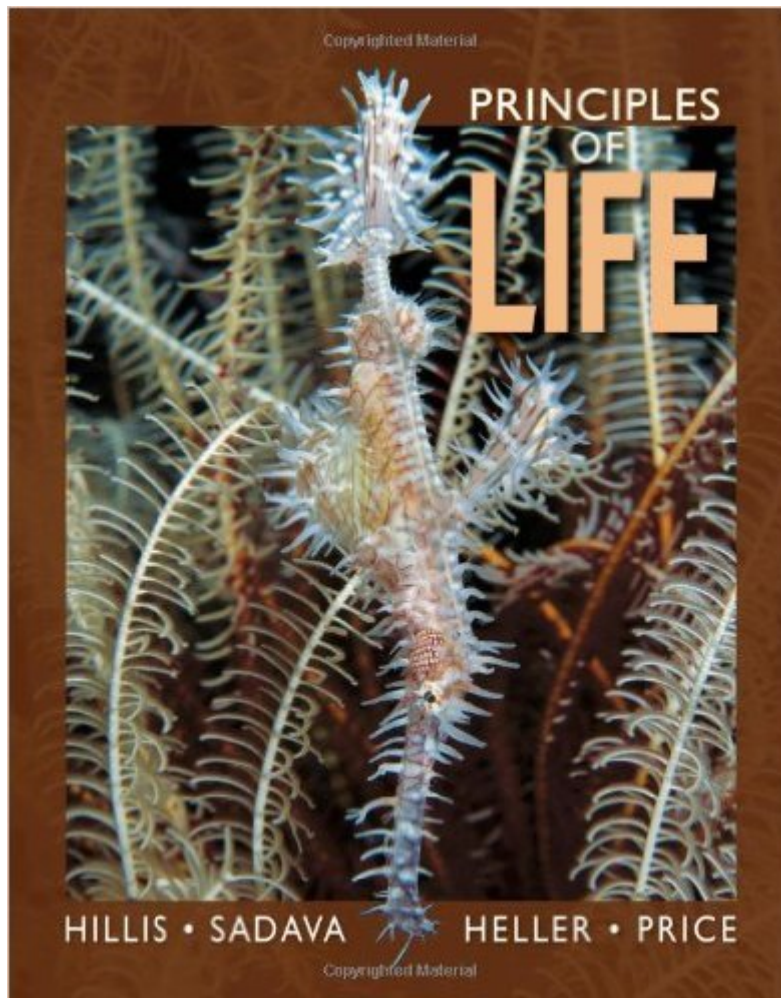


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# Principles Of Life



## Synopsis

For sample chapters, a video interview with David Hillis, and more information, visit [www.whfreeman.com/hillispreview](http://www.whfreeman.com/hillispreview). Sinauer Associates and W.H. Freeman are proud to introduce Principles of Life. Written in the spirit of the reform movement that is reinvigorating the introductory majors course, Principles of Life cuts through the thicket of excessive detail and factual minutiae to focus on what matters most in the study of biology today. Students explore the most essential biological ideas and information in the context of the field's defining experiments, and are actively engaged in analyzing research data. The result is a textbook that is hundreds of pages shorter (and significantly less expensive) than the current majors introductory books.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Perhaps everyone else is right. However I found this book to be incredibly enjoyable. Johns Hopkins' Biology class uses this book, and after reading the reviews I was terrified. However, I learned a lot from reading it, and found that it presented things in the perfect format for me to commit things to memory. Most importantly, it wasn't too wordy. Everyone in the class seems to agree with me that the book helps us learn. So don't immediately assume it sucks. I found it to be one of my favorite textbooks.

Even though I'm not a biology major, I find myself enthralled by biological studies. And so when I enrolled in my biology course, I found out that my class would be using this book (Hillis' Principles of

Life) rather than the Campbell Biology text, and I was rather surprised. I found this text to be excruciatingly inferior to the Campbell's, and the only mildly good aspect that I could think of would have to be the diagrams and pictures if one could be bothered to look at. The text itself are ridiculously brief, and do not explain very well about each topic matter. I didn't purchase the actual book from , but rather I bought the access to Bioportal through the publisher's website, and it included the ebook with the Bioportal access. It is a horrible experience having to navigate through the pages trying to find the one paragraph to answer the question for the assignments (I ended up googling most of them to no avail due to the book's uselessness), and if you try to search using the find feature, you would still be stuck at square one! The other biology classes at UT (which funny enough, is where Hillis is from) all use the Campbell text, but I chose my professor because I saw that people reviewed her as being a good teacher, but that is ruined by her insistence that we be the first class to try out this book. I had purchase the 3rd edition of Campbell's Biology (for a meager \$10 at Half-Price) to make sure that I don't have to blunder my through this horrible book for the rest of the year.

This textbook only makes sense when you already have mastered the material. It is pretty much impossible to imagine the reasoning behind the layout of material. I got through my class using Campbell Biology (9th Edition). If you get stuck with Principles of Life I highly recommend supplementing it with Campbell, any edition. As for Bioportal, it is ok, did not add much for me. I would have loved to see a more extensive outline. All you get really are animations that could easily be googled (McGraw Hill has the same voice narrating their textbooks). Steer clear of this book if possible.

This is a disciplined text and covers bio with a passion. The book is easy enough to read that it could serve anyone wishing to expand their understanding of living systems. But . . . it is waaaay too much for a single course at the high school AP Bio level course unless you are passionate about the subject. Each chapter takes two weeks to fully absorb, considering the labs that should go with it. Instructors may not take the time to fully cover each chapter, and will end up skimming. Think I am wrong? Count the chapters, check the calendar, tell me how to do it. My kid is first in his class and this text is kicking his bottom as a senior and I think that is why it got 4 stars. I recommend it for summer reading for bio students, but too much here for high school.

Third person to write a review, this book is a watered down Bio 1107 / 8 item and shouldn't have

ever been written. But it's a required text at my school so I suppose I have no choice. I received this book a day late from 's delivery date, so minus one star for that. My instructor informed us of Bioportal, and this book (which I bought brand spanking new, not even unwrapped yet) was supposed to have come with a card. No dice, minus an additional two stars. Will edit the review if resolves this problem in a timely fashion.

I purchased an expensive copy of this book thinking that it would include the Bioportal access code (\$75 to purchase online without the text)....nope! The new, \$100 book did not contain Bioportal and when I contacted the publisher they said not all the books include the access code (so why are they so expensive please??). It would be really great if the sellers would list if it comes included with the book, hint hint. In any case, just be careful of your purchase. and the book publishing company were extremely nice and helpful and I sorted it out, but still a hassle when classes are starting.

I have to agree with many of the other reviewers. The book has potential, but structurally it is really schizophrenic. Topics are partially presented, then suddenly stopped with the promise "will be covered in Chapter X". The level of detail is very inconsistent, with certain topics being presented at an excessive level of detail (given the target audience), and others glossed over to the point of being ignored. There are no problem sets at the end of the chapters (I have the loose-leaf version) to accentuate understanding the material. The online part of the book is truly dreadful. Poorly thought out questions, questions that don't seem to pertain to the material, drastically varying levels of difficulty, a horrendously designed computer interface, etc. On whole, I can't recommend the text in the current state. Future revisions might have potential if the material was systematically and thoroughly reorganized. For my biology classes, I usually will browse through it because it is the required textbook. However, if I really want to understand things topically, I will fall back on the superb Reece/Campbell "Biology", the Alberts/Johnson "Molecular Biology of the Cell", or (for advanced medical-oriented material) the magnificent Boron/Boulaep "Medical Physiology" books.

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