

Using Children's Literature to Expand Science Understanding

Life Science

Animals:

Chickens Aren't the Only Ones by Ruth Heller

(Reading level: AD620L)

Animaze! A Collection of Amazing Nature Mazes by Wendy Madgwick (Reading level: --)

Lizard in the Sun by Joanne Ryder

(Reading level: AD670L. A child is transformed into an anole for a day and discovers what it is like to be a tiny lizard.)

Amazing Bats by Frank Greenaway

(Reading level: AD900L. Introduce amazing members of the bat world, including the Indian fruit bat, the noctule and the common vampire bat.)

Batman: Exploring the World of Bats by Laurence Pringle

(Reading level: NC1140L)

Amazing Spiders by Alexandra Parsons

(Reading level: 920L. Introduce some of the most amazing members of the spider family, including bird-eating spiders, spitting spiders, and banana spiders.)

Misunderstood Spiders by Arthur John L'Hommedieu (Reading level: --)

Amazing Beetles by John Still (Reading level: --)

Waiting for Wings by Lois Ehlert

(Reading level: AD160L. A beautifully illustrated book about butterflies.)

Amazing Birds by Alexandra Parsons

(Reading level: 820L. Describes amazing members of the bird world that include the vulture, flamingo and hummingbird.)

Birds by Peter Gill (Reading level: --)

Amazing Armored Animals by Sandie Sowler

(Reading level: 990L. Introduces a variety of armored animals and describes how they defend themselves.)

The Eyes of Gray Wolf by Jonathan London

(Reading level: AD760L. Gray wolf searches for a new mate in the Alaskan wilderness.)

Inside/Outside Mammals by Steve Parker (Reading level: --)

The X-Ray Picture Book of Incredible Creatures by Gerald Legg (Reading level: --)

Animals Who Have Won Our Hearts by Jean Craighead George (Reading level: --)

Prickly and Poisonous by Anita Ganeri (Reading level: --)

Where's that Reptile? by Barbara Brenner and Bernice Chardiet

(Reading level: 420L. Presents information about different kinds of reptiles that the reader is invited to find hidden in illustrations.)

Where's that Insect? by Barbara Brenner and Bernice Chardiet (Reading level: --)

They Thought They Saw Him by Craig K. Strete

(Reading level: AD830L. A chameleon successfully avoids a number of dangers by using his unique adaptation.)

Hidden Pictures by Nicki Palin

(Reading level: 1040L. Puzzle guide to the world's wild places full of hidden animals in their natural habitats.)

The Natural World: Can You Believe It? by Jenny Vaughan (Reading level: --)

The Freshwater Alphabet Book by Jerry Pallotta (Reading level: --)

Animal Fact/Animal Fable by Seymour Simon
(Reading level: 670L. Presents a fascinating collection of sayings about animals in the form of a guessing game.)

A Kettle of Hawks and Other Wildlife Groups by Jim Arnosky (Reading level: --)

Somewhere Today by Bert Kitchen (Reading level: --)

And So They Build by Bert Kitchen (Reading level: --)

When Hunger Calls by Bert Kitchen (Reading level: --)

The Hunt by Narelle Oliver (Reading level: --)

Animals Nobody Loves by Seymour Simon
(Reading level: IG860L. From the downright savage to the surprisingly shy, this book unveils fascinating truths about 20 of nature's most under appreciated creatures.)

Extremely Weird Mammals by Sarah Lovett, et.al. (Reading level: --)

Nine True Dolphin Stories by Margaret Davidson
(Reading level: 520L)

Whales by Seymour Simon
(Reading level: AD950L)

Sharks by Seymour Simon
(Reading level: 1050L)

Sharks: Challengers of the Deep by Mary M. Cerullo
(Reading level: 1150L. Describes the physical characteristics, behavior and varieties of sharks.)

Snakes by Seymour Simon
(Reading level: 1000L)

Toad by Ruth Brown
(Reading level: Ad1180L)

Apes by Tess Lemmon (Reading level: --)

Bears by Helen Gilks (Reading level: --)

Actual Size by Steve Jenkins
(Reading level: IG1080L)

A Zooful of Animals by William Cole (Reading level: --)

Where Butterflies Grow by Joanne Ryder
(Reading level: AD670L. Describes what it feels like to change from a caterpillar into a butterfly.)

Insect Metamorphosis: From Egg to Adult by Ron and Nancy Goor
(Reading level: --)

Butterflies, Bugs and Worms by Sally Morgan (Reading level: --)

Bugs and Slugs: An Usborne Lift the Flap Book by Judy Tatchell (Reading level: --)

Caterpillars, Bugs and Butterflies by Mel Goring
(Reading level: 850L. Introduction to the world of insects.)

A Whale is not a Fish and Other Animal Mix-Ups by Melvin Berger
(Reading level: IG650L/ Animals that look alike but are not, like the alligator and crocodile, the donkey and mule.)

Strange Creatures by David Peters (Reading level: --)

Inside Dinosaurs and Other Prehistoric Creatures by Steve Parker (Reading level: --)

Prehistoric Life by Steve Parker (Reading level: --)

Condor Magic by Lyn Littlefield Hoopes (Reading level: --)

No Dodos: A Counting Book of Endangered Animals by Amanda Wallwork (Reading level: --)

Goodbye Geese by Nancy Carlstrom (Reading level: --)

Stellaluna by Janell Cannon
(Reading level: 550L. A fruit bat's adventure tells of survival and friendship.)

Verdi by Janell Cannon

(Reading level: AD620L. A young python tries to avoid his natural destiny to become an adult.)

Fireflies! by Julie Brinckloe

(Reading level: AD630L. Story about a summer evening when a child catches and releases a jar full of fireflies.)

Follow the Moon by Sarah Weeks

(Reading level: 530L. A young boy protects and encourages a newly hatched sea turtle until it finds its way to the sea.)

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

(Reading level: 680L. A spider is convinced that she must and can save Wilbur the pig from being butchered.)

Owl Moon by Jane Yolan

(Reading level: 630L. On a winter's night under a full moon, a father and daughter trek into the woods to see the great horned owl.)

Polar Bear Cubs by Downs Matthews (Reading level: --)

Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear? by Bill Martin, Jr.

(Reading level: AD720L. Zoo animals from polar bear to walrus make their distinctive sounds for each other.)

Little Polar Bear by Hans de Beer

(Reading level: AD590L)

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? By Bill Martin, Jr.

(Reading level: AD440L. A variety of colorful animals answer the title question.)

Night Songs by Anne Miranda

(Reading level: BR)

Voices of the Wild by Jonathan London (Reading level: --)

I Spy a Lion: Animals in Art by Lucy Micklethwait (Reading level: --)

The Butterfly Ball and the Grasshopper's Feast by Alan Aldridge (Reading level: --)

Crocodile Smile by Sarah Weeks (Reading level: --)

Lizards, Frogs, and Polliwogs by Douglas Florian

(Reading level: NP. A collection of humorous poems about reptiles and amphibians.)

Insectlopedia by Douglas Florian

(Reading level: NP. Twenty-one short poems about insects.)

Mammabilia by Douglas Florian

(Reading level: NP. A collection of humorous poems about mammals.)

Human Anatomy/Health:

The Human Body by Seymour Simon (Reading level: --)

Bones: Our Skeletal System by Seymour Simon

(Reading level: 1020L. Introduces the skeletal system and the role that healthy bones play in the human body.)

The Brain: Our Nervous System by Seymour Simon

(Reading level: 900L. Describes the various parts of the brain and the nervous system and how they function to enable us to think, feel, move and remember.)

Guts: Our Digestive System by Seymour Simon

(Reading level: 980L)

The Heart: Our Circulatory System by Seymour Simon

(Reading level: 1030L)

Eyes and Ears by Seymour Simon

(Reading level: 890L)

Muscles: Our Muscular System by Seymour Simon

(Reading level: 1030L)

A Book about Your Skeleton by Ruth Belov Gross

(Reading level: 650L)

Them Bones by Ian Dicks (Reading level:--)

The Iceman by Don Lessem (Reading level:--)

Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge by Mem Fox

(Reading level: AD760L. Wilfred relearns her memories from a little who lives next door to the nursing home.)

Leo the Late Bloomer by Robert Kraus

(Reading level: 120L. Leo, a young tiger, finally blooms under the anxious eyes of his parents.)

Sing a Song of People by Lois Lenski

(Reading level: NP. Depicts the pleasures of city life, people alone and in crowds having fun.)

The Magic School Bus Inside the Human Body by Joanna Cole

(Reading level: AD520L. When Ms. Frizzle takes their third field trip, it is inside Arnold's body.)

The Magic School Bus Explores the Senses by Joanna Cole

(Reading level: AD490L. The Magic School Bus journeys into the world of the senses.)

Good for Me by Marilyn Burns (Reading level:--)

Plants:

Plants That Never Ever Bloom by Ruth Heller (Reading level: 690L)

The Reason for a Flower by Ruth Heller

(Reading level: NP. Brief text and lavish illustrations explain plant reproduction and the purpose of a flower and present some plants which don't seem to be flowers but are.)

Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert

(Reading level: 170L. A mother and child plant a rainbow of flowers in the family garden.)

Dragonfly's Tale by Kristina Rodanas

(Reading level: AD610L. After a poor harvest, two children regain the Corn Maiden's blessings for their people with the aid of a cornstalk toy, the dragonfly.)

The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss

(Reading level: AD230L. A little boy plants and tends a carrot seed in spite of the pessimism of his family.)

Jack's Garden by Henry Cole

(Reading level: 20L. Cumulative text and illustrations depict what happens in Jack's garden after he plants his seeds.)

The Seasons of Arnold's Apple Tree by Gail Gibbons (Reading level: AD580L)

Tree Life by Theresa Greenaway (Reading level:--)

The Ever-Living Tree by Linda Vieira (Reading level: 760L)

Sky Tree by Thomas Locker

(Reading level: AD490L. A tree stands on a hill by the river. As the sky and seasons change, so does the tree, and the changes are rich with meaning. Fantastic illustration.)

How Does Your Garden Grow? by Mimi Sheraton (Reading level:--)

Trees by Allen J. Coombes (Reading level:--)

Trees and Leaves by Althea (Reading level:--)

The Magic School Bus Plants Seeds by Joanna Cole

(Reading level: 420L. The class learns how plants grow when they go on a field trip to Phoebe's old school.)

Allison's Zinnias by Anita Lobel (Reading level:--)

Tops and Bottoms by Janet Stevens

(Reading level: 580L. This is an amusing tale in the trickster tradition. In this case, Hare is the character who succeeds by his wits, outfoxing the sleep Bear three times in a row.)

Growing Vegetable Soup by Lois Ehlert (Reading level: 140L)

Look Closer: Tree Life by DK Publishing (Reading level:--)

The Green Truck Garden Giveaway: A Neighborhood Story and Almanac by Jacqueline Briggs Martin (Reading level:--)

The Gardener by Sarah Stewart

(Reading level: AD570L. A series of letters relating what happens when, after her father loses his job, Lydia goes to live with her uncle in the city, and takes her love of gardening with her.)

The Rose in My Garden by Arnold Lobel (Reading level: NP)

Biomes and Ecology:

The Desert Is Theirs by Byrd Baylor

(Reading level: AD520L. Simple text and illustrations describe the characteristics of the desert and its plant, animal and human life.)

Secrets of the Desert by Kathy Murdoch and Stephen Ray

(Reading level: 1020L. Many types of plants and animals could not survive in the desert. The ones that do, have some amazing habits to survive.)

Deserts by Seymour Simon

(Reading level: 1020L. Describes the nature and characteristics of deserts, where they are located, and how they are formed.)

The Magic School Bus on the Ocean Floor by Joanna Cole

(Reading level: AD490L. On another special field trip on the Magic School Bus, Ms. Frizzle's class learns about the ocean and the different creatures that live there.)

Under the Sea from A to Z by Anne Dubilet

(Reading level: AD1020L. The sea is full of creatures, enough to complete the alphabet.)

100 Things You Should Know about the Ocean by Paula Borton, editor (Reading level:--)

Flotsam by David Weisner (Reading level: NP)

Rain Forest Secrets by Arthur Dorros

(Reading level: AD870L. A close-up look at an incredible variety of animals and plants, living together in the different layer of the rain forest.)

Rain Forest by Helen Cowcher (Reading level:--)

The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest by Lynn Cherry

(Reading level: 670L. The many different animals that live in a great kapok tree in the Brazilian rainforest try to convince a man with an ax of the importance of not cutting down their home.)

The Shaman's Apprentice: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest by Mark J. Plotkin

(Reading level: AD890L. Kamanya believes in the Shaman's wisdom about the healing properties of plants found in the Amazon Rain Forest and hopes one day to be a healer for his people.)

Tree in a Forest by Jan Thornhill (Reading level:--)

Where the Forest Meets the Sea by Jeannie Baker

(Reading level: AD460L. On a camping trip in an Australian rain forest with his father, a young boy thinks about the history of the plant and animal life around him and wonders about their future.)

Everglades by Jean Craighead George

(Reading level: 660L. Story and beautiful pictures of the Florida Everglades.)

Over in the Steamy Swamp by Paul Geraghty

(Reading level: NP. A hungry mosquito starts a food chain in a steamy swamp as each hungry animal both preys and is preyed on.)

The Lorax by Dr. Seuss

(Reading level: 560L. The Once-ler describes the results of the local pollution problem.)

No Star Nights by Anna Egan Smucker (Reading level: 980L)

Brother Eagle, Sister Sky: A Message from Chief Seattle by Susan Jeffers

(Reading level: 740L. A Suquamish Indian chief describes his people's respect and love for the earth, and concern for its destruction.)

Old Turtle by Douglas Wood

(Reading level: AD350L. All of nature argues about the forms of God so people are sent a reminder of all that God is, although they do not seem to understand the message.)

Mojave by Diane Siebert

(Reading level: NP. Superb illustrations by Wndell Minor and a poetic text beautifully evoke the land and animals of the Mojave Desert.)

The Magic School Bus Inside a Beehive by Joanna Cole

(Reading level: AD520L. Ms. Frizzle takes her class on a field trip to a beehive in her Magic School Bus.)

The Magic School Bus in the Time of the Dinosaurs by Joanna Cole

(Reading level: 410L. The Magic School bus take s a field trip to the era of dinosaurs.)

Dear Children of Earth by Schim Schimmel (Reading level:--)

Earth and Space Science

Weather:

Weather by Seymour Simon (Reading level: AD1020L)

Weather and Climate by Barbara Taylor (Reading level:--)

The Sierra Club Book of Weatherwisdom by Vicki McVey (Reading level:--)

The Magic School Bus Kicks Up a Storm: A Book about Weather by Nancy White

(Reading level: 290L. The Magic School Bus flies into a storm.)

Tornadoes by Seymour Simon (Reading level: 1020L)

Storms by Seymour Simon (Reading level: 940L)

Storms in the Night by Mary Stolz (Reading level:--)

The Cloud Book by Tomie de Paola

(Reading level: 680L. Introduces the ten most common types of clouds, the myths that have been inspired by their shapes, and what they can tell about coming weather changes.)

Flood by Mary Calhoun

(Reading level: 610L. Using the devastating Midwest floods of the 1993 as the backdrop, this is a poignant story of a young girl who discovers what is truly important during a time of trouble.)

Earthquakes by Seymour Simon (Reading level: 1010L)

Hurricanes by Seymour Simon (Reading level:--)

The Magic School Bus Inside a Hurricane by Joanna Cole

(Reading level: AD500L. Ms. Frizzle's class takes a whirlwind field trip into the middle of a hurricane.)

Lightning by Seymour Simon (Reading level: 1050L)

The Magic School Bus at the Waterworks by Joanna Cole

(Reading level: AD660L. Blends fiction and non-fiction to convey facts about water supply while telling an amusing story about a wacky field.)

Caps, Hats, Socks, and Mittens by Louise Borden

(Reading level: 240L. Almost poetry highlights the simple adventures children have each season.)

The Big Snow by Berta Hader

(Reading level: AD710L. Forest animals survive a cold winter with the help of kind people in the stone house.)

Snowflake Bentley by Jacqueline Briggs Martin

(Reading level: AD830L. A biography of a self-taught scientist who photographed thousands of individual snowflakes in order to study their unique formations.)

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs by Judi Barrett (Reading level: AD730L)

The Earth/land formations:

The Earth and How It Works by Steve Parker (Reading level:--)

Oceans by Seymour Simon (Reading level: 990L)

Volcanoes by Seymour Simon (Reading level: 880L)

Mountains and Volcanoes by Barbara Taylor (Reading level:--)

Mountains by Seymour Simon (Reading level: 1080L)

The Magic School Bus Inside the Earth by Joanna Cole

(Reading level: 500L. On a special field trip in the Magic School Bus, Ms. Frizzle's class learns at first hand about different kinds of rocks and the formation of the earth.)

Everybody Needs a Rock by Byrd Baylor (Reading level: AD430L)

A Handful of Dirt by Raymond Bial

(Reading level: 1190L. Discusses the nature and importance of soil and the many life forms it supports.)

If You Find a Rock by Peggy Christian

(Reading level: AD930L. Celebrates the variety of rocks that can be found and the fun things that can be done with them.)

Rocks and Minerals by Seymour Simon (Reading level: NC1030L)

Dirt by Steve Tomecek (Reading level:--)

The Nature Company Guides: Rocks and Fossils by Arthur Busbey, et.al. (Reading level:--)

Rocks, Fossils and Arrowheads by Laura Evert and Linda Garrow (Reading level:--)

Fossil by Paul D. Taylor

(Reading level: 1060L. A photo essay about different types of fossils, from bacteria and algae to birds and mammals, an Eyewitness Book.)

Wildfires by Seymour Simon (Reading level: 990L)

Space:

Stars by Seymour Simon (Reading level: 830L)

3-D Star Maps by Richard Monkhouse and John Cox (Reading level:--)

Our Solar System by Seymour Simon (Reading level: NC1020L)

The Sun by Seymour Simon (Reading level: 870L)

The Moon by Seymour Simon (Reading level: 730L)

Earth: Our Planet in Space by Seymour Simon (Reading level:--)

Galaxies by Seymour Simon (Reading level: 1010L)

The Universe by Seymour Simon (Reading level: 980L)

Destination: Space by Seymour Simon (Reading level: 1160L)

The Third Planet by Sally Ride

(Reading level: 970L. What the view from the space shuttle reveals about our planet's environment.)

The Magic School Bus Lost in the Solar System by Joanna Cole

(Reading level: 480L. On a special field trip in the Magic School Bus, Ms. Frizzle's class goes into outer space and visits each planet in the solar system.)

A Book about Planets and Stars by Betty Polisar Reigot

(Reading level: 760L. Information from the most recent space probes and full color photographs present fascinating facts about our solar system and beyond.)

The Space Spotter's Guide by Isaac Asimov (Reading level:--)

Star Maps for Beginners by I. M. Levitt (Reading level:--)

A System in the Sky by Macmillan/McGraw-Hill (Reading level:--)

What's Up There by Dinah Moche (Reading level:--)

The Day We Walked on the Moon by George Sullivan (Reading level: 1060L. This is a photo history of space exploration.)

Story of the Universe by David Hughes (Reading level:--)

My First Book About Space by Dinah Moche (Reading level:--)

Observing the Sky by Carole Stott (Reading level:--)

The Children's Space Atlas by Kerrod Robin (Reading level:--)

Starry Messenger by Peter Sis

(Reading level: 830L. Fame and folly surrounding Galileo and his heaven-and-earth shattering ideas are eloquently described in brief text and stellar illustrations.)

Physical Science

Journey through Inventions by Ron Taylor (Reading level:--)

The Timeline of Discovery and Invention by Peter North (Reading level:--)

The Picture History of Great Inventors by Gillian Clements (Reading level:--)

Marie Curie and Radium by Steve Parker (Reading level:--)

I Didn't Know That About How Things Work by Anthony Tallerice (Reading level:--)

The Glorious Flight by Alice and Martin Provensen

(Reading level: 460L. A biography of the man whose fascination with flying machines produced the *Bieriot XI*, which crossed the English Channel in 37 minutes in the early 1900's.)

Fly! A Brief History of Flight by Barry Moser (Reading level:)

Plane Song by Diane Siebert

(Reading level: NP. A lyrical poem celebrates all kinds of planes.)

The Fantastic Paper Airplane Book by Willowisp Press (Reading level:--)

Flying and Floating by David Glover (Reading level:--)

Color by Ruth Heller (Reading level: AD300L)

Colors by Sarah Anderson (Reading level:--)

Mouse Paint by Ellen Stoll Walsh

(Reading level: 250L. Three white mice discover jars of paint and explore the world of colors.)

Shadows Are About by Ann Whitford (Reading level:--)

The Magic School Bus and the Electric Field Trip by Joanna Cole

(Reading level: AD490L. The Magic School Bus takes another trip, this time to teach the kids about electricity.)

Film by Richard Platt (Reading level:)

The Magic School Bus Gets Baked in a Cake by Scholastic

(Reading level: 510L. The class ends up inside a cake they try to bake for Ms. Frizzle's birthday. They learn about mixtures and reactions that occur when ingredients are put together.)

The Magic School Bus in the Haunted Museum: A Book About Sound by Scholastic

(Reading level:--)

Pie in the Sky by Susan G. Purdy (Reading level:--)