

CHILDREN'S SCIENCE BOOK PROJECT 2014-2015



Hawaii State
Public Library
System

Science trade books for children are an important tool for learning about science, developing scientific attitudes and stimulating an interest in reading. This tenth annual bibliography of science trade literature is conceived as an effective way to interest youngsters in learning about science through books and, secondarily, to introduce adults to the wide variety and high quality of science books for children. The bibliography can also be used by school and public librarians as an effective selection tool, through its quality ratings symbols, which can aid professionals in making purchase decisions.

In September 2013, the Salt Lake-Moanalua Public Library sent out letters to approximately 75 children's book publishers requesting copies of their latest children's science publications. That solicitation resulted in the receipt of 211 titles, which are divided into 17 subject headings in this bibliography. Although publishers usually confined their contributions to the current year's production, actual receipts were subject to the interpretations and personal discretion of the marketing staff at the individual publishing houses. With some exceptions, most of the titles in this bibliography were published in 2014.

The following eight factors were used as a guide by the two librarians (with respective backgrounds in children's and science literature), who both independently rated the books: accuracy, currency, author's qualifications, organization and format, illustrative matter, literary qualities, balance and objectivity and promotion of scientific attitudes and skills. The bibliography is arranged alphabetically by author within the following 16 subject groupings: Animals, Astronomy, Aviation & Space, Biography, Careers, Earth Sciences, Environment & Conservation, Fiction, General Science, Life Sciences, Marine Life, Mathematics & Computer Sciences, Medical & Health Sciences, Physics & Chemistry, Plant Life, and

Technology & Engineering. Reading levels are based on publisher supplied information.

Each entry contains: 1) a complete bibliographic description of the item; 2) a summary of the general content; 3) the grade level; 4) a quality rating symbol that represents the reviewers' editorial judgment of the book's usefulness; and 5) the Dewey call number of the book in the Hawaii State Public Library System. This edition of the bibliography was produced using EndNote bibliographic software and MS Publisher.

Quality Rating Symbols:

- AA Strongly recommended, excellent. Outstanding illustrations, black-and-white or color photographs. Exhibits all the best qualities of the eight evaluation factors mentioned above.
- A Recommended, very good. Good illustrations, black-and-white or color photographs. Lacking in only one or two of the best qualities of the eight factors of evaluation. Books in this category usually have a superior text but don't quite have state-of-the-art illustrations.
- B Good. Average to good illustrations, black-and-white or color photographs. Slightly deficient in two to three of the eight evaluation factors. Books in this category usually have a good text and illustrations but do not come up to the quality level of an "A" or "AA" rated book.

Abbreviations:

- Distr. by – Distributed by
- GrLvl – Grade Level
- Illus. By – Illustrated by
- NIDB – Not in (Horizon) Database
- p. – pages

Table of Contents

Animals	2
Astronomy	9
Aviation & Space	11
Biography	11
Careers	12
Earth Sciences	13
Encyclopedias & References	16
Environment & Conservation	16
Fiction	19
General Science	19
Life Sciences	21
Marine Life	22
Mathematics & Computer Science	23
Medical & Health Sciences	24
Physics and Chemistry.....	25
Plant Life	25
Technology & Engineering	26

Animals (67)

Arlon, Penelope. **FANTASTIC FROGS**. Series: Scholastic Discover More. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2013. 32 p. \$3.99. GrLvl K-2. Quality A; J 597.89 Ar.

Level 2 reader on the world’s fantastic frogs. Explores the frog’s unique anatomy, habitat, predators, camouflage, defenses, diet, metamorphosis, reproduction, and conservation. Sharp color photos and sidebars enhance the informative text, which is appended by a list of record-breaking frogs, a glossary, and index. A free, all-new digital book, *Fantastic Frogs Reading Fun*, is available for download to purchasers of this book.

Arlon, Penelope and Tory Gordon-Harris. **PUPPIES AND KITTENS**. Series: Scholastic Discover More. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2013. 32 p. \$7.99. GrLvl Pre-3. Quality AA; J 636.707 Ar.

Solid introduction to the subject of puppies and kittens for the early grades. Explores the early development of cats and dogs after they are born, until they are ready to leave their mothers and be on their own. Covers behavior, diet, siblings, play, vocalizations, training, various breeds, and wild cousins. Excellent color photos in both static and dynamic poses enhance the engaging text, which is appended by a glossary and index. Purchasers of this title can receive a free digital companion book with more facts, videos, and fun activities.

———. **REPTILES**. Series: Scholastic Discover More. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2013. 80 p. \$12.99. GrLvl 2-5. Quality AA; J 597.9 Ar.

Noted series on animals, plants, and the environment, with this title focusing on reptiles. Defines what it means to be a reptile, discusses their unique anatomy, diet, reproduction, and evolution. Broadly divides reptiles into snakes, lizards, crocodilians, and turtles and details their individual characteristics with many examples. Concludes with a section on conservation. Extraordinary color photos, illustrations, and sidebars complement a fact-filled text, which is appended by an interview with a wildlife explorer, a glossary, and index. A free digital companion book can be downloaded by purchasers of this title.

Bardoe, Cheryl. **BEHOLD THE BEAUTIFUL DUNG BEETLE**. Illus. by Alan Marks. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2014. 32 p. \$16.95. GrLvl K-3. Quality AA; J 595.7649 Ba.

Well told, important story on the dung beetle and its place in the web of life. What happens to all the waste products or dung that animals produce? Dung beetles help process it and utilize it for their own livelihood. There are three types of dung beetles: rollers, tunnelers, and dwellers. All dung beetles eat as they work, rolling balls of dung, tunneling to store their dung, or dwelling right on top of a pile of dung. What was once unwanted waste becomes fuel for the life of the dung beetle, an ancient symbol of life and renewal. Wonderful watercolor illustrations done on Fabriano 5 paper complement a sensitive, well written text. A section on Finding Dung Beetles and Fascinating Facts About Dung Beetles is appended, along with a glossary and bibliography.

Berger, Melvin and Gilda Berger. **101 ANIMAL BABIES**. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2013. 112 p. \$8.99. GrLvl 2-5. Quality A; J 591.392 Be.

Very browsable compilation of interesting facts about a wide range of animal babies. Explores parental behavior, independence, how long the baby stays with its mother, feeding, usual number of siblings, different terms for animal babies, and the role of the father. Color photos of 101 animal babies and their parents are arranged in no particular grouping, but range from insects, to reptiles, to amphibians, and mammals. An index and list of photo credits are appended. Any student or adult would love to dip into this book at random and check out the animal baby facts.

———. **101 ANIMAL RECORDS**. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2013. 112 p. \$8.99. GrLvl 2-5. Quality A; J 590 Be.

Nice compilation of 101 animal records and interesting facts for the early grades. Details superlatives on a wide range of insects, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates in no particular subject order. Color photos enhance the unusual facts presented in the text, which is appended by an index and list of photo credits.

Boothroyd, Jennifer. **ENDANGERED AND EXTINCT BIRDS**. Series: Lightning Bolt Books - Animals in Danger. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl K-2. Quality A; J 598.168 Bo.

Noted series on extinct and endangered animals, with this title focusing on birds. Presents the definition of a bird, gives examples of various endangered and extinct birds (both ancient and modern), their diet, reproduction, behavior, habitat, and how readers can help endangered birds. Color photos, illustrations, and sidebars enhance the educational, fact-filled text. A glossary, bibliography, and index are appended.

———. **ENDANGERED AND EXTINCT INVERTEBRATES.**

Series: Lightning Bolt Books - Animals in Danger. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl K-2. Quality A; J 592.168 Bo.

Solid series on endangered and extinct animals for the lower grades, with this title focusing on invertebrates. The author begins by defining invertebrates (animals without backbones) and goes on to discuss their diet, habitat, unique anatomy, behavior, and why some (e.g. Greek red damsels, Oahu tree snail, Staghorn coral, etc.) are becoming endangered. He then goes on to the topic of extinct invertebrates citing examples (e.g. Meganeura, trilobites, ammonites, etc.) and possible reasons why they became extinct. The text ends with a chapter on how readers can help endangered invertebrates. Color photos, illustrations, and sidebars enhance the simple factual text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, list of websites, and an index.

———. **ENDANGERED AND EXTINCT MAMMALS.** Series: Lightning Bolt Books - Animals in Danger. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl K-2. Quality A; J 599.168 Bo.

Noted series on animals in danger, with this title focusing on extinct and endangered mammals. Defines what a mammal is and goes on to give examples of endangered mammals and the reasons why they're endangered. Some endangered mammals include pandas, Asian elephants, long-nosed bats, Ganges dolphins, African wild dogs, and pangolins. The author next gives some examples of extinct mammals and why they went extinct. Some examples include smilodons (saber-toothed cats), Indricotherium, sea cows, desert bandicoots, and Japanese river otters. The book ends with a section on how readers can help endangered mammals. A success story is included on how grizzly bears came back (population now 600) in Yellowstone National Park after their numbers dwindled to 136 individuals in 1975. Color photos, illustrations, and sidebars enhance the educational text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, list of websites, and index.

———. **ENDANGERED AND EXTINCT REPTILES.** Series: Lightning Bolt Books - Animals in Danger. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl K-2. Quality A; J 597.9168 Bo.

Solid series on endangered and extinct animals for the early grades, with this title focusing on reptiles. Covers the definition of a reptile, examines examples of endangered reptiles, discusses extinct reptiles both ancient (dinosaurs) and modern (within the last several hundred years), and

ends with ways that readers can help endangered reptiles. Color photos, illustrations, and sidebars enhance the simple but informative text. A glossary, bibliography, and index are appended.

Borgert-Spaniol, Megan. **BOBCATS.** Series: Blastoff! Readers. Backyard Wildlife. Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether Media, 2014. 24 p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl K-1. Quality A; J 599.7536 Bo.

Early grade series on backyard wildlife, with this title focusing on bobcats. Discusses the bobcat's unique anatomy, habitat, diet, hunting ability, and reproduction. Sharp action color photos enhance the simple text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, website, and index. This is a Level 1 Blastoff! Reader appropriate for a first grade reader.

———. **CROCODILES.** Series: Blastoff! Readers. Animal Safari. Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether Media, 2014. 24 p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl K-1. Quality J 597.982 Bo.

Early grade series on animals found around the world, with this title focusing on crocodiles. Discusses their unique anatomy, habitat, behavior, swimming ability, hunting habits, diet, and reproduction. Sharp color photos enhance the simple text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, website, and index. This is a Level 1 Blastoff! Readers series book developed by literacy experts that combines standards-based content with developmentally appropriate text.

———. **HUMMINGBIRDS.** Series: Blastoff! Readers. Backyard Wildlife. Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether Media, 2014. 24 p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl K-1. Quality A; J 598.764 Bo.

Early grade series on animals found in your backyard, with this title focusing on hummingbirds. Discusses the hummingbird's unique anatomy, habitat, distinct flying ability, diet, reproduction, and behavior. Sharp action color photos enhance the simple text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, website, and index. This is a Level 1 Blastoff! Reader suitable for students in the first grade.

———. **ROADRUNNERS.** Series: Blastoff! Readers. Backyard Wildlife. Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether Media, 2014. 24 p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl K-1. Quality J 598.74 Bo.

Noted series on backyard wildlife, with this title focusing on roadrunners. Discusses the roadrunner's unique anatomy, habitat, behavior, diet, predators, and reproduction. Sharp and dynamic color photos enhance the simple text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, website, and index. This book is a Level 1 Blastoff! Reader, which supplies support through repetition of high-frequency words, light text, predictable sentence patterns, and strong visual support.

———. **SPIDER MONKEYS.** Series: Blastoff! Readers. Animal Safari. Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether Media, 2014. 24 p.

\$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl K-1. Quality A; J 599.858 Bo.

Early grade introductory series on animals, with this title focusing on spider monkeys. Discusses the spider monkeys' unique anatomy, habitat, diet, behavior, reproduction, and social activity. Sharp color photos enhance the simple text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, website, and index. This is a Level 1 Blastoff! Reader that uses repetition of high-frequency words, light text, predictable sentence patterns, and strong visual appeal.

———. **TOUCANS**. Series: Blastoff! Readers. Animal Safari. Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether Media, 2014. 24 p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl K-1. Quality A; J 598.72 Bo.

Early grade introduction to the large-billed birds known as toucans. Discusses the toucan's unique anatomy, habitat, behavior, diet, and social activity. Sharp color photos enhance the simple text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, website, and index. Blastoff! Readers are carefully developed by literacy experts and combine standards-based content with developmentally appropriate text. This book is a Level 1 Reader, which provides the most support through repetition of high-frequency words, light text, predictable sentence patterns, and strong visual support.

Burns, Loree Griffin. **HANDLE WITH CARE: AN UNUSUAL BUTTERFLY JOURNEY**. Minneapolis, MN: Millbrook Press, 2014. 33 p. \$26.60. Distr. by Lerner; GrLvl 1-4. Quality AA; J 595.3789 Bu.

Introduces El Bosque Nuevo, a butterfly farm in Costa Rica. Photographs by Ellen Harasimowicz illustrate the process of raising Blue Morpho Butterflies, the insect's life cycle, and their export to a museum in Boston. General information on insect life cycles and terminology are included in addition to a glossary, bibliography, websites, index, and author's notes. Educational resources for this book can be downloaded from the publisher's website.

Colson, Rob. **BONE COLLECTION ANIMALS**. Illus. by Sandra Doyle et al. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2013. 96 p. \$14.99. GrLvl 3-6. Quality AA; J 573.76 Co.

Exceptional introductory book on comparative vertebrate anatomy - how all the bones of animals with backbones are similar, even though on the outside the animals look much different. Explores the bones and skeletons of 41 animals from fish to elephants. Includes detailed, precise illustrations of their skeletons and color photos of the animals themselves. The text highlights the unique structures and behaviors of the animals, as it relates to their anatomy. Appended by a glossary and index. Wonderful antique book design gives the title the feel of an ancient book of knowledge. Fun for any budding naturalist to just dip into at random. Highly recommended.

Crump, Marty. **THE MYSTERY OF DARWIN'S FROG**. Illus. by Steve Jenkins and Edel Rodriguez. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills, 2013. 40 p. \$16.95. GrLvl 2-6. Quality AA; J 597.89 Cr.

The intriguing story of the discovery of a new kind of frog by Charles Darwin in 1834 and the subsequent discoveries by other scientists of the unusual reproduction and biology of Darwin's frog. Explores the frog's history, unique anatomy, diet, reproduction, development from tadpole to frog, behavior, habitat, distribution, and conservation status. Superior color photos, illustrations, and sidebars complement the well written text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, list of websites, and index.

Downer, Ann. **WILD ANIMAL NEIGHBORS: SHARING OUR URBAN WORLD**. Minneapolis, MN: Twenty-First Century Books, 2014. 64 p. \$33.27. Distr. by Lerner; GrLvl 5-12. Quality AA; J 591.756 Do.

As cities expand and urban development encroaches upon their natural habitats, wild animal encounters are on the rise, creating dangerous situations for both humans and animals. Some animals adapt and flourish in urban settings, while others manage a coexistence around the borders. The seven cases presented here illustrate the effects of man on various wildlife and the steps taken to lessen our impact on their environment. Color photos and sidebars give quick facts on featured animals and environmental solutions. Appended are bibliographies, websites, and an index.

Editions, Marshall. **100 MOST FEARED CREATURES**. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2013. 112 p. \$7.99. GrLvl 3-6. Quality A; J 591.65 Cl.

Covers the high interest subject of the 100 most feared creatures. Each entry contains the creatures' name, length, deadly weapons, scary skills, and a scary index rating of 1-5, with 5 being very, very scary. Color photos of each creature complement the minimal factual information. General arrangement of the entries is by categories such as snakes, reptiles, amphibians, sharks, fish, marine invertebrates, marine mammals, mammals, birds, and insects. This book will probably be a kid magnet. Easy browsability, eye-catching graphics, and high interest subject will make this a popular book.

Franchino, Vicky. **SPIDER MONKEYS**. Series: Nature's Children. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 48 p. \$28.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-5. Quality AA; J 599.858 Fr.

The appearance, habitat, senses, diet, anatomy, communication, reproduction, and troop life of the spider monkey are detailed in this title from a solid series for young readers. Also covered are the differentiating characteristics between monkey groups, factors contributing to their endangered status, and conservation efforts. Captioned photos, Fun Facts sidebars, and a quick reference page add to the informative text. A glossary, habitat map, bibliography, website, and index are appended.

Gibbons, Gail. **BEAVERS**. Illus. by the author. New York, NY: Holiday House, 2013. 32 p. \$17.95. GrLvl K-3. Quality AA; J 599.37 Gi.

Great early grade introduction to the natural history of the beaver by a noted science writer. Explores dam building, lodge building, habitat, beaver anatomy, swimming ability, diet, communication, family life, predators, and conservation. The author's bold color illustrations and little sidebars, enhance a well written narrative. A page of interesting beaver facts and a list of websites are appended. An enjoyable and educational book about beavers.

Gregory, Josh. **RED WOLVES**. Series: Nature's Children. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 48 p. \$28.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-5. Quality AA; J 599.773 Gr.

This title from a solid series for young readers describes the characteristics of the endangered red wolf, their appearance, diet, hunting habits, reproduction, communication, and relatives in the canine family. Also covered are the factors that led to their near extinction and the efforts made to bring their numbers up. Captioned photos, Fun Facts sidebars, and a quick reference page add to the informative text. A glossary, habitat map, bibliography, website, and index are appended.

Herrington, Lisa M. **CATERPILLAR TO BUTTERFLY**. Series: Rookie Read-About Science. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 32 p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl Pre-1. Quality AA; J 595.789 He.

Colorful, captioned photos with engaging Fun Facts sidebars add to the informative text detailing the life cycle of the caterpillar/butterfly. A glossary, index, and website are appended.

———. **TADPOLE TO FROG**. Series: Rookie Read-About Science. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 32 p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl Pre-1. Quality AA; J 597.87 He.

Engaging text, colorful photos, and Fun Facts sidebars follow the transformation from egg to tadpole to frog in this book for young students. Additional information is provided in a life cycle chart, three featured frogs, and a food chain graph. A glossary, index, and website are appended.

Leaf, Christina. **ANGLERFISH**. Series: Pilot. Extremely Weird Animals. Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether Media, 2014. 24 p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-8. Quality AA; J 597.62 Le.

Young students plunge the depths to learn about the weird creature known as the anglerfish, where females lure unsuspecting prey to it with a worm-like appendage from the front of its head. Although there are over 300 species of these fish, their common traits in appearance and behavior are covered in engaging text, informative sidebars, colorful photos, and a fact file. A glossary, bibliography, website, and index are appended.

———. **NARWHAL**. Series: Pilot. Extremely Weird Animals. Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether Media, 2014. 24 p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-8. Quality AA; J 599.543 Le.

Young readers of this title from the Extremely Weird Animals series will learn about the narwhal, sometimes called the unicorn of the sea. Their unique anatomy, habitat, migration patterns, communication, diet, and theories on the purpose of their tusk are discussed. Color photos, sidebars, a survival rating, and fact file add to the engaging text which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, website, and index.

———. **PLATYPUS**. Series: Pilot. Extremely Weird Animals. Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether Media, 2014. 24 p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-8. Quality AA; J 599.29 Le.

Besides its duck-like bill, beaver-like tail, and otter-like body, young students will learn about the other "weird" characteristics of the platypus through this title's informative text, engaging sidebars, color photos, and fact file page. A glossary, bibliography, website, and index are appended.

———. **TARSIER**. Series: Pilot. Extremely Weird Animals. Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether Media, 2014. p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-8. Quality AA; J 599.83 Le.

Young students will learn about the endangered tarsier - an animal that can turn its head nearly 360-degrees around. In addition to their habitats, diet, and physical description, the informative text details the survival adaptations within the species. Colorful photos, sidebars, and a fact page complement the text which is also appended by a glossary, bibliography, website, and index.

Lewin, Ted. **LOOK!** Illus. by the author. New York, NY: Holiday House, 2013. 26 p. \$14.95. GrLvl Pre-3. Quality A; E Lewin.

A quick look at nine African animals and various activities they do. Elephants eat, giraffes drink, warthogs dig, gorillas hide, wild dogs listen, zebras run, monkeys sit, hippos splash, rhinos nap, and a boy plays, reads, and dreams. The simple text is complemented by realistic pencil and watercolor illustrations on Strathmore Bristol.

Lunde, Darrin. **HELLO, MAMA WALLAROO**. Illus. by Patricia J. Wynne. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2013. 24 p. \$15.95. GrLvl Pre-1. Quality A; J 599.22 Lu.

Early grade, first look at an Australian animal known as a wallaroo, which is a kind of kangaroo. Through a series of questions answered by a mama wallaroo, the reader discovers facts about a wallaroo's unique body, size, habitat, diet, locomotion, enemies, reproduction, and behavior. Warm, colorful illustrations done in watercolor, ink, and colored pencil enhance the simple, engaging text, which is not appended by any end matter.

Markle, Sandra. **BATS**. Series: Biggest! Littlest! Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills, 2013. 32 p. \$16.95. GrLvl K-2. Quality A; J 599.4 Ma.

An introduction to bats for the early grades. Describes big bats such as the Gray-Headed Flying Fox, as well as little bats, like the Bumblebee Bat and all bat sizes in-between covering 15 species overall. Explores the reasons why some bats are big and some are small, their unique anatomy, diet, senses, echolocation, reproduction, and geographic distribution. Close-up color photos, maps, and sidebars complement the factual text, which is appended by a note on the two bat groups (megabats and microbats), a glossary, bibliography, and list of websites.

———. **THE CASE OF THE VANISHING HONEY BEES: A SCIENTIFIC MYSTERY**. Minneapolis, MN: Millbrook Press, 2014. 48 p. \$29.27. Distr. by Lerner; GrLvl 4-6. Quality AA; J 595.3799 Ma.

Explains the codependence between honey bees and plants for food and pollination with a description of the behavior of the different bees within a colony. Presents facts about the decline of honey bees from Colony Collapse Disorder and the solutions implemented to prevent it. Colorful photographs and illustrations enhance the text. An author's note, bibliography, glossary, suggested resources, and an index are appended.

———. **WHAT IF YOU HAD ANIMAL TEETH?** Illus. by Howard McWilliam. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2013. 32 p. \$3.99. GrLvl Pre-3. Quality A; J 591.44 Ma.

This cute little book sets up a humorous situation where a boy and girl lose their two front teeth and imagine what it would be like if they were replaced with various animal teeth, such as beaver, shark, narwhal, elephant, rattlesnake, naked mole rat, vampire bat, hippopotamus, Bengal tiger, crocodile, and camel. Some scientific facts about what animals do with their teeth are imparted, as the children's imaginations soar. Color photos (of the animals) and illustrations (of the children with animal teeth) enhance the lively and slightly humorous text, which is appended by a page each on "Where Do Teeth Come From?" and "Teeth Need Care."

Marsico, Katie. **BLACK WIDOW SPIDERS**. Series: Nature's Children. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 48 p. \$28.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-5. Quality AA; J 595.44 Ma.

Readers will learn about the most venomous spider in North America in this title from a solid animal series. The black widow's appearance, habitat, diet, reproduction, and development are detailed along with information about related venomous spiders found elsewhere. Captioned photos, Fun Facts sidebars, and a quick reference page add to the informative text. A glossary, habitat map, bibliography, website, and index are appended.

———. **WHITE-TAILED DEER**. Series: Nature's Children. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 48 p. \$28.00. Distr. by

Scholastic; GrLvl 3-5. Quality AA; J 599.652 Ma.

This title from a solid nature series for young readers describes the habitat, physical anatomy, diet, survival skills, life cycle, history, and relatives of the white-tailed deer. Urban encroachment to deer habitats and the resulting problems are also covered. A quick reference page, captioned photos, and Fun Facts sidebars add to the informative text. A glossary, habitat map, bibliography, website, and index are appended.

Montgomery, Heather L. **WILD DISCOVERIES: WACKY NEW ANIMALS**. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2013. 64 p. \$6.99. GrLvl 2-4. Quality A; J 590 Mo.

Gives a glimpse into the cutting edge science of taxonomy and the classification of newly discovered animals. Covers about thirty new animals broken down into general categories of where the animals were found including rain forests, oceans, islands, mountains, and wacky places. With intriguing common names such as the Blessed Poison Frog, Giant Velvet Worm, Wattled Smoky Honeyeater, and Condor Glassfrog the author gives the general characteristics of the animals and why and how they are related or not related to other animals they resemble. Color photos and sidebars complement the text which highlights the flashy characteristics of each animal. A glossary and page about the author are appended.

Oachs, Emily Rose. **BURMESE PYTHONS**. Series: Epic: Amazing Snakes! Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether Media, 2014. 24 p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-7. Quality A; J 597.9678 Oa.

Dramatic series on amazing snakes found around the world, with this title focusing on the Burmese python. Defines what a Burmese python is and discusses its unique anatomy, camouflage, habitat, conservation issues, swimming ability, senses, and prey. Up-close color photos and sidebars enhance the simple factual text, which is appended by a Species Profile, glossary, bibliography, website, and index.

———. **EMERALD TREE BOAS**. Series: Epic: Amazing Snakes! Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether Media, 2014. 24 p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-7. Quality A; J 597.967 Oa.

Concise series on amazing snakes found around the world, with this title focusing on the emerald tree boas. Defines what an emerald tree boa is and discusses its unique anatomy, habitat, camouflage, predators, hunting ability, and diet. Striking up-close color photos and sidebars enhance the simple educational text, which is appended by a Species Profile, glossary, bibliography, website, and index.

———. **GREEN ANACONDAS**. Series: Epic: Amazing Snakes! Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether Media, 2014. 24 p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-7. Quality A; J 597.967 Oa.

Epic series on amazing snakes found around the world, with this title focusing on green anacondas. Defines

what a green anaconda is and discusses its unique anatomy, camouflage, habitat, swimming ability, diet, hunting ability, and predators. Vivid close-up color photos and sidebars enhance the simple factual text, which is appended by a Species Profile, glossary, bibliography, website, and index.

———. **SPITTING COBRAS**. Series: Amazing Snakes! Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether Media, 2014. 24 p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-7. Quality A; J 597.9642 Oa.

Concise early grade introduction to the spitting cobra. Defines just what are spitting cobras, their anatomy, habitat, diet, predators, and defense mechanisms. Dramatic close-up color photos, maps, and sidebars enhance the educational text, which is appended by a Species Profile, glossary, bibliography, website, and index.

Owings, Lisa. **AYE-AYE**. Series: Pilot. Extremely Weird Animals. Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether Media, 2014. 24 p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-8. Quality AA; J 599.83 Ow.

When first discovered, the aye-aye was so unique that scientists didn't know how to classify it. Young students will learn all about this one-of-a-kind creature: its habitat, diet, and unusual anatomy. Engaging sidebars, a fact file, and colorful photos enhance the informative text. A glossary, bibliography, website, and index are appended.

———. **ELEPHANT SEALS**. Series: Pilot. Extremely Weird Animals. Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether Media, 2014. 24 p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-8. Quality AA; J 599.794 Ow.

In this title from the Extremely Weird Animals series, young students will learn about the two species of elephant seals. Their habitats, physical features, diet, behavior, and abilities are described in engaging text, sidebars, colorful photos, and a fact file. A glossary, bibliography, website, and index are appended.

———. **PROBOSCIS MONKEY**. Series: Pilot. Extremely Weird Animals. Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether Media, 2014. 24 p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-8. Quality AA; J 599.86 Ow.

Not only will young students learn about the unique noses on these monkeys, but their diet, anatomy, group interactions, and the threats against them that have placed them in an endangered status. Sidebars add to the informative text, as do the color photos, and a fact file. A glossary, bibliography, website, and index are appended.

———. **STAR-NOSED MOLE**. Series: Pilot. Extremely Weird Animals. Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether Media, 2014. 24 p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-8. Quality AA; J 597.858 Ow.

Young students will learn how the extremely sensitive tentacles of the star-nosed mole help it to feel, smell, and detect prey above and below ground - even underwater.

Also detailed are its other unusual physical features, habitat, and diet. Colorful photos, engaging sidebars, and a fact file add to the informative text. A glossary, bibliography, website, and index are appended.

Pallotta, Jerry. **BUTTERFLY: COLORS AND COUNTING**. Illus. by Shennen Bersani. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2013. 10 p. \$5.95. GrLvl Pre-K. Quality A; E Pallotta.

Simple counting board book from one to ten with each number highlighted by a different colored butterfly. The ten butterflies included are: 1. Tachyris zarinda (red); 2. Holly Blue; 3. Cloudless Sulphur (green); 4. Amethyst Hairstreak (purple); 5. Julia (orange); 6. Male Great Mormon (black); 7. Florida White; 8. Orion (brown); 9. Tailed Sulphur (yellow); and 10. Pink-tipped Clearwing Satyr (pink). Clear and bright color illustrations enhance the counting text (in numerical and written form) and color text.

Pringle, Laurence. **SCORPIONS! STRANGE AND WONDERFUL**. Illus. by Meryl Henderson. Series: Strange and Wonderful. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills, 2013. 32 p. \$16.95. GrLvl 3-5. Quality AA; J 595.46 Pr.

Noted science writer, Laurence Pringle, introduces the natural history of the scorpion, in his unique and engaging way. Pringle explores the great variety of scorpions, a bit of their history in myth and religion, their habitats, body characteristics, size, fossil scorpions, anatomy, locomotion, diet, hunting tactics, reproduction, molting, and place in the environment. Warm, realistic, watercolor illustrations complement the well written text and give the overall book a feeling of looking in on a desert biome. A bibliography and list of websites is appended.

Raatma, Lucia. **PLAINS ZEBRAS**. Series: Nature's Children. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 48 p. \$28.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-5. Quality AA; J 599.6657 Ra.

Readers will learn how plains zebras live and survive in the wild, their anatomy, diet, means of communication, and herd habits. Also described are ancient zebra ancestors and modern relatives, threats to zebra habitats and conservation efforts. A fact file reference page, photo captions, and Fun Fact sidebars add to the informative text. A glossary, habitat map, bibliography, website, and index are appended.

Ransom, Candice. **ENDANGERED AND EXTINCT AMPHIBIANS**. Series: Lightning Bolt Books - Animals in Danger. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl K-2. Quality A; J 597.8168 Ra.

Solid series on extinct and endangered animals, with this title focusing on amphibians. Covers the definition of amphibians, their characteristics, examples of endangered amphibians, reproduction, diet, examples of extinct amphibians both ancient and modern, reasons some amphibians have gone extinct or become endangered,

and what readers can do to help endangered amphibians. Color photos, illustrations, and sidebars complement the informative, fact-filled text. A glossary, bibliography, and index are appended.

Schuetz, Kari. **CHAMELEONS**. Series: Blastoff! Readers. Animal Safari. Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether Media, 2014. 24 p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl K-1. Quality A; J 597.956 Sc.

Noted series on animals for the early grades, with this title focusing on chameleons. Describes the chameleons' unique anatomy, habitat, diet, and behavior. Sharp color photos enhance the simple text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, website, and index. This title is a Level 1 Blastoff! Reader which combines standards-based content with developmentally appropriate text.

———. **GROUNDHOGS**. Series: Blastoff! Readers. Backyard Wildlife. Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether Media, 2014. 24 p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl K-1. Quality A; J 599.366 Sc.

Early grade series on backyard wildlife, with this title focusing on groundhogs. Discusses the groundhog's unique anatomy, habitat, behavior, diet, hibernation, predators, and defensive strategies. Sharp color photos enhance the simple text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, website, and index. This is a Level 1 Blastoff! Reader which supports the reader through repetition of high-frequency words, light text, predictable sentence patterns, and strong visual support.

———. **HAWKS**. Series: Blastoff! Readers. Backyard Wildlife. Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether Media, 2014. 24 p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl K-1. Quality A; J 598.944 Sc.

Early grade series on animals found in your backyard, with this title focusing on hawks. Discusses the hawk's unique anatomy, diet, habitat, hunting ability, reproduction, and behavior. Sharp action photos enhance the simple text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, website, and index. This is a Level 1 Blastoff! Reader suitable for first grade students.

———. **MICE**. Series: Blastoff! Readers. Backyard Wildlife. Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether Media, 2014. 24 p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl K-1. Quality A; J 599.353 Sc.

Noted series on backyard wildlife for the early grades, with this title focusing on mice. Discusses the mouse's unique anatomy, habitat, reproduction, diet, behavior, and predators. Sharp action color photos enhance the simple text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, website, and index. This is a Level 1 Blastoff! Reader appropriate for first graders.

Society, Hawaii Audubon. **HAWAII'S BIRDS**. Honolulu, HI: Hawaii Audubon Society, 2005. 141 p. \$11.00. Distr. by Island Heritage; GrLvl 7-Up. Quality AA; H 598.09969 Ha.

The definitive pocket field guide to Hawaii's birds.

Arranged in broad categories based on habitat including Marine Birds, Wetland Birds, Open Country Birds, Forest Birds, and Widespread and Urban Birds. The 141 species or subspecies covered are mainly for field identification, but do include information on Distribution, Description, Voice, and Habits. Sharp color photos and symbols (Endangered, Endemic, Indigenous, Alien, and Visitor) complement the factual text. A table of endemic birds of Hawaii, Selected References, maps of popular birding sites, and an index are appended.

Squire, Ann O. **BIRDS**. Series: A True Book. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 48 p. \$29.00. Distr. by Children's Press; GrLvl 3-5. Quality AA; J 598 Sq.

Underwater swimming penguins, backwards flying hummingbirds, and 300-pound ostriches may all initially appear different from each other, but are all birds. This title from the reliable True Book series introduces the common traits found in all 10,000 bird species, their bone structure, feather, wing, and beak configurations, nest building, and reproduction. Also discussed are migrating habits of some, communication, and threats to the survival of various birds. A bibliography, website, glossary, and index are appended.

———. **MAMMALS**. Series: A True Book. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 48 p. \$29.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-5. Quality AA; J 599 Sq.

Young readers will discover what they - as mammals - have in common with bats, orcas, and platypuses. Described are the various physical characteristics of mammal groups, behaviors, diets, life cycles, reproduction, and means of communication as well as the threats against some mammal species. A bibliography, website, glossary, and index are appended.

———. **REPTILES**. Series: A True Book. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 48 p. \$29.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-5. Quality AA; J 597.9 Sq.

With a two question quiz at the start of the book, young readers are directed to discover the truth about reptiles. The informative text first identifies the different groups of reptiles and what differentiates them from amphibians, the common physical characteristics between the over 9000 species, their varied habitats, habits, diets, methods of communication, reproduction, and threats to their survival. Appended are a bibliography, website, glossary, and index.

Sweazey, Davy. **BALL PYTHONS**. Series: Epic: Amazing Snakes! Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether Media, 2014. 24 p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-7. Quality A; J 597.9678 Sw.

Concise series on amazing snakes from around the world, with this title focusing on ball pythons. Defines what a ball python is and discusses its anatomy, habitat, behavior, hunting ability, diet, predators, and reproduction.

Dramatic color photos and sidebars enhance the concise factual text, which is appended by a Species Profile, glossary, bibliography, website, and index.

———. **BUSH VIPERS**. Series: Epic: Amazing Snakes! Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether Media, 2014. 24 p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-7. Quality A; J 597.963 Sw.

Notable series on amazing snakes found around the world, with this title focusing on bush vipers. Defines what a bush viper is and discusses its unique anatomy, habitat, camouflage, reproduction, senses, hunting ability, and venom. Dramatic, up-close color photos and sidebars enhance the simple factual text, which is appended by a Species Profile, glossary, bibliography, website, and index.

———. **DEATH ADDERS**. Series: Epic: Amazing Snakes! Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether Media, 2014. 24 p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-7. Quality A; J 597.964 Sw.

Colorful and concise series on amazing snakes found around the world, with this title focusing on death adders. Defines what a death adder is and discusses their unique anatomy, habitat, camouflage, predators, diet, and venom. Dramatic color photos and sidebars enhance the educational text, which is appended by a species profile, glossary, bibliography, website, and index.

———. **KING COBRAS**. Series: Epic: Amazing Snakes! Minneapolis, MN: Bellwether Media, 2014. 24 p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-7. Quality A; J 597.964 Sw.

Fascinating series on amazing snakes found around the world, with this title focusing on king cobras. Defines what a king cobra is and discusses their unique anatomy, habitat, predators, diet, and venom. Dramatic color photos and sidebars enhance the concise factual text, which is appended by a Species Profile, glossary, bibliography, website, and index.

Taylor-Butler, Christine. **AMPHIBIANS**. Series: A True Book. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 48 p. \$29.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-5. Quality AA; J 597.8 Ta.

Amphibians live a double life - spending a part of it in water and a part on land. Young readers will learn about the near 7000 amphibian species, from frogs and toads, to salamanders and newts, to worm-like caecilians. Their various habits and habitats, life cycles, and the care (or lack) of their young is discussed along with the threats against some species and the scientific research done with amphibians to protect not only them but also humans. Appended are a bibliography, website, glossary, and index.

———. **FISH**. Series: A True Book. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 48 p. \$29.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-5. Quality AA; J 597 Ta.

Packed with information from cover to cover, this title from the reliable True Book series introduces the similar traits among common fish from the bony fish, shark, ray, and eel groups. Described are the general anatomy of

each group, survival adaptations for their varied habitats, diets and methods of finding and eating, reproduction, life cycles, and threats against fish species. A bibliography, website, glossary, and index are appended.

———. **INSECTS AND SPIDERS**. Series: A True Book. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 48 p. \$29.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-5. Quality AA; J 595.44 Ta.

The informative text of this title in the reliable True Book series touches on the main similarities of the estimated 10 million insect species and how they differ from the 40,000+ spiders. The varied habits, habitats, diet, life cycle stages, and reproduction are described as well as the harm and benefits they bring. A bibliography, website, glossary, and index are appended.

Tuchman, Gail. **PETTING ZOO**. Series: Scholastic Discover More. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2013. 32 p. \$3.99. GrLvl Pre-2. Quality A; J 590.73 Tu.

Varied information about goats, sheep, alpacas, ducks, ponies, chickens, and other petting zoo animals are presented in this cute Discover More reader. A glossary and index are appended and related digital activities are accessible through a website.

Zeiger, Jennifer. **SNOWY OWLS**. Series: Nature's Children. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 48 p. \$28.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-5. Quality AA; J 598.97 Ze.

The appearance, anatomy, hunting and defensive abilities, habitat, diet, and characteristics of the snowy owl are detailed in this title from a solid nature series for young readers. Breeding habits and the development of chicks are also described along with information on ancient and modern owl relatives. A quick reference page, captioned photos, and Fun Facts sidebars provide additional data. A glossary, habitat map, bibliography, website, and index are appended.

Astronomy (13)

Higgins, Nadia. **THE SOLAR SYSTEM THROUGH INFOGRAPHICS**. Illus. by Lisa Waananen. Series: Super Science Infographics. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl 3-5. Quality A; J 523.2 Hi.

Noted series on science infographics, with this title focusing on the solar system. Explores the solar system, through examining the size of the universe in comparison to the solar system, the Big Bang Theory, the lives of the stars through their luminosity, supernova, black holes, singularity, our sun, planet facts, asteroids, comets, meteors, meteoroids, space junk, dark matter, dark energy, and the Drake Equation of intelligent life in the universe. Color illustrations, maps, charts, graphs, and sidebars are integrated with the factual text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, and index.

Miller, Ron. **RECENTERING THE UNIVERSE : THE RADICAL THEORIES OF COPERNICUS, KEPLER, GALILEO, AND NEWTON.** Minneapolis, MN: Twenty-First Century Books, 2014. 88 p. \$31.93. GrLvl 6-12. Quality B; YA 523.1 Mi.

A book that strives to bring together the important contributions of Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, and Newton in defining how humans view the structure of the solar system and universe. It begins with ancient cosmologies, and then explores the influence of the Greeks, the Bible, the Catholic Church, the Geocentric Theory, the Heliocentric Theory, advances in mathematics, Kepler's Laws of Planetary Motion, the invention of the telescope, and Newton's three Laws of Motion. Green sepia illustrations, maps, diagrams, and photos, along with sidebars, complement the competently written text, which unfortunately contains two errors, both dealing with captions to illustrations. On page 41 the caption should read, "The star that Galileo (not Kepler) saw exploded in 1604... and on page 56 the caption should read, "Newton's research into optics led him to invent an entirely new type of telescope : the reflector (not refractor). A glossary, Source Notes, Selected Bibliography, list of websites, and index are appended.

Robertson, Kay. **SPACE.** Series: STEM Everyday. Vero Beach, FL: Rourke, 2014. p. \$32.79. GrLvl 4-8. Quality A; J 510 Ro.

The study of our solar system requires many mathematical calculations. This STEM Everyday title provides the data to compare the diameters, distances, and gravitational forces of the planets, demonstrates how to calculate the speed and time necessary to travel to the moon and beyond, and presents other units of measure used in astronomy. A glossary, index, metric conversion table, websites, and comprehension questions are appended.

Squire, Ann O. **PLANET JUPITER.** Series: A True Book. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 48 p. \$29.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 4-6. Quality AA; J 523.45 Sq.

This updated introduction to the gas giant discusses Jupiter's composition, weather, and other unique characteristics that allow it to influence not only its moons, but other planets and matter in the solar system, including the sun. Four of the planet's moons are featured as well as the various spacecraft sent to study them. Additional facts and trivia are presented in captions and sidebars. A bibliography, website, glossary, and index are appended.

———. **PLANET MARS.** Series: A True Book. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 48 p. \$29.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 4-6. Quality AA; J 523.43 Sq.

Mars' similarities and differences to Earth are introduced in this updated edition of the fourth planet from the sun. Historical observations, modern discoveries, and future missions to the Red Planet are discussed, as well as the unique conditions involving its two moons. Additional facts and trivia are included in illustration captions and sidebars. A bibliography, website, glossary, and index are appended.

———. **PLANET MERCURY.** Series: A True Book. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 48 p. \$29.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 4-6. Quality AA; J 523.41 Sq.

The sun's extreme conditions have made exploration of its closest planet difficult and therefore the least known planet in the solar system. This updated edition introduces Mercury's geology and conditions, history of past observations and explorations, and future missions. Illustration captions and sidebars offer additional facts and trivia. A bibliography, website, glossary, and index are appended.

———. **PLANET NEPTUNE.** Series: A True Book. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 48 p. \$29.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-5. Quality AA; J 523.48 Sq.

Information on the farthest planet in our solar system is introduced in this updated edition. Presented are Neptune's composition, geology, and characteristics. Also discussed are its discovery, unique moons and ongoing study via data sent back by Voyagers 1 and 2, and the Hubble Space Telescope. Sidebars and captions provide additional facts and trivia. A bibliography, website, glossary, and index are appended.

———. **PLANET SATURN.** Series: A True Book. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 48 p. \$29.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 4-6. Quality AA; J 523.46 Sq.

This updated edition introduces the second largest planet in the solar system. Saturn's composition and characteristics as well as the discoveries and explorations of its moons and rings are described. Fact and trivia filled sidebars and captions add interest for the reader. A bibliography, website, glossary, and index are appended.

Taylor-Butler, Christine. **THE MOON.** Series: A True Book. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 48 p. \$29.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-5. Quality AA; J 523.3 Ta.

This updated edition introduces Earth's only natural satellite: its origins, size, geology, composition, and appearance from Earth. The history of observations and lunar missions are also discussed. Sidebars and captions offer additional facts and trivia. Appended are a bibliography, website, glossary, and index.

———. **PLANET EARTH.** Series: A True Book. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 48 p. \$29.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-5. Quality AA; J 525 Ta.

This updated edition introduces the Earth's geology, atmosphere, magnetic fields, time zones, and the moon. Historic observations and modern studies are also discussed. Illustration captions and sidebars offer additional information and trivia. Appended with a bibliography, website, glossary, and index.

———. **PLANET URANUS.** Series: A True Book. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 48 p. \$29.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 4-6. Quality AA; J 523.47 Ta.

This updated edition introduces the history of Uranus' discovery, its moons, rings, and other unique characteristics. Sidebars and captions offer additional facts and trivia. A bibliography, glossary, index, and website are appended.

———. **PLANET VENUS.** Series: A True Book. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 48 p. \$29.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 3-5. Quality AA; J 523.42 Ta.

Once thought to be Earth's twin due to its similar size and density, Venus' varied differences are introduced in this updated edition. Also described are factors that contribute to the planet's high temperatures and its history of observations and exploratory missions. Captions and sidebars offer additional facts and trivia. A bibliography, website, glossary, and index are appended.

———. **THE SUN.** Series: A True Book. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 48 p. \$29.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 4-6. Quality AA; J 523.7 Ta.

This updated edition provides information on the star of our solar system, with facts on its appearance, characteristics, energy production, effects on the planets, including life on Earth. Historic beliefs and observations of the sun are presented along with modern exploratory methods. Sidebars and captions provide additional facts and trivia. A bibliography, website, glossary, and index are appended.

Aviation & Space (1)

Miller, Ron. **CURIOSITY'S MISSION ON MARS: EXPLORING THE RED PLANET.** Minneapolis, MN: Twenty-First Century Books, 2014. 64 p. \$33.26. Distr. by Lerner; GrLvl 6-12. Quality AA; J 523.43 Mi.

Very comprehensive coverage of the mission to Mars of the space rover Curiosity. Discusses its origins, unique landing system, relationship to the Spirit and Opportunity rovers, its search for water, unique scientific tools for exploration, power source (nuclear), the Martian atmosphere, ancient riverbeds, life on Mars, Mars in the media, and future missions to Mars. Color photos, illustrations, and sidebars complement the well written, fact filled text, which is appended by source notes, a glossary, selected bibliography, a list of great fiction about Mars, great films about Mars, websites, and an index.

Biography (7)

Seiple, Samantha. **BYRD & IGLOO: A POLAR ADVENTURE.** New York, NY: Scholastic, 2013. 186 p. \$18.99. GrLvl 3-7. Quality AA; J B Byrd Se.

Exciting biography of Admiral Richard E. Byrd and his trusty dog, Igloo, filled with adventure, competition, and danger. It's the story of Admiral Byrd and his faithful companion, Igloo, as they attempt to beat Roald Amundsen

to the North Pole. Historical black-and-white photos and illustrations enhance an already engaging text, which is appended by a list of extensive Source Notes and a detailed index. Highly recommended.

Suen, Anastasia. **ALTERNATE REALITY GAME DESIGNER JANE MCGONIGAL.** Series: STEM Trailblazer BIOS. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl 2-5. Quality A; J B McGonigal Su.

Biography of noted video game designer Jane McGonigal, who grew up playing some of the early video games and computer systems, such as the Magnavox Odyssey 2 and Commodore 64. She later gained experience in alternate reality games (ARGs), like Survivor and The Amazing Race, which use the real world as a stage. This eventually led to video game design and titles such as I Love Bees, World Without Oil, and the ARGs - The Lost Ring and SuperBetter. All throughout her education and college she kept her finger in video game design, which ultimately resulted in her successful gaming career. A Timeline, glossary, bibliography, list of websites, and index are appended.

———. **IPOD AND ELECTRONICS VISIONARY TONY FADELL.** Series: STEM Trailblazer BIOS. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl 2-5. Quality A; J B Fadell Su.

Early grade biography of iPod and electronics visionary Tony Fadell. As a kid, Tony loved engineering and technology and was always fixing and building things. His first computer at age 12 was an Apple II. Five years later he invented a new processor for the Apple II, which he patented and later Apple bought the patent. Tony attended the University of Michigan to study computer engineering and graduated in 1991. He moved to Silicon Valley in California which was a hot bed of new start up companies and got a job with General Magic. At that company Tony worked on personal data assistants or PDAs and created two: the Velo and Nino. Then in 2001 he got a call from Apple, who wanted him to work on a new secret project to produce a small music MP3 player. This work eventually led to the Apple iPod. His latest work involves a programmable thermostat called the Nest Learning Thermostat. Color photos complement the text, which is appended by a Timeline, glossary, bibliography, list of websites, and an index.

Ventura, Marne. **ASTROPHYSICIST AND SPACE ADVOCATE NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON.** Series: STEM Trailblazer BIOS. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl 2-5. Quality A; J B Tyson Ve.

Inspirational biography of astrophysicist Neil Degraase Tyson, who first became fascinated with the universe and stars while visiting the Hayden Planetarium in New York City. Since he lived in the Bronx at the time, the natural night sky was mostly washed out by the bright lights of the city, but that just increased his thirst to find out more about

what was up there in the heavens. Neil took astronomy courses at the Hayden Planetarium and when he was ready for high school, he chose the Bronx High School of Science. This ultimately led to Harvard University and a doctorate from Columbia University. Neil quickly became a science popularizer and space advocate as he shared his love of the universe with others. Coming full circle, Neil became the director of the Hayden Planetarium in 1995. Using television to reach out to others, Neil hosted NOVA ScienceNow and The Pluto Files. He's also active on radio with a show called StarTalk, as well as on the social network Twitter. Color photos complement the text, which is appended by a Timeline, glossary, bibliography, list of websites, and index.

———. **GOOGLE GLASS AND ROBOTICS INNOVATOR SEBASTIAN THRUN.** Series: STEM Trailblazer BIOS. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl 2-5. Quality A; J B Thrun Ve.

Early grade biography of Google Glass and robotics innovator Sebastian Thrun. Sebastian was born in Germany and decided while quite young that he wanted to work to make cars safer, when his best friend was killed in a car accident. This desire in later years led to Sebastian's work on the Google self-driving car. He had an early interest in computers, computer programming, and robotics. His work with robotics and artificial intelligence in college attracted scientists at Carnegie Mellon University and he moved to the U.S. in 1995. Sebastian's work at Carnegie Mellon eventually evolved into work on service robots and he developed Minerva, Nursebot, and Groundhog. In 2003, Sebastian moved to California to work at Stanford University, where he headed a self-driving car project that won a \$2 million prize for Stanford. That work led him to Google where he worked on Google Street View, the Google Self-driving Car, and Google Glass. Color photos complement the text, which is appended by a Timeline, glossary, bibliography, list of websites, and index.

Wooster, Patricia. **FLICKR COFOUNDER AND WEB COMMUNITY CREATOR CATERINA FAKE.** Series: STEM Trailblazer BIOS. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl 2-5. Quality A; J B Fake Wo.

Interesting biography of Caterina Fake, the founder of the photo-sharing website Flickr. After college, Caterina became the art director for Salon.com a new startup website in the early nineties. On that website, she helped create Table Talk Forum, which was one of the first Internet communities with social networking. After marrying computer programmer, Steward Butterfield in 2002, the two of them created a website that let members chat with one another and share pictures. They called it Flickr and its online user community quickly grew. The next new website they created was called Hunch which was designed to help people find more of what they like. In 2011, eBay bought Hunch for around \$80 million. Color photos complement the text, which is appended by a Timeline, glossary, bibliography, list of websites, and an index.

———. **YOUTUBE FOUNDERS STEVE CHEN, CHAD HURLEY, AND JAWED KARIM.** Series: STEM Trailblazer BIOS. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl 2-5. Quality A; J 384.33 Wo.

Collected biography for the early grades of the three founders of YouTube: Steve Chen, Chad Hurley, and Jawed Karim. The Internet explosion in the early 1990s brought the three friends together to work at a new company in the dot-com boom. They had a fresh idea to create a website (YouTube) where people could share videos. Chad Hurley had an early interest in graphic design and video games, eventually landing a job at PayPal. Steve Chen was born in Taiwan, but moved to the U.S. when he was eight. His early interest in computers and technology led him to the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy for high school and then to the University of Illinois to study computer science. After college, he got a job at PayPal, where he met Chad Hurley. Jawed Karim was born in Germany, but moved to the U.S. when he was thirteen. Like Steve Chen, he also studied computer science at the University of Illinois and after graduation got a job at PayPal. It was after hours that the three friends brainstormed ideas about creating a website to share videos. After its founding in 2005, YouTube grew explosively and was bought by Google in 2006 for \$1.65 billion. Color photos complement the informative text, which is appended by a Timeline, glossary, bibliography, list of websites, and an index.

Careers (3)

Cunningham, Kevin. **COMPUTER GRAPHICS : FROM CONCEPT TO CONSUMER.** Series: Calling All Innovators : A Career for You. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 64 p. \$30.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 4-6. Quality AA; J 006.6023 Cu.

Comprehensive look at the subject of computer graphics from concept to consumer, with an eye towards careers in the field. Explores the history of computer graphics, mainframe computers, personal computers, software, Pixar, big screen blockbusters, simulations, massive movements, modelers, animators, texture artists, lighting artists, rendering, composers, directors, stop-motion animation, motion capture animation, and the future changing technology. Color and black-and-white photos, and sidebars enhance an engaging text, which is appended by a list of Career Stats, a bibliography, glossary, and index. An interview with a digital artist, Diana Sear, is also included in the middle of the text. Highly recommended.

———. **ROLLER COASTERS : FROM CONCEPT TO CONSUMER.** Series: Calling All Innovators : A Career for You. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 64 p. \$30.00. GrLvl 4-6. Quality AA; J 688.7 Cu.

Excellent series on careers that are changing the world today, with this title focusing on roller coasters. Gives a short history of the roller coaster and explores past marvels, materials, inversion, airtime, stand-ups,

steel coasters, wooden coasters, speeds, heights, pumps, vertical climbs, pneumatics, engineering, the artistic side, topography, coaster companies, safety, testing, and the future. Color photos and sidebars enhance the exciting text, which is appended by a list of Career Stats, a bibliography, glossary, and index. An interview with a roller coaster engineer, Korey Kiepert, is inserted in the middle of the text. This book makes you want to be a roller coaster engineer!

———. **VIDEO GAMES : FROM CONCEPT TO CONSUMER.**

Series: Calling All Innovators : A Career for You. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 64 p. \$30.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 4-6. Quality AA; J 794.8023 Cu.

A very comprehensive introduction to the history of video games and how a video game is developed from concept to consumer, with an eye towards careers in the field. Discusses the early history of the video game from 1952 until the present, along with the development of television, the handheld video game systems, the blockbuster video game titles, controllers, playing online, the team behind a video game's development, computer code, game designers, texture artists, animators, video game testers, sound designers, game engines, video game development software, and the future of video games. Color and black-and-white photos, timelines, sidebars, and an interview with a game designer complement a well written and engaging text. A page of career statistics for video game jobs, a bibliography, glossary, and index are appended.

Earth Sciences (21)

Arlon, Penelope and Tory Gordon-Harris. **WEATHER.** Series: Scholastic Discover More. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2013. 80 p. \$12.99. GrLvl 2-5. Quality AA; J 551.6 Ar.

Comprehensive introduction to weather for the lower grades. Explores the atmosphere, heat, wind, water cycle, dew, frost, clouds, precipitation, lightning, tornadoes, hurricanes, droughts, bushfires, dust storms, harsh climates, floods, blizzards, and weird weather. Concludes with a section on weather watching, satellites, forecasts, global warming, and saving our planet. Excellent and dramatic color photos, illustrations, and sidebars enhance the factual text, which is appended by a glossary and index. Visually appealing and designed for easy browsing. Purchasers of this title can download a free digital companion book.

Brown, Laaren. **VOLCANOES.** Series: Scholastic Discover More. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2013. 32 p. \$3.99. GrLvl 2-4. Quality A; J 551.21 Br.

An introduction to volcanoes for the early grades that generates real interest from readers. Discusses our erupting world, volcano anatomy, types of lava, types of volcanoes, ancient views of volcanoes, spectacular eruptions in the

past (Mt. Vesuvius, Mt. Toba, Mt. Tambora, Krakatau, Mt. St. Helens, Kilauea, etc.), volcanologists, the Ring of Fire, and the future. Dramatic color photos, illustrations, and sidebars enhance the informative text, which is appended by a list of Awesome Volcano Records, a glossary, and an index. A free, all new digital book (Volcanoes Reading Fun) is available for download for purchasers of the book.

Burnie, David. **DISASTERS.** Series: Scholastic Discover More. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2013. 112 p. \$15.99. GrLvl 5-9. Quality AA; J 363.34 Bu.

High quality Discover More series from Scholastic, with this title focusing on disasters. Explores both natural and man-made disasters including those related to weather (tornadoes, hurricanes, lightning), the unstable Earth (earthquakes, volcanoes), water (flooding, monsoons, tsunamis), and threats from space (asteroids, solar storms, and the final disaster). Top notch color photos, illustrations, maps, charts, and sidebars work together with the factual text to produce a superior product. A free digital companion book is available to purchasers of the hard copy edition.

Forbes, Scott. **HOW TO MAKE A PLANET: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO BUILDING THE EARTH.** Illus. by Jean Camden. Tonawanda, NY: Kids Can Press, 2014. 64 p. \$17.95. GrLvl 3-6. Quality AA; J 550 Fo.

Unique perspective on how the Earth and its many life forms developed over time, by first assuming that you wanted to build a planet from scratch. Starting with the Big Bang, the author explores the formation of stars, galaxies, black holes, planets, gravity, atmosphere, water, plate tectonics, the beginnings of life, and the development of more advanced life forms. This book really makes you think out of the box on how all of these processes occurred over time to form a planet like Earth. Color photos, illustrations, tables, and sidebars enhance a well written text, that is sprinkled with just the right amount of subtle humor. A timeline, list of Amazing Facts, glossary, and index are appended.

Green, Dan. **ROCKS AND MINERALS.** Series: Scholastic Discover More. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2013. 112 p. \$15.99. GrLvl 5-9. Quality AA; J 552 Gr.

Very solid, fact-filled book on geology, rocks, and minerals for the middle grades. Explores the processes going on inside the Earth, covers igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks, minerals, and gems. Profusely illustrated with outstanding color photos, illustrations, and sidebars to complement the well written text, which is appended by a Rock ID Kit, glossary, and index. Great book to just pick up and dip into.

Grigg, Dr. Richard W. **IN THE BEGINNING : ARCHIPELAGO : THE ORIGIN AND DISCOVERY OF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.** Waipahu, HI: Island Heritage, 2012. 111 p. \$19.95. GrLvl 7-Up. Quality AA; H 508.969 Gr.

An excellent, detailed but concise, overview of the origin and discovery of the Hawaiian Islands. Discusses in an understandable and engaging way, the geologic origins of the Major Hawaiian Islands, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, and the Emperor Seamounts. The author then delves into plant and animal life discovering the Islands and how they have evolved, and ends with the story of human contact by Polynesians and Westerners. Extraordinary color illustrations, maps, photos, graphs, and tables complement the factual, highly readable text. A glossary, bibliography, and index are appended. A great distillation of scientific facts into a text for the general public.

Higgins, Nadia. **NATURAL DISASTERS THROUGH INFOGRAPHICS**. Illus. by Alex Sciuto. Series: Super Science Infographics. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl 3-5. Quality A; J 363.34 Hi.

Popular series on science infographics, with this title focusing on natural disasters. Explores the complexity of natural disasters through infographics examining plate tectonics, the anatomy of the Earth, boundary events, volcanoes, earthquakes, the Richter Scale, tsunamis, the Ring of Fire, record breakers, how to survive a natural disaster, the Haiti earthquake of 2010, lifesaving engineering, and the scientists who study natural disasters. Color illustrations, maps, tables, graphs, charts, and sidebars are seamlessly integrated with the factual text, which is appended with a glossary, bibliography, and index.

Loxton, Daniel. **PLESIOSAUR PERIL**. Illus. by the author with Jim W.W. Smith. Series: Tales of Prehistoric Life. Tonawanda, NY: Kids Can Press, 2014. 32 p. \$16.95. GrLvl Pre-2. Quality AA; J 567.937 Lo.

Noted series on tales of prehistoric life with this title focusing on plesiosaurs. The basic story involves a baby *Cryptoclidus* who while foraging for food gets separated from her pod and has to confront a predatory *Liopleurodon*. Through a tricky swimming maneuver and some help from her pod the baby escapes back to the safety of her mother. Excellent, detailed color illustrations of the plesiosaurs are superimposed on a photographic background adding to the overall realism of the graphics. The narrative was based in part on fossil discoveries of *Cryptoclidus* and *Liopleurodon* which are described in an addendum to the text.

———. **PTEROSAUR TROUBLE**. Illus. by the author with Jim W.W. Smith. Series: Tales of Prehistoric Life. Tonawanda, NY: Kids Can Press, 2013. 32 p. \$16.95. GrLvl Pre-2. Quality AA; J 567.918 Lo.

Instructive narrative adventure of a Pterosaur who while looking for food in a winding river, gets ambushed by a pack of *Saurornitholestes*, but then is able to shake them off and escape with a swift takeoff into flight. Fantastic, detailed color illustrations of the ancient reptiles are superimposed onto a background of color photos to add

an enhanced realism to the story. An addendum supplies more facts about the animals in the story and reveals that the action in the book was inspired by an astonishing fossil discovery in Dinosaur Provincial Park in Canada.

Miller, Ron. **CHASING THE STORM: TORNADOES, METEOROLOGY, AND WEATHER WATCHING**. Minneapolis, MN: Twenty-First Century Books, 2014. 64 p. \$33.26. Distr. by Lerner; GrLvl 6-12. Quality A; J 551.553 Mi.

Good introduction to chasing storms, weather watching, and basic meteorology. The author interweaves experiences of real storm chasers with some added meteorology of severe weather thrown in. Covers tornadoes, wind shear, turbulence, Doppler radar, weather patterns, tornado seasons, global warming, meteorologists on the job, official weather watchers, the National Weather Service, the Skywarn volunteer program, and what it takes to be a storm chaser. Color photos, maps, diagrams, and sidebars enhance the understanding of difficult concepts in the text, which is appended by a short section on Creating Your Own Weather Station, a Weather Emergency Kit, Source Notes, glossary, bibliography, list of websites, and an index.

Robertson, Kay. **MAPS**. Series: STEM Everyday. Vero Beach, FL: Rourke, 2014. 48 p. \$32.79. GrLvl 4-8. Quality A; J 510 Ro.

Noted STEM series with this title focusing on the subject of maps. Defines what a map is and discusses elements that make up a map, such as scale, direction, compasses, degrees, longitude, latitude, elevation, sea level, depth, astronomical units (AU), and finally the science of creating maps, which is called cartography. Color photos, maps, illustrations, and sidebars complement the educational text. Sprinkled throughout the text are STEM in Action sidebars that pose questions usually requiring some sort of computation. Answers are provided. A glossary, index, page on the Metric System, a list of websites, and questions to Show What You Know are appended.

———. **WEATHER**. Series: STEM Everyday. Vero Beach, FL: Rourke, 2014. p. \$32.79. GrLvl 4-8. Quality A; J 510 Ro.

Weather patterns are analyzed and described according to specific conditions. By comparing temperatures, precipitation, wind speeds, and more, meteorologists determine weather patterns before reporting on it. This STEM Everyday title provides the data for students to begin making their own climate conclusions. A glossary, index, metric conversion table, websites, and comprehension questions are appended.

Rowell, Rebecca. **WEATHER AND CLIMATE THROUGH INFOGRAPHICS**. Illus. by Venitia Dean. Series: Super Science Infographics. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl 3-5. Quality A; J 551.6 Ro.

Useful series on science infographics, with this title focusing on weather and climate. Through a myriad of

graphics the author examines the difference between weather and climate, energy from the sun, seasons, temperature extremes, the atmosphere, the water cycle, clouds, wind, jet streams, the oceans and weather, fronts, extreme weather, and the National Weather Service. Color illustrations, maps, charts, tables, graphs, and sidebars are seamlessly integrated with the factual text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, list of websites, and index.

Rusch, Elizabeth. **VOLCANO RISING**. Illus. by Susan Swan. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2013. 32 p. \$17.95. GrLvl 1-4. Quality AA; J 551.21 Ru.

A great introduction to the destructive and creative aspects of volcanoes. Explores volcanic anatomy, magma, lava, tephra, gases, mountain building, submarine volcanoes, island building, shield volcanoes, and lots of real life examples of erupting volcanoes, such as, Mt. St. Helens, Kilauea, the Yellowstone Supervolcano, Mauna Loa, and Mt. Etna. The fantastic graphics were created with found objects, hand painted papers, scans of objects and textures in Adobe Photoshop to create new patterns, adding digital paintings, and then collaging the two together. The text is engaging, educational, and well written. A glossary, bibliography, and list of websites is appended. Great book design - highly recommended.

Silverman, Buffy. **CAN YOU TELL A BRACHIOSAURUS FROM AN APATOSAURUS?** Series: Lightning Bolt Books - Dinosaur Look-Alikes. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl K-2. Quality A; J 567.913 Si.

Apatosaurus and Brachiosaurus belonged to the sauropod group of dinosaurs. They both had a long neck, long tail, small head, and ate plants. This book for young students describes the similarities and differences between the two. A glossary, bibliography, websites, and index are appended.

———. **CAN YOU TELL A GIGANTOSAURUS FROM A SPINOSAURUS?** Series: Lightning Bolt Books - Dinosaur Look-Alikes. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl K-2. Quality A; J 567.912 Si.

Gigantosaurus and Spinosaurus were the two largest dinosaurs that walked on two legs. Both had sharp teeth, claws, short arms, and a long tail. There were also a number of differences which are described in this book for young students. A glossary, bibliography, websites, and index are appended.

———. **CAN YOU TELL A STEGOSAURUS FROM AN ANKYLOSAURUS?** Series: Lightning Bolt Books - Dinosaur Look-Alikes. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl K-2. Quality J 567.915 Si.

Ankylosaurus and Stegosaurus belonged to a group of dinosaurs with body armor. Both had front legs that were shorter than their back legs, a “weapon” at the end

of their tails, and ate plants. There were also a number of differences which are described in his book for young students. A glossary, bibliography, websites, and index are appended.

———. **CAN YOU TELL A TRICERATOPS FROM A PROTOCERATOPS?** Series: Lightning Bolt Books - Dinosaur Look-Alikes. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl K-2. Quality A; J 567.915 Si.

Protoceratops and Triceratops belonged to a group of frilled dinosaurs called Ceratopsia that had sharp beaks and ate plants. Readers will learn to identify the different features and characteristics of each dinosaur in this book for young students. A glossary, bibliography, websites, and index are appended.

———. **CAN YOU TELL A TYRANNOSAURUS FROM AN ALLOSAURUS?** Series: Lightning Bolt Books - Dinosaur Look-Alikes. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. p. \$26.60. GrLvl K-2. Quality A; J 567.912 Si.

Allosaurus and Tyrannosaurus both walked on two legs, had short arms with sharp claws, and ate meat. Readers will learn the differences between these two similar looking dinosaurs in this book for young students. A glossary, bibliography, websites, and index are appended.

———. **CAN YOU TELL A VELOCIRAPTOR FROM A DEINONYCHUS?** Series: Lightning Bolt Books - Dinosaur Look-Alikes. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl K-2. Quality A; J 567.912 Si.

Deinonychus and Velociraptor were small dinosaurs with sharp teeth and ran on two legs with clawed feet. Readers will learn the differences between the two similar looking dinosaurs in this book for young students. A glossary, bibliography, websites, and index are appended.

Thomson, Sarah L. **ANCIENT ANIMALS: TERROR BIRD**. Illus. by Andrew Plant. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2013. 32 p. \$12.95. GrLvl 1-3. Quality A; J 568.3 Th.

An early grade introduction to the largest meat-eating bird that has ever lived on the Earth, the terror bird. Its scientific name was Phorusrhacidae and it could not fly, but it could run - fast. The terror birds were hunters with sharp, curved beaks for slicing and tearing into meat. It was a top predator and had no enemies. Terror birds usually hunted sick and weak prey helping keep a balance among food, predators, and prey. They lived on Earth for about sixty million years and died out about 2.5 million years ago. Colorful illustrations done in acrylic gouache on acid-free cartridge paper enhance the factual text, which is appended by a bibliography, list of videos, and list of websites.

Encyclopedias & Reference (2)

Johnson, Jinny. **ATLAS OF ANIMALS**. Minneapolis, MN: Millbrook Press, 2013. 128 p. \$35.93. GrLvl 4-8. Quality A; J 591.42 Jo.

An atlas of animals found around the world, arranged geographically into Africa, Asia, Australasia, Central & South America, Europe, North America, and Poles & Oceans. Begins with an introduction to the Animal Kingdom, evolution & adaptation, eating to survive, the living world, animals & people, and animals in danger, then delves into the geographic regions and their subclimatic environments (e.g. forests, mountains, deserts, plains). Excellent color photos, illustrations, maps, and sidebars complement the text, which consists of sound bite sized bits of information about each animal, along with other information on evolutionary or biological processes. A glossary and index are appended. Nice book design makes for a readily browsable text.

———. **WILD WORLD : AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ANIMALS**. Minneapolis, MN: Millbrook Press, 2013. 132 p. \$35.93. Distr. by Lerner; GrLvl 4-8. Quality A; J 590.3 Jo.

A one volume encyclopedia of animals found around the world, arranged by animal groups into Mammals, Birds, Reptiles & Amphibians, Fish, and Invertebrates. Excellent color photos and sidebars complement a sound bite of information about each animal. The text is appended by an index. This book is designed to be easily browsable and dipped into at random. Very nice book design makes the title readily readable.

Environment & Conservation (24)

Arlon, Penelope and Tory Gordon-Harris. **RAINFOREST**. Series: Scholastic Discover More. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2013. 80 p. \$12.99. GrLvl K-2. Quality AA; J 577.34 Ar.

Noted series on our planet's environments and inhabitants, with this title focusing on rainforests. Defines the rainforest habitat and goes on to describe dozens of rainforest animals, plants, and forest people. Broadly breaks up the subject of rainforests into Central and South American, African, and Asian. Concludes with a chapter on rainforest conservation, why the jungles are in danger, and how we can save the rainforests. Exceptional color photos and sidebars enhance a fact-filled text, which is appended by an interview with a conservationist with Rainforest Rescue International, a glossary, and index. Purchasers of this title can download a free digital companion book.

Duke, Shirley. **SEASONS OF THE BOREAL FOREST BIOME**. Series: Biomes. Vero Beach, FL: Rourke, 2014. 24 p. \$24.21. GrLvl K-3. Quality A; J 577.3 Du.

Introduction to the boreal forest biome, which is defined as a geographic area that experiences six months of winter, receives lots of snow, has short summers, grows

mainly trees with needles, and is interspersed with lakes. The author goes on to describe where boreal forests occur, the animals that live in this biome, how the seasons affect the plant and animal life, how the warming climate will affect boreal forests, and how people can help keep boreal forests safe. Color photos and sidebars enhance the simple text, which is appended by a glossary, index, and list of websites.

———. **SEASONS OF THE DECIDUOUS FOREST BIOME**. Series: Biomes. Vero Beach, FL: Rourke Educational Media, 2014. 24 p. \$25.64. GrLvl K-3. Quality A; J 577.3 Du.

Explores the changes in deciduous forest biomes across the seasons, including animal and plant life, and the future of the forests. Concludes with solutions for protecting forests, as well as a simple experiment. Appealing full color photos, interesting facts, and bolded terms enhance the text. Appended by a glossary, index, websites, and a paragraph about the author.

———. **SEASONS OF THE DESERT BIOME**. Series: Biomes. Vero Beach, FL: Rourke, 2014. p. \$24.21. GrLvl K-3. Quality A; J 577.54 Du.

Introduces the seasons of hot and cold desert biomes. Describes the plant and animal life during various desert seasons. Also emphasizes the need to preserve deserts for the future and includes a simple experiment. The clear educational text is enhanced by color photographs and illustrations. Appended by a glossary, index, websites, and a paragraph about the author.

———. **SEASONS OF THE ESTUARY BIOME**. Series: Biomes. Vero Beach, FL: Rourke, 2014. p. \$24.21. GrLvl K-3. Quality A; J 577.786 Du.

An introduction to the estuary biomes and the changes the seasons bring. Also includes a chapter on the future of estuaries and how people can protect and restore this important biome. Colorful photographs, sidebars, and checklists enhance the text. Appended by a glossary, index, list of websites, and paragraph about the author.

———. **SEASONS OF THE FRESHWATER POND BIOME**. Series: Biomes. Vero Beach, FL: Rourke, 2014. p. \$24.21. GrLvl K-3. Quality A; J 577.636 Du.

An introduction to life in a freshwater pond biome and the changes in flora and fauna that the seasons bring. Color photographs enhance the simple text. Also includes a chapter on human impacts and steps for protecting and preserving the plants and animals of the freshwater ponds, as well as an experiment to try. Appended by a glossary, index, list of websites, and a paragraph about the author.

———. **SEASONS OF THE GRASSLAND BIOME**. Series: Biomes. Vero Beach, FL: Rourke, 2014. 24 p. \$24.21. GrLvl K-3. Quality A; J 577.4 Du.

Describes the main characteristics of grassland

biomes, including plant and animal life during different seasons. Also includes information on the future of grasslands, human impact, and conservation methods. Large colorful photographs enhance the simple text. Appended by a glossary, index, list of websites, and a paragraph about the author.

———. **SEASONS OF THE OCEAN BIOME.** Series: Biomes. Vero Beach, FL: Rourke, 2014. 24 p. \$24.21. GrLvl K-3. Quality A; J 577.7 Du.

Early grade introduction to the world's oceans defines the ocean biome as having salt water, shallow and deep water zones, warm and cold temperatures, and many kinds of plants and animals. Describes how the tilt of the Earth affects the seasons, how animals and plants that live in the ocean respond to the seasons, how animals adapt to live in their ocean homes, and how people can help protect the oceans. Color photos and short sidebars enhance the simple text, which is appended by a glossary, index, and list of websites.

———. **SEASONS OF THE TUNDRA BIOME.** Series: Biomes. Vero Beach, FL: Rourke, 2014. 24 p. \$24.21. GrLvl K-3. Quality A; J 577.586 Du.

An introduction to the tundra biome and the changes the seasons bring to the plant and animal life. Describes different adaptations the plants and animals have developed to survive in the tundra. Also includes a chapter on the future of the tundra, including the effects of the humans and the warming Earth. Colorful pictures, captions, and sidebars enhance the text. Appended by a glossary, index, list of websites, and a paragraph about the author.

Fleisher, Paul. **DESERT FOOD WEBS IN ACTION.** Series: Searchlight Books - What Is a Food Web? Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 40 p. \$27.93. GrLvl 3-5. Quality A; J 577.54 Fl.

Solid series on food webs, with this title focusing on desert food webs. Explores the concept of a food web, the desert environment, food chains, producers, photosynthesis, desert plants, cactuses, consumers, herbivores, carnivores, omnivores, decomposers, people and deserts, and conservation. Color photos, illustrations, maps, and sidebars complement the educational text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, list of websites, and an index.

———. **FOREST FOOD WEBS IN ACTION.** Series: Searchlight Books - What is a Food Web? Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 40 p. \$27.93. GrLvl 3-5. Quality A; J 577.3 Fl.

Noted series on food webs found around the world, with this title focusing on the forest. Begins by defining a forest food web, then goes on to explore the forest environment, food chains, producers, plant life, forest layers, consumers, herbivores, carnivores, omnivores, decomposers, and the relationship of people to the forest. Color photos, illustrations, and sidebars enhance

the educational text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, list of websites, and an index.

———. **GRASSLAND FOOD WEBS IN ACTION.** Series: Searchlight Books - What is a Food Web? Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 40 p. \$20.95. GrLvl 3-5. Quality A; J 577.4 Fl.

Solid introduction to the concept of food webs, with this title focusing on grasslands. Covers the basics of food webs including food chains, plant life, producers, nutrients, plant eaters (herbivores), meat eaters (carnivores), omnivores (plant and animal eaters), decomposers, and the relationship of people to grasslands (farming, parks, etc.). Color photos, illustrations, and sidebars enhance the well written, educational text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, list of websites, and an index.

———. **LAKE AND POND FOOD WEBS IN ACTION.** Series: Searchlight Books - What is a Food Web? Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 40 p. \$27.93. GrLvl 3-5. Quality A; J 577.63 Fl.

Important series on food webs found around the world, with this one focusing on lakes and ponds. Begins by defining the lake and pond environment, then delves into exploring food chains, producers, plants, consumers, herbivores, carnivores, omnivores, decomposers, and the relationship of people to lakes and ponds. Color photos, diagrams, and sidebars complement the educational text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, list of websites, and an index.

———. **TUNDRA FOOD WEBS IN ACTION.** Series: Searchlight Books - What is a Food Web? Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 40 p. \$27.93. GrLvl 3-5. Quality A; J 577.586 Fl.

Solid series on food webs in various environments around the world, with this one focusing on the tundra. Defines the tundra and its environmental characteristics, then goes on to explore food chains, plant producers, seasons, consumers, herbivores, carnivores, omnivores, decomposers, and people and the tundra. Color photos, maps, and sidebars nicely complement the educational text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, list of websites, and an index.

Flounders, Anne. **FRIENDS IN THE WILD.** Series: Our Green Earth. South Egremont, MA: Red Chair, 2014. 32 p. \$19.95. Distr. by Lerner; GrLvl 2-4. Quality AA; J 577 Fl.

Outstanding introduction to the subject of animal conservation. Discusses the concepts of biodiversity, habitat, ecosystem, and invasive species. Lots of real life animal and plant examples are interspersed throughout the text. Excellent color photos, sidebars, and Did You Know facts amplify the clear and factual text. An On the Job section features Maggie Howell, Executive Director of the Wolf Conservation Center in South Salem, NY. A glossary, bibliography, list of websites, and index are appended.

———. **GETTING FROM HERE TO THERE.** Series: Our Green Earth. South Egremont, MA: Red Chair, 2014. 32 p. \$19.95. Distr. by Lerner; GrLvl 2-4. Quality AA; J 388 Fl.

Noted series on the environment, with this title focusing on transportation. Describes how people can go green in a transportation sense, cars, the interstate highway system, emissions, various types of fuel, hybrid cars, walkable communities, public transportation, bicycles, and walking. Excellent color photos, graphs, maps, illustrations, and sidebars enhance the factual text, which is appended by a vignette on the National Campaign Director for America Walks, a glossary, bibliography, list of websites, and an index.

———. **GROWING GOOD FOOD.** Illus. by Joe LeMonnier. Series: Our Green Earth. South Egremont, MA: Red Chair, 2014. 32 p. \$19.95. Distr. by Lerner; GrLvl 2-4. Quality AA; J 334.683 Fl.

Great introduction to mystery of where our food comes from and why we're headed toward more community supported agriculture in the future. Describes our current food system, its reliance on fossil fuels for cultivation and transportation, and chemicals for growth (which are also fossil-fuel derived). That system is contrasted with organic farming methods, sustainable agriculture, farmers' markets, community supported agriculture, urban farms, and farm to school programs. Excellent color photos, sidebars, Did You Know? factoids, and tables complement the well written text. An "On the Job" section highlights a farm to fork coordinator, Terri Langley, who works for MA'Ō Organic Farms, Waianae, Hawaii. A glossary, bibliography, list of websites, and index are appended.

———. **HEALTHY TREES, HEALTHY PLANET.** Illus. by Joe LeMonnier. Series: Our Green Earth. South Egremont, MA: Red Chair, 2014. 32 p. \$19.95. Distr. by Lerner; GrLvl 2-4. Quality AA; J 582.16 Fl.

High quality series on the environment, with this title focusing on trees. Describes how trees help the environment, the water cycle, the geographic distribution of trees, how humans and animals use trees, problems trees face, deforestation, drought, pollution, development, endangered trees, and how people can help trees. Superior color photos, maps, illustrations, and sidebars enhance the factual well written text, which is appended by a look at a career as a forest manager in Kentucky, glossary, bibliography, list of websites, and an index.

———. **POWER FOR THE PLANET.** Illus. by Joe LeMonnier. Series: Our Green Earth. South Egremont, MA: Red Chair, 2014. 32 p. \$19.95. Distr. by Lerner; GrLvl 2-4. Quality AA; J 333.79 Fl.

Excellent introduction to the cleaner ways energy producers are developing to supply power. Presents an overview of energy, fossil fuels, renewable forms of energy,

how to use energy wisely now, step-by-step ideas for taking action on energy conservation, different points of view, and an up-close look at relevant careers. Clear color photos and illustrations complement the well written text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, list of websites, and index. Supports all Anchor Standards for reading and includes Common Core connections.

———. **REDUCING WASTE.** Illus. by Joe LeMonnier. Series: Our Green Earth. South Egremont, MA: Red Chair, 2014. 32 p. \$19.95. Distr. by Lerner; GrLvl 2-4. Quality AA; J 363.728 Fl.

Excellent overview of the planet's waste management problems for the early grades. Explores what is waste?; where does it go?; the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, careers in waste management, the 3 Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle), plastic bottles, ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle, and compost. Color photos, charts, illustrations, and sidebars enhance the well written text, which is appended by an On the Job look at a waste manager at Auburn University, a glossary, bibliography, list of websites, and index.

Hirschi, Ron. **WINTER IS FOR WHALES : A BOOK OF HAWAIIAN SEASONS.** Illus. by Yuko Green. Waipahu, HI: Island Heritage, 2007. 32 p. \$15.95. GrLvl 3-5. Quality AA; H E Hirschi.

Excellent overview of the cultural, plant, and animal changes that come with the seasons in Hawaii. Starting with the winter season and its connection to humpback whale migration from Alaska to Hawaii, the author also delves into nene nesting, rain, cool temperatures, snow, and big surf. In the spring season, Hawaii experiences gentler winds, Kolea birds leaving the Islands, honu (turtle) nesting, and monk seal birthing. The summer season brings warmer temperatures, honu hatching, and kalo festivals. The fall season is time for harvests, family feasts, sport fishing, and o'opu rains. Wonderful warm, watercolor illustrations and sidebars complement the engaging, educational text, which is appended by a glossary of My Hawaiian Nature Words.

Mason, Adrienne. **PLANET ARK: PRESERVING EARTH'S BIODIVERSITY.** Illus. by Margot Thompson. Series: CitizenKid. Tonawanda, NY: Kids Can Press, 2013. 32 p. \$18.95. GrLvl 3-6. Quality A; J 577 Ma.

This book is based on the premise that planet Earth is like an ark, a haven for a large number of plants and animals, and we human beings are the Noahs entrusted with its protection. Covers a wide variety of environmental issues including biodiversity, food webs, conservation, overexploitation, global warming, ways to boost/grow biodiversity, why biodiversity matters, and how to be a modern day Noah? Warm color acrylic on canvas illustrations complement the rich depth of the text, which is appended by a glossary and index.

Newman, Patricia. **PLASTIC, AHOY! : INVESTIGATING THE GREAT PACIFIC GARBAGE PATCH.** Illus. by Annie Crawley. Minneapolis, MN: Millbrook Press, 2014. 48 p. \$30.60. Distr. by Lerner; GrLvl 3-6. Quality AA; J 363.738 Ne.

Important book that delves into the scientific research being done on the Great Pacific Garbage Patch (GPGP). It follows three young scientists on the voyage of the small research ship, New Horizon, as it streams toward the North Pacific Central Gyre, where the GPGP is located. The scientists attempt to study how plastic in the GPGP affects the rafting community of tiny floating organisms that hitch rides on plastic pieces, how the numbers of phytoplankton near the shore compare with those found on the GPGP, and how plastic in the GPGP is affecting the chemistry of the water and animals in the food chain. Samples of water in the GPGP were collected on the surface, 656 feet below the surface, and between 1,300-6,600 feet deep. A lot of the scientists original questions led to other questions, but lots of good data was gathered. Excellent color photos, diagrams, maps, and sidebars enhance a well written engaging text, which was appended by source notes, a glossary, bibliography, list of websites, and index. Great book design adds to the feel that the reader is on an ocean research voyage along with the crew and scientists.

Whatley, Kirsten. **PRESERVING PARADISE : OPPORTUNITIES IN VOLUNTEERING FOR HAWAII'S ENVIRONMENT.** Waipahu, HI: Island Heritage, 2008. 164 p. \$7.95. GrLvl 7-Up. Quality AA; H 333.72 Wh.

Excellent guide to the many opportunities available to volunteer and help in preserving Hawaii's environment. Entries are arranged geographically by island and include one multi-island section for groups that have activities on more than one Hawaiian island. The over fifty entries include what the volunteer activities consist of, when they happen, who is acceptable (individuals or groups), hardiness level 1-5 (5 being most difficult), education, donations, and who to contact to volunteer. Beautiful color photos and sidebars containing observations by actual volunteers enhance the factual text. A list of online resources, general index, project/subject index and time commitment index are appended.

Fiction (4)

Arnold, Tedd. **FLY GUY PRESENTS: SHARKS.** New York, NY: Scholastic, 2013. 32 p. \$3.99. GrLvl Pre-3. Quality A; E Arnold.

Fly Guy and his boy, Buzz, visit the aquarium to learn about sharks. Illustrated with pages from Buzz's notebook and the pair touring various tanks and photos of the fish, information on the anatomy, diet, senses, and habits are presented. Unfamiliar words have an in-text pronunciation.

———. **FLY GUY PRESENTS: SPACE.** New York, NY: Scholastic, 2013. 32 p. \$3.99. GrLvl Pre-3. Quality A; E Arnold.
Buzz and his pet, Fly Guy, visit a space museum.

Illustrated with alternating pages of museum "displays" and Buzz's notebook, the text and photo labels introduce the many objects found in our solar system - from planets and moons, to meteoroids and comets. Astronauts, spacecraft, animals, and equipment used in space exploration are also featured. New vocabulary are provided with phonetic pronunciations.

Lewis, J. Patrick. **FACE BUG: POEMS.** Illus. by Kelly Murphy. Honesdale, PA: WordSong, 2013. 35 p. \$16.95. GrLvl 1-5. Quality AA; J 811.54 Le.

Fourteen lively, instructive poems are teamed with superior close-up color photos of an engaging menagerie of insects on exhibit at the fictional Face Bug Museum. Humorous illustrations done in ink and graphite complement the poems and gorgeous color photos. A factual section on each insect contains information on: Where I live? How I grow? What I eat? and What eats me? Above average book design ties all the elements together. Highly recommended.

Spires, Ashley. **THE MOST MAGNIFICENT THING.** Illus. by the author. Tonawanda, NY: Kids Can Press, 2014. 32 p. \$16.95. GrLvl Pre-2. Quality A; E Spires.

The story of a regular girl and her best friend in the world (her dog) who get a wonderful idea to make the most magnificent thing. She gathers supplies and begins construction, but when she's finished; it doesn't feel right. After several repeated attempts to reconstruct her most magnificent thing, but failing; she gets mad, hits her finger and explodes in anger. Just as she is about to quit, she gets added inspiration and realizes that some right things went wrong and some wrong things went right. After working carefully and slowly, she ultimately succeeds in constructing the most magnificent thing (which looks like a scooter with a little side car for her dog).

General Science (16)

Adler, David A. **THINGS THAT FLOAT AND THINGS THAT DON'T.** Illus. by Anna Raff. New York, NY: Holiday House, 2013. 32 p. \$16.95. GrLvl K-2. Quality A; J 532.25 Ad.

Good introduction for the early grades on the basic principles of flotation and density. Explores the concepts of weight, size, shape, density, and displacement and how they all relate to whether an object can float or not. Light pastel illustrations, created with sumi ink washes and drawings that are assembled digitally, complement the text, which describe a small family as it experiments with the properties of flotation.

Herrington, Lisa M. **HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S FALL?** Series: Rookie Read-About Science. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl Pre-1. Quality AA; J 508.2 He.

Young students will learn about the colors, animal behaviors, foods, and celebrations associated with the fall season. Colorful, captioned photos, Fun Facts sidebars, and suggested activities add to the engaging text. A glossary, index, and website are appended.

———. **HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S SPRING?** Series: Rookie Read-About Science. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 32 p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl Pre-1. Quality AA; J 508.2 He.

The weather conditions, plant growth, and animal behaviors associated with the spring season are described here for young students. Suggested activities encourage hands-on observations. A glossary, index, and website are appended.

———. **HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S SUMMER?** Series: Rookie Read-About Science. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl Pre-1. Quality AA; J 508.2 He.

The sights, sensations, activities, and celebrations associated with the summer season are described here for young students. The engaging text is accompanied by colorful, captioned photos, Fun Facts sidebars, and suggested projects. A glossary, index, and website are appended.

———. **HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S WINTER?** Series: Rookie Read-About Science. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl Pre-1. Quality AA; J 508.2 He.

The weather conditions and images associated with the winter season are described here for young students. Fun Facts sidebars, colorful, captioned photos, and an easy experiment accompany the engaging text. A glossary, index, and website are appended.

Higgins, Nadia. **BRILLIANT BEAUTY INVENTIONS.** Series: Awesome Inventions You Use Every Day. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl 3-6. Quality A; J 646.72 Hi.

Fun series on everyday inventions, with this title focusing on beauty inventions. Investigates the history and development of the mirror, botox, deodorant, Q-tips, bobby pins, lipstick, kleenex, nail polish, hair dryer, hair dye, razor, and mascara. Color and vintage black-and-white photos and sidebars enhance the lively factual text, appended by a glossary, bibliography, source notes, and index.

———. **FUN FOOD INVENTIONS.** Series: Awesome Inventions You Use Every Day. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl 3-6. Quality A; J 641.309 Hi.

Fun series on inventions you use everyday, with this title focusing on food inventions. Explores the history and little known facts about the invention of ketchup, potato chips, bubble gum, doughnuts, fortune cookies, ice cream sundaes, pez, microwave popcorn, microwave dinners,

graham crackers, popsicles, and root beer. Color and vintage black-and-white photos and sidebars complement the lively historical text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, source notes, and index.

Liu-Perkins, Christine. **AT HOME IN HER TOMB: LADY DAI AND THE ANCIENT TREASURES OF MAWANGDUI.** Illus. by Sarah S. Brannen. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2014. 80 p. \$19.95. GrLvl 4-7. Quality AA; J 931.215 Li.

Exceptional book that explores the Han dynasty tomb, long-lost artifacts, and mummy of Lady Dai of Mawangdui. The adventure begins with the excavation of a virtual time capsule, a pair of hills that people had gazed on for two thousand years. Archaeologists discovered a multilayer tomb containing side compartments filled with supplies and a central compartment with four coffins nested inside one another containing the mummy of Lady Dai. Officials were unsure of the identity of the tomb and its mummy, but they soon discovered that the mummy was amazingly well preserved with moist skin, all its internal organs, and movable joints. The mummy was accompanied by dozens of small figurine servants, lavish lacquer ware, a library of books, silk, games, and food for the afterlife. Striking color photos, illustrations, and sidebars enhance the well written and engaging text. A time line, glossary, author's note, sources of quotations, selected bibliography, and index are appended. Great book design ties together all the elements. Highly recommended.

Low, Sam. **HAWAIIKI RISING : HOKULEA, NAINOA THOMPSON, AND THE HAWAIIAN RENAISSANCE.** Waipahu, HI: Island Heritage, 2013. 343 p. \$24.95. GrLvl 7-Up. Quality AA; H 910.91649 Lo.

Excellent telling of the true story of the Hawaiian ocean voyaging canoe Hokule'a. Going beyond a simple chronicling of events, the author gets down to the cultural and emotional importance of Hokule'a to the Hawaiian people and the renaissance they experienced beginning in the 1970s. All of the significant men and women involved with the Hokule'a and the Polynesian Voyaging Society are wonderfully portrayed on a very human level that comes out in an engaging fashion in the writing. The human triumphs and the failures are all laid out and combine to form the ultimate success that is Hokule'a. Major turning points, such as the enlisting of Micronesian Mau Piailug, as master navigator and teacher, the rigorous training of Nainoa Thompson, the swamping of the Hokule'a in 1978, the selfless attempt at saving the crew by Eddie Aikau, and Nainoa's triumphant Polynesian navigating voyage to Tahiti, are all here. Numerous black-and-white photos and illustrations enhance the captivating, adventure laden text. Endnotes and a Hawaiian glossary are appended. Highly recommended.

Margles, Samantha. **STAR WARS: SCIENCE FAIR BOOK.** New York, NY: Scholastic, 2013. 126 p. \$9.99. GrLvl 5-9. Quality A; J 507.8 Ma.

This is a science fair project book loaded with photos and references to Star Wars. The 30 experiments each contain an overview of the experiment, a list of what you need, the approximate time required, cost of supplies, difficulty level, and the secret behind how the experiment works (thanks to Master Yoda). Color photos and tables enhance understanding of the experiments and make the tie-in to Star Wars. The text, which is appended by an index, is a little bit light on illustrations that actually show the experimental set up, but the Force appears to be with this book, as other elements combine to produce a good source for kid-friendly science projects.

Marsico, Katie. **STINKY SANITATION INVENTIONS**. Series: Awesome Inventions You Use Every Day. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl 3-6. Quality A; J 363.72 Ma.

Lively series on inventions you use everyday, with this title focusing on sanitation inventions. Discusses the history and invention of flushable toilets, portable toilets, toilet paper, disposable diapers, sewers, pooper scoopers, garbage trucks, incinerators, landfills, garbage disposals, disinfectants, and air fresheners. Color and black-and-white photos, illustrations, and sidebars enhance the engaging factual text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, and index.

Murphy, Jim. **THE GIANT AND HOW HE HUMBUGGED AMERICA**. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2012. 112 p. \$19.99. GrLvl 3-7. Quality AA; J 974.765 Mu.

Captivating account of a nineteenth hoax involving a giant sculpture of a man that was dug up by a farmer in upstate New York and was purported to be a “petrified man.” Scientists from around the country weighed in with their opinions about where he came from and whether he was real, while newspapers spread the news of the ancient giant and thousands of people rushed to pay to see the biblical-like Goliath. The whole caper snowballs into one of the largest moneymaking spectacles and scams of the nineteenth century. Sepia-like photos and illustrations complement the engaging text, which is appended by a section of Source Notes, a selected bibliography, list of photo credits, and an index. Highly recommended.

Price, Jan. **UNDERWORLD: EXPLORING THE SECRET WORLD BENEATH YOUR FEET**. Illus. by James Gulliver Hancock. Tonawanda, NY: Kids Can Press, 2014. 96 p. \$18.95. GrLvl 3-6. Quality AA; J 624.19 Pr.

Fabulous book on the natural and man-made worlds that exist underground. The author explores geology, dinosaurs, caves, underground animals, burrows, cemeteries, tombs, buried treasure, dungeons, trenches, bunkers, mines, underground cities, catacombs, subways, subterranean farms, technotunnels, deep science, the nuclear underworld, and underground Mars. Superior color photos, top drawer illustrations reminiscent of David Macaulay, sidebars, and humorous cartoon bubbles

enhance a very well written text, which is appended by an index. Wonderful, engaging reading can be had by dipping in wherever one likes or reading cover to cover. Highly recommended.

Robertson, Kay. **COOKING**. Series: STEM Everyday. Vero Beach, FL: Rourke, 2014. 48 p. \$32.79. GrLvl 4-8. Quality A; J 510 Ro.

From the division of a pizza to determining how much longer before a food item may spoil, this STEM Everyday title demonstrates how math is used in the kitchen. Also covered are the calculations needed to convert a recipe from one unit of measure to another or increase it for more servings, how to read and interpret food labels, and temperature differences for food storage and cooking. A glossary, index, metric conversion table, websites, and comprehension questions are appended.

Scheckel, Larry. **ASK A SCIENCE TEACHER: 250 ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS YOU’VE ALWAYS HAD ABOUT HOW EVERYDAY STUFF REALLY WORKS**. Illus. by Ruth Murray et al. New York, NY: The Experiment, 2013. 348 p. \$14.95. Distr. by Workman; GrLvl 12-Up. Quality A; 500 Sc.

Detailed answers to 250 everyday questions most people ponder over at one time or another in their lives. The questions are arranged in eleven chapters including the human body, wonders of sea and land, science in the sky, technology, stuff you always wondered about, chemistry, the strange world of the atom, science through the ages, plants, animals, and other living things, sound and music, and at the fringes of science. Only a few black-and-white illustrations enhance the information rich, but very readable text. An extensive table of contents provides access to the various questions and answers. There is no end matter. Engaging for just dipping into random subjects to find answers to questions you’ve always wondered about.

Waxman, Laura Hamilton. **FABULOUS FASHION INVENTIONS**. Series: Awesome Inventions You Use Every Day. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl 3-6. Quality A; J 746.92 Wa.

Interesting introduction to key fashion inventions, some of which you may not have thought of. Explores the history of blue jeans, the bra, buttons, baseball hats, swimsuits, underpants, hangers, velcro, zippers, shoes, and elastic. Color and black-and-white photos, illustrations, and sidebars complement the lively, historical text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, and index.

Life Sciences (7)

Arndt, Ingo. **BEST FOOT FORWARD: EXPLORING FEET, FLIPPERS, AND CLAWS**. New York, NY: Holiday House, 2013. 31 p. \$16.95. GrLvl K-3. Quality A; J 591.47 Ar.

A book that challenges the reader to guess the animal behind the foot. Six detailed color photos of the bottoms

of feet are presented and the reader is asked, Whose foot is this? After you turn the page you get the answer along with 2-4 photos of other feet that fit the same category e.g. feet that walk, feet that climb, feet that swim, feet that dig, feet that jump, and extraordinary feet. In all, 24 animal feet are highlighted. Superior, sharp, close-up color photos enhance the minimal factual text, which is appended by an index. Nice use of color in a good book design.

Arnold, Caroline. **TOO HOT? TOO COLD?: KEEPING BODY TEMPERATURE JUST RIGHT.** Illus. by Annie Patterson. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2013. 32 p. \$17.95. GrLvl 1-4. Quality AA; J 612.014 Ar.

Great introductory book on the ways humans and animals adapt to heat and cold. Explores the concepts of “warm-blooded” animals, “cold-blooded” animals, moving muscles, sweating, panting, escaping heat, fur, hair, feathers, goose bumps, fat, blubber, size, shape, sunbathing, swimming, natural hot springs, burrows, hibernating, and migrating. Color illustrations done in warm/cool watercolor tones and interesting sidebars nicely complement the fact-filled but engaging text. A glossary and Author’s Note are appended.

Berger, Gilda and Melvin. **WHY DO ZEBRAS HAVE STRIPES?** Series: 20 Questions. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2013. 48 p. \$4.99. GrLvl 1-3. Quality A; J 599 Be.

Twenty questions, 20 answers about mammals familiar to young children. Questions range from anatomy (giraffe necks, camel humps, lion manes), communication (cat purrs, wolf howls), habits (how horses sleep, elephant trunk swinging, opossums playing dead), and more. Color photos and 20 bonus facts accompany the text which is appended by a glossary and index.

Higgins, Nadia. **LIFE SCIENCE THROUGH INFOGRAPHICS.** Illus. by Lisa Waananen. Series: Super Science Infographics. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl 3-5. Quality A; J 571.8 Hi.

Noted series on science infographics, with this title focusing on life science. Through creative graphics this book explores the nature of life on Earth including the definition of life, what is an organism, how is life classified, evolution, fossils, biomes, DNA, cells, animal anatomy, reproduction, producers, consumers, decomposers, food chains, food webs, endangered animals/plants, and living green. Color illustrations, maps, graphs, tables, charts, and sidebars are integrated closely with the factual text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, list of websites, and an index.

Ryan, Emma. **SURPRISING SWIMMERS.** Series: Scholastic Readers. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2013. 32 p. \$3.99. GrLvl 1-3. Quality A; J 591.57 Ry.

Early grade look at some of the world’s most surprising animal swimmers. Explores the swimming ability of cats, tigers, pigs, elephants, polar bears, horses, dogs,

sea snakes, sea otters, penguins, snow monkeys, American bullfrogs, and hippos. Dynamic color photos and little sidebars enhance the engaging text, which is appended by a glossary. This is a Level 2 Developing Reader with new vocabulary, longer sentences, and 250-750 words.

Stevenson, Emma. **HIDE-AND-SEEK SCIENCE: ANIMAL COMOUFLAGE.** Illus. by the author. New York, NY: Holiday House, 2013. 32 p. \$16.95. GrLvl 1-5. Quality AA; J 591.472 St.

An entertaining seek and find science book based on the concept of animal camouflage. It explores seven distinct ecosystems (swamps, deserts, rain forests, savannas, deciduous forests, snow or Arctic, and coral reefs) and challenges the reader to find a certain number of animals. For each habitat, a lavish and detailed full-page color spread, created with gouache, is followed by a key to where to find all the animals in the picture, including facts about how each one uses camouflage. A small blurb about the characteristics of each habitat is also provided. Finding all the animals is quite a challenge, even for an adult. The main text is appended by an index. A pleasing book design ties together all the elements.

Stewart, Melissa. **FEATHERS: NOT JUST FOR FLYING.** Illus. by Sarah S. Brannen. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2014. 32 p. \$17.95. GrLvl 1-4. Quality AA; J 598.147 St.

Engaging story of the many different jobs feathers fulfill. All birds have feathers, but no other animals do. Some of the functions of feathers include keeping warm, providing a cushion, shading the sun, protecting the skin, soaking up water, distracting attackers, camouflage, attracting attention, digging holes, carrying supplies, floating, sinking, gliding on snow, acting like snowshoes, and, of course, flying. Warm watercolors done on Saunders Waterford cold-press paper enhance an informative, well written text, which is appended by an Author’s Note on the research done for the book.

Marine Life (7)

Bang, Molly and Penny Chisholm. **OCEAN SUNLIGHT: HOW TINY PLANTS FEED THE SEAS.** Illus. by Molly Bang. New York, NY: Blue Sky, 2012. 42 p. \$18.99. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl Pre-3. Quality AA; J 571.455 Ba.

An important book that highlights the role of phytoplankton in the Earth’s ecology. The author nicely builds the story by beginning with the source of all energy, the Sun, then explains how plants capture that energy through photosynthesis and make it available to animals through food chains. She then explains how this same process is happening in the oceans, in a seemingly invisible process, through billions of invisible phytoplankton, the green pasture of the oceans. Wonderful, bright color illustrations enhance the well written text and bring the feeling of the ocean to the book. Appended is a section called Notes About This Book, which explains in greater detail the concepts presented.

Boothroyd, Jennifer. **ENDANGERED AND EXTINCT FISH**. Series: Lightning Bolt Books - Animals in Danger. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl K-2. Quality A; J 597.168 Bo.

Noted series on extinct and endangered animals, with this title focusing on fish. Covers the characteristics of fish, gives examples of some endangered fish, presents reasons why some fish are endangered, provides example of extinct fish (ancient and modern), and how readers can help endangered fish. Color photos, illustrations, and sidebars complement the educational text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, and index.

Burnie, David. **SHARKS**. Series: Scholastic Discover More. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2013. 80 p. \$12.99. GrLvl K-2. Quality AA; J 597.3 Bu.

A grand introduction to the subject of sharks for the early grades. Explores shark anatomy, ancestors, close relatives, senses, diet, reproduction, and habitat before delving a little more deeply into specific sharks, such as the great white, tiger, thresher, mako, whale shark, gray reef, hammerhead, whitetip reef, wobbegong, and horn shark. The author concludes with shark myths and legends and a word about conservation. Dynamic color photos, illustrations, and sidebars enhance an exciting text that is easy to dip in at random. An interview with a marine biologist, glossary and index are appended. This book will be a favorite with kids. Purchasers of this title can download a free digital companion book.

Fleisher, Paul. **OCEAN FOOD WEBS IN ACTION**. Series: Searchlight Books - What Is a Food Web? Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 40 p. \$27.93. GrLvl 3-5. Quality A; J 577.7 Fl.

Noted series on food webs for the early grades, with this title focusing on ocean food webs. Covers the topics of producers, photosynthesis, algae, consumers, herbivores, carnivores, omnivores, decomposers, the relationship of people to the ocean, and conservation. Color photos, illustrations, maps, and sidebars complement the educational text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, list of websites, and index.

Forestell, Paul and Gregory D. Kaufman. **125 FUN FACTS ABOUT HUMPBACKS : DISCOVERING HUMPBACK WHALES OF HAWAII**. Waipahu, HI: Island Heritage, 2006. 51 p. \$5.95. GrLvl 7-Up. Quality H 599.525 Fo.

Fun book of interesting facts about the humpback whales of Hawaii. The 125 facts are grouped into broad categories: Migration/Distribution, Anatomy, Physiology, Brain/Sensory Systems, Feeding, Parasites/Predators, Mothers/Calves, Mating, Behaviors, Song, Research, and Conservation/Recovery. Dynamic color photos enhance the factual text, which is appended by a short section on the Pacific Whale Foundation. Designed for easy browsing.

Sayre, April Pulley. **HERE COME THE HUMPBACKS!** Illus. by Jamie Hogan. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2013. 40 p. \$17.95. GrLvl Pre-2. Quality AA; J 599.525 Sa.

Well written story of the journey of a humpback whale mother and calf from the warm waters of the Caribbean Sea to Stellwagen Bank, in the Gulf of Maine. Along the way the author discusses whale behavior, diet, reproduction, migration, predators, the dangers of ships, and environmental concerns. Vivid color illustrations done in charcoal and pastel on sanded paper enhance the educational, engaging text, which is appended by a special section on The Great (whale) Migration.

Tuchman, Gail. **SHARK ATTACK!** Series: Scholastic Discover More. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2013. 32 p. \$3.99. GrLvl 1-2. Quality A; J 597.3 Tu.

Level 2 reader on the subjects of sharks and shark attacks. Discusses the different types of sharks, their unique anatomy, super senses, diet, hunting behavior, habitat, shark attacks on people (which happen more frequently in Australia), and conservation. Dynamic color photos and sidebars enhance the informative text, which is appended by a glossary and index. A free, all-new digital book, Shark Attack! Reading Fun, is available for download for purchasers of this book.

Mathematics & Computer Science (10)

Allen, Nancy Kelly. **ALL ABOUT MATH SYMBOLS**. Series: Little World Math Concepts. Vero Beach, FL: Rourke, 2014. 24 p. \$25.64. GrLvl Pre-1. Quality A; J 510.148 Al.

An introduction to math symbols such as numbers, plus, minus, greater than, less than, degree, dollar, and cent. With colorful photographs and interactive text, children can learn and practice using math symbols. Appended by and index, websites, and a little about the author.

Markovics, Joyce. **ALL ABOUT GEOMETRY**. Series: Little World Math Concepts. Vero Beach, FL: Rourke Educational Media, 2014. 24 p. \$25.64. GrLvl Pre-1. Quality A; J 516 Ma.

Introduces geometry to early readers through the exploration of shapes. Clear text and large colorful photos and illustrations help readers identify and discern between flat and solid shapes. Some vocabulary may be challenging for the target audience. Appended by an index, websites, and a paragraph about the author.

———. **ALL ABOUT WORD PROBLEMS**. Series: Little World Math Concepts. Vero Beach, FL: Rourke, 2014. 24 p. \$17.95. GrLvl Pre-1. Quality A; J 510.76 Ma.

An introduction to word problems for early readers. Explains how to convert a word problem into numbers and math. Includes practice addition and subtraction problems. Clear, simple text and large colorful photos will appeal to young readers. Appended by an index, websites, and a paragraph about the author.

Matzke, Ann H. **DAYS, WEEKS, AND MONTHS**. Vero Beach, FL: Rourke, 2014. 24 p. \$17.95. GrLvl Pre-1. Quality A; J 529.3 Ma.

Introduces the concepts of days, weeks, and months. Takes an example of waiting for a birthday party and breaks it down into these basic measures of time. Simple text is illustrated by large colorful photos that will appeal to emergent readers. Includes an index, websites for more information, and a little about the author.

———. **TELLING TIME**. Series: Little World Math Concepts. Vero Beach, FL: Rourke, 2014. 24 p. \$25.64. GrLvl Pre-1. Quality B; J 529 Ma.

Introduces young children to telling time. Begins with a quick history of telling time and then introduces how to read modern analog and digital clocks. Starts off well, however, the examples are rather awkward and could use some editing. Appended by an index, websites, and a little paragraph about the author.

Mooney, Carla. **ALL ABOUT PROBABILITY**. Series: Little World Math Concepts. Vero Beach, FL: Rourke, 2014. 24 p. \$25.64. GrLvl Pre-1. Quality A; J 519.2 Mo.

Introduces probability to young children by asking them “which is more likely?” The simple, interactive text and large colorful photographs will engage young children. Appended by an index, websites, and a little paragraph about the author.

Robertson, Kay. **CALCULATING TIME**. Series: STEM Everyday. Vero Beach, FL: Rourke, 2014. 48 p. \$32.79. GrLvl 4-8. Quality A; J 510 Ro.

Gives a detailed overview of calculating time, including information on analog and digital clocks, military time, time zones, months, years, and different kinds of calendars. Sidebars include practice calculations and interesting facts about time. Large colorful photographs enhance the text for the most part, although sometimes the text and photographs do not match. Appended by a glossary, index, time zone map, list of websites, and questions the reader should be able to answer after reading this book.

———. **SPORTS**. Series: STEM Everyday. Vero Beach, FL: Rourke, 2014. 48 p. \$32.79. GrLvl 4-8. Quality A; J 510 Ro.

From calculating a player’s batting average to calling a skateboarding stunt a 900, math can be found in all sports whether it is competitive or recreational. This STEM Everyday title demonstrates math applications in football, soccer, NASCAR, boxing, and more. A glossary, index, metric conversion table, websites, and comprehension questions are appended.

Ross, Catherine Sheldrick. **SHAPES IN MATH, SCIENCE AND NATURE: SQUARES, TRIANGLES AND CIRCLES**. Illus. by Bill Slavin. Tonawanda, NY: Kids Can Press, 2014. 192 p. \$24.95. GrLvl 4-8. Quality AA; J 516.15 Ro.

Fantastic presentation on the value of shapes (specifically squares, triangles, and circles) in the fields of math, science, and nature. The author actually touches upon history, printing, quilting, architecture, origami, tangrams, carpentry, mythology, archaeology, and numerous other fields in discussing his topic. Many do-it-yourself projects and crafts are included to illustrate the expanding principles of squares, triangles, and circles. Wonderful color illustrations enhance and enliven a very well written and engaging text. An Answer Key, list of formulas, a glossary, and index are appended. Superior book design makes this title a pleasure to read or just dip into. Highly recommended.

Welsh, Piper. **WHERE IS IT?** Series: Little World Math Concepts. Vero Beach, FL: Rourke, 2014. 24 p. \$25.64. GrLvl Pre-1. Quality A; J 428.2 We.

This book teaches basic location concepts using a marching band as an example. Colorful, dynamic photographs illustrate the simple text with bolded terms and make learning location fun for young children. Appended by an index, websites, and some information about the author.

Medical & Health Sciences (5)

Goldsmith, Connie. **TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY: FROM CONCUSSION TO COMA**. Minneapolis, MN: Twenty-First Century Books, 2014. 88 p. \$34.60. Distr. by Lerner; GrLvl 6-12. Quality AA; YA 617.48104 Go.

Very comprehensive and well researched book on the topic of traumatic brain injury (TBI). Interspersing real life examples of people with TBI with factual knowledge, statistics, and medical information of the syndrome, this book is broad in covering everything related to TBI. It discusses just what is TBI, symptoms, brain bank studies, brain anatomy, closed head injuries, penetrating head injuries, sports-related concussions, assessing and treating concussions, soldiers wounded in war, IEDs and TBI, falls in children and the elderly, motor vehicle accidents, living with TBI, and the future of TBI tests and treatment. Color photos, illustrations, and sidebars complement an organized, engaging, and well written text. A glossary, source notes, bibliography, lists of websites/organizations/ videos, and an index. Highly recommended.

Gutmanis, June. **THE SECRETS AND PRACTICE OF HAWAIIAN HERBAL MEDICINE : KAHUNA LA’AU LAPA’AU, 2ND ED**. Illus. by Susan G. Monden. Honolulu, HI: Island Heritage, 2013. 216 p. \$19.95. GrLvl 7-Up. Quality AA; H 615 Gu.

Classical text on Hawaiian herbal medicine that contains much more, including cultural and linguistic gems not available in other sources. The book is arranged by subject in chapters covering medical practice, the kahuna, diagnosis, treatment, first aid, the illnesses and medicines of women, herbal medicines of children, medical plants,

herbal prescriptions, a kahuna notebook, and herbal medicines of Hawaii today. Content is drawn from multiple published sources, as well as a long list of informants, honoring the oral tradition so prevalent in Hawaii. Color photos, botanical illustrations, and a sepia reproduction of a kahuna's notebook enhance the engaging text that would be of interest to anyone interested in Hawaiian medicine and health practices. Eight Appendices give additional information on Hawaiian Astrological Notes, Kuehu Treatment, Prayer, Aumakua, Hale Pe'a, Birth Place of Tabu Chiefs, and Birthing Techniques. A section illustrating Hawaiian plants, a glossary of Hawaiian plant names, a glossary of Hawaiian medical terms, a glossary of Hawaiian fish names, a bibliography, list of informants, and an index are also appended.

Jacobson, Ryan. **MARVELOUS MEDICAL INVENTIONS**. Series: Awesome Inventions You Use Every Day. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl 3-6. Quality A; J 610 Ja.

Solid introduction to a variety of key medical inventions, some of which you may not have thought of. Explores the invention of the x-ray, contact lens, pain medicine, toothpaste, syringe, band-aid, laser surgery, braces, thermometer, anesthesia, wheelchairs, and prosthetic limbs. Color and black-and-white photos and sidebars complement the engaging text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, and index.

Rotner, Shelley and Sheila M. Kelly. **YUMMY! : GOOD FOOD MAKES ME STRONG!** New York, NY: Holiday House, 2013. 32 p. \$16.95. GrLvl Pre-2. Quality AA; J 612.3 Ro.

Bright, upbeat book that actively tries to get children to eat good food. The author shows children preparing food, eating natural snacks, making smoothies, frozen pops, salads, going shopping, gardening, and just eating and enjoying nutritious food. Wonderful, candid color photos of children complement the story line and reinforce the positive message of the book. A section with More Helpful Tips and a brief description and graphic of the USDA's MyPlate nutrition guidelines are appended. A very colorful, bright, and pleasing book design ties all the elements together.

Wittenstein, Vicki Oransky. **FOR THE GOOD OF MANKIND? : THE SHAMEFUL HISTORY OF HUMAN MEDICAL EXPERIMENTATION**. Minneapolis, MN: Twenty-First Century Books, 2014. 96 p. \$35.93. Distr. by Lerner; GrLvl 6-12. Quality AA; YA 174.25 Wi.

Comprehensive introduction to the shameful history of human medical experimentation. Discusses the secret U.S. military experiments with radiation, the yellow fever experiments on prisoners, the Nazi doctors' human experiments during World War II, the Tuskegee Syphilis Study, and others, as well as the laws that have been enacted to prevent human exploitation in scientific experiments in the future. Historical black-and-white photos and sidebars enhance the well researched and written text. Source Notes,

a bibliography, lists of websites, films, and interviews, and an index are appended.

Physics & Chemistry (1)

Rowell, Rebecca. **FORCES AND MOTION THROUGH INFOGRAPHICS**. Illus. by Venitia Dean. Series: Super Science Infographics. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl 3-5. Quality A; J 530 Ro.

Important series on science infographics, with this title focusing on forces and motion. The science of forces and motion is called physics. The author explores the subject of physics by examining the concepts of rotation, translation, balanced/unbalanced forces, gravity, Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein, the laws of motion, the physics of roller coasters, magnets, kinetic/potential energy, simple machines, and the physics of rockets and submarines. Color illustrations, graphs, tables, maps, and sidebars are integrated with the factual text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, and index.

Plant Life (5)

Herrington, Lisa M. **ACORN TO OAK TREE**. Series: Rookie Read-About Science. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 32 p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl Pre-1. Quality AA; J 583.46 He.

The life cycle of an oak tree is outlined in this engaging book for young readers. Colorful, captioned photos, Fun Facts sidebars, three featured oaks, and a food chain add to the informative text. A glossary, index, and website are appended.

———. **SEED TO PLANT**. Series: Rookie Read-About Science. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. p. \$23.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl Pre-1. Quality AA; J 581.7 He.

The life of a plant - from seed to sunflower - is detailed in this engaging book for young readers. Colorful, captioned photos, Fun Facts sidebars, life cycle and food chain charts enhance the informative text. "Think about it" questions and a simple project take the student beyond the page. A glossary, index, and website are appended.

Stewart, Melissa and Allen Young. **NO MONKEYS, NO CHOCOLATE**. Illus. by Nicole Wong. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2013. 32 p. \$16.95. GrLvl K-3. Quality AA; J 633.7 St.

Nice introductory approach to the subject of chocolate and where it comes from. Explores cocoa trees, pods, beans, flowers, pollination, midges, leaves, maggots, stems, lizards, roots, fungi, and monkeys. All are necessary in the ecosystem of cocoa trees. Beautiful color illustrations done in ink and watercolor on Fabriano paper and humorous little sidebars with book worm characters in the lower right hand corner of each page enhance a well written, fact-filled text. A "What You Can Do to Help?" section (on preserving rain forests) and

an Author's Note are appended. Great book design evokes the feeling of a rain forest. Highly recommended.

Wood, Paul. **FLOWERS AND PLANTS OF HAWAII**. Series: Pocket Guide Series. Waipahu, HI: Island Heritage, 2005. 148 p. \$9.95. GrLvl 7-Up. Quality A; H 582.13 Wo.

Visually brilliant book of the major flowers and plants of Hawaii. The 109 entries are organized into broad categories including Wild Ones, Roadside Plants, Garden Soft-Stemmed Plants, Garden Shrubs, Garden Vines, Crop Flowers, and then sub-arranged alphabetically by plant family name. Exquisite color photos enhance the informative entries. A picture index and general index gives the reader quick access to the desired entry.

———. **TROPICAL TREES OF HAWAII**. Series: Pocket Guide Series. Waipahu, HI: Island Heritage, 2004. 112 p. \$9.95. GrLvl 7-Up. Quality A; H 582.16 Wo.

Beautiful pocket guide to the tropical trees of Hawaii. Including both native and introduced species, this book aims to cover the most common trees that people come across in the Hawaiian Islands. The entries are arranged by plant families in an order from primitive to more advanced, representing the sequence of evolution. Gorgeous color photos enhance the informative general entries. A picture index and general index provide quick access to the main entries.

Technology & Engineering (18)

Arlon, Penelope and Tory Gordon-Harris. **EMERGENCY VEHICLES**. Series: Scholastic Discover More. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2013. 32 p. \$7.99. GrLvl K-2. Quality AA; J 629.04 Ar.

A primer on emergency vehicles for the younger grades. Covers air, land, and sea vehicles involving police, fire, ambulance, doctors, and search and rescue. All manner of vehicles are covered including cars, trucks, planes, helicopters, motorcycles, boats, airboats, and hydrocopters. Excellent action color photos enhance the explanatory text, which is appended by a glossary and index. Purchasers of this title can download a free digital companion book.

Becker, Helaine. **ZOOBOTS: WILD ROBOTS INSPIRED BY REAL ANIMALS**. Illus. by Alex Ries. Tonawanda, NY: Kids Can Press, 2014. 32 p. \$17.95. GrLvl 3-6. Quality A; J 629.892 Be.

Interesting look at some amazing robots inspired by animals right here on Earth. Describes twelve robots including their name, specifications, super skill, animal realm, applications, special ops, and what specific animal the robot evolved from. The animal models include the pygmy shrew, snake, starfish, octopus, pill bug, gecko, knifefish, bacteria, bat, cockroach, jellyfish, and human being. Realistic color illustrations on a black background enhance the tabular-like text, which is appended by a glossary and index.

Buckley, James Jr. **THINGS THAT GO!** Series: Scholastic Discover More. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2013. 32 p. \$3.99. GrLvl K-2. Quality J 629.04 Bu.

Level 1 introduction to things that go! Discusses the machines that people use to get from here to there, including bicycles, cars, trucks, motorcycles, trains, public transportation, boats, airplanes, rescue vehicles, and rockets. Sharp, dynamic color photos and sidebars enhance the simple text, which is appended by a glossary and index. A free, all-new digital book, Things that Go! Reading Fun, is available for download for purchasers of the book.

Callery, Sean. **TITANIC**. Series: Scholastic Discover More. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2013. 32 p. \$3.99. GrLvl 1-5. Quality A; J 910.91634 Ca.

Presented in various writing styles (narrative text, sidebars, photo captions, labels, timelines) this Level 3 Discover More reader details the Titanic's engineering and technology, the men and materials required to build it, the crew and different classes of passengers and their accommodations, and the events that led up to and followed its strike with an iceberg. Archived photographs, reclaimed items, and drawings illustrate the time and place. New vocabulary is accompanied with phonetic pronunciations and a glossary and index are appended. Related digital activities are accessible through a website.

Cunningham, Kevin. **TOYS : FROM CONCEPT TO CONSUMER**. Series: Calling All Innovators : A Career for You. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2014. 64 p. \$30.00. Distr. by Scholastic; GrLvl 4-6. Quality AA; J 688.72 Cu.

Superior series that highlights careers that are changing the world today, with this title focusing on the toy industry. Gives a nice history of the toy and explores its primary materials, shapes, sizes, safety, past marvels, today's top toys, what it takes to succeed in the toy industry, education, the artistic side, toy technology, programming, a toy's timeline, prototypes, test-drives, reducing risks, and the future. Color photos and sidebars complement the engaging text, which is appended by a list of Career Stats, a bibliography, glossary, and index. An interview with a toy designer, Nate Lau, is inserted in the middle of the book.

Jacobson, Ryan. **EXCITING ENTERTAINMENT INVENTIONS**. Series: Awesome Inventions You Use Every Day. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl 3-6. Quality A; J 688.76 Ja.

Exciting introduction to some awesome entertainment inventions, you may not have thought of. Looks at the invention of 3-D movies, the tennis ball, baseball glove, water skis, roller coaster, football helmet, electric guitar, basketball hoop, Ferris wheel, monster truck, skateboard, and instant replay. Color and black-and-white photos and sidebars enhance the engaging historical text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, and index.

Kaplan, Arie. **THE AWESOME INNER WORKINGS OF VIDEO GAMES.** Series: Shockzone - Games and Gamers. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$19.95. GrLvl 5-8. Quality B; J 794.8 Ka.

Good middle grade introduction to how video games work on the inside. Covers the console, CPU, kernel, software, computer code, memory, laser discs, cables, controllers, touch screens, motion control, and classic games. Color photos, sidebars, and highlighted definitions enhance the text, which is appended by a list of websites and books for further information, as well as an index. One mistake appears on page 9, where the highlighted definition for hardware is a repeat of the definition of software, which is on the previous page.

———. **THE BIGGEST NAMES OF VIDEO GAMES.** Series: Shockzone - Games and Gamers. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$19.95. GrLvl 5-8. Quality A; J 794.8 Ka.

An interesting short history of the names behind the video games, revealing the designers, programmers, and artists that created the video games everyone knows and loves. Describes the earliest pioneers, whose games were viewed on cathode-ray tubes, such as William Higginbotham (Tennis for Two) and Steve Russell (Spacewar!); continues on with Ralph Baer (Magnavox Odyssey game console), Shigeru Miyamoto (Space Invaders, Super Mario Bros., The Legend of Zelda), Yuji Naka (Sonic the Hedgehog), Warren Spector (Ultima, Deus Ex), Satoshi Tajiri (Pokemon), Will Wright (The Sims), Roberta Williams (Mystery House, King's Quest), Todd Howard (Skyrim), and Ken Levine (Bioshock). Color photos, tables, and sidebars enhance the engaging text, which is appended by a bibliography, list of websites, and an index.

———. **THE BRAIN-BOOSTING BENEFITS OF GAMING.** Series: Shockzone - Games and Gamers. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$19.95. GrLvl 5-8. Quality AA; J 794.8 Ka.

Delves into the teaching and learning opportunities that video games provide beyond their obvious entertainment value. Explores how video games teach, gamification, dopamine, educational games, games in schools, soldier software, surgery games, games that teach history, learning to fly with video games, corporate games, and exercising your brain and body with video games. Color photos, sidebars, and on-page definitions complement the text, which is appended by Game School - Three Subjects You Can Learn with Games, a list of websites, and an index.

———. **THE CRAZY CAREERS OF VIDEO GAME DESIGNERS.** Series: Shockzone - Games and Gamers. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$19.95. GrLvl 5-8. Quality AA; J 794.8 Ka.

Noted series on video games with this one focusing on the careers of video game designers. Describes in great detail the various careers that go into producing a complete video game. Covers game designers, level designers, combat designers, game writers, sound designers, programmers, environmental artists, character artists, riggers, animators, and quality assurance testers. Excellent color photos,

illustrations, sidebars and highlighted definitions enhance the informative text, which is appended by a section on quick facts about video game careers, a list of websites, bibliography, and index.

———. **THE EPIC EVOLUTION OF VIDEO GAMES.** Series: Shockzone - Games and Gamers. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$19.95. GrLvl 5-8. Quality A; J 794.809 Ka.

Nice presentation of the short history of video games and how they have evolved over time. Explores the early beginnings in the 1950s and 1960s where most games consisted of bouncing balls or dots, then goes on to describe the first video game console from Magnavox called Odyssey, cartridges, classic games (Pac-Man, Donkey Kong), other gaming consoles such as Atari, Nintendo, sports games, handheld game consoles, role-playing games, online games, simulations, motion control, and smart phone games. Color photos, sidebars, and highlighted definitions complement the text, which is appended by a list of the top-selling games of 2012, a list of websites and books for further information, and an index.

———. **THE WILD WORLD OF GAMING CULTURE.** Series: Shockzone - Games and Gamers. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$19.95. GrLvl 5-8. Quality A; J 794.8 Ka.

An interesting look at the books, movies, TV shows, fans, and culture that are inspired by video games. Explores multiplayer gaming, online friends, virtual worlds, video game competitions, endorsement deals, trade shows, fan fiction, cosplay, machinima, web series - The Guild, gaming TV shows, video game movies, and gaming comics. Color photos, sidebars, and on-page definitions enhance the engaging text, which is appended by at timeline of gaming culture, a list of websites, and an index.

Marsico, Katie. **TREMENDOUS TECHNOLOGY INVENTIONS.** Series: Awesome Inventions You Use Every Day. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl 3-6. Quality A; J 600 Ma.

Fun series on awesome inventions you use everyday, with this title focusing on technology inventions. Covers the origins and history of the major technology inventions of the last sixty years including: copy machines, televisions, computers, video games, the Internet, Global Positioning Systems, MP3 players, e-readers, smartphones, and tablet computers. Color and black-and-white photos, illustrations, and sidebars complement the engaging text, which is appended by a glossary, bibliography, list of websites, and an index.

Pringle, Laurence. **ICE! THE AMAZING HISTORY OF THE ICE BUSINESS.** Honesdale, PA: Calkins Creek, 2012. 74 p. \$17.95. Distr. by Boyds Mills; GrLvl 3-7. Quality AA; J 621.58 Pr.

An outstanding presentation of a technology and industry that is no longer with us, the ice business. Noted science writer Laurence Pringle dug deeply into archival documents, artifacts, and photographs to truly bring to

life an industry that has gone extinct. Focusing on the ice trade in New England, around the greater New York City area, Pringle explores how the ice trade developed, what drove the demand for ice, how ice was cut, transportation, jobs, prominent ice companies, working on the ice, storing ice, the iceman, American ice cards, tongs, ice famine, and how the ice industry melted away with the arrival of a new technology, refrigeration. Excellent color and black-and-white photos and sidebars enhance a wonderful, engaging text. A website, museum, list of ice harvesting films, source notes, bibliography, and index are appended. Superior book design gives the feel of living in the 1800s and ties all the elements together. Highly recommended.

Robertson, Kay. **CONSTRUCTION**. Series: STEM Everyday. Vero Beach, FL: Rourke, 2014. 48 p. \$32.79. GrLvl 4-8. Quality A; J 510 Ro.

Noted series on STEM topics with this title focusing on construction. Delves a bit into the history of construction beginning with the pyramids of Egypt and the Great Wall of China, then goes on to discuss the construction of homes, skyscrapers, bridges, tunnels, and arches. Sharp color and black-and-white photos and sidebars enhance the educational text, which is appended by a glossary, index, a page on The Metric System, a list of websites to visit, and questions to Show What You Know. Interspersed throughout the text are STEM in Action sidebars that present computational problems and solutions.

———. **TRAVEL**. Series: STEM Everyday. Vero Beach, FL: Rourke, 2014. 48 p. \$32.79. GrLvl 4-8. Quality A; J 510 Ro.

Solid series on STEM topics with this one focusing on travel. Begins by defining the concept of transportation, then starts to explore the various forms of transportation including walking, cars, trains, boats, airplanes, supersonic aircraft, rockets, and space planes. Throughout the discussion of individual means of transportation, the author delves into related topics such as speed, miles per hour, horsepower, propellers, jet engines, light, sound, sonic booms, and instantaneous travel. STEM in Action sidebars provide mathematical problems and solutions to travel-related questions. Color photos, illustrations, maps, and sidebars complement the educational text, which is appended by a glossary, index, section on the Metric System, Show What You Know Questions, and a list of websites to visit.

Rowell, Rebecca. **ENERGY AND WAVES THROUGH INFOGRAPHICS**. Illus. by Alex Sciuto. Series: Super Science Infographics. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl 3-5. Quality AA; J 621.042 Ro.

A great introduction to the subjects of energy and waves through the use of graphs, charts, and other infographics. Discusses kinetic/potential energy, light, the formation of oil/gas, electrical grids, the light bulb, nuclear power, fossil fuels, sound waves, geothermal

energy, power consumption, and tips for saving energy. Colorful maps, charts, graphs, and other illustrations ease the understanding for the reader of difficult concepts. Since infographics are tools scientists use in understanding massive amounts of data, readers also learn about these tools. A glossary, bibliography, and index are appended.

Waxman, Laura Hamilton. **TERRIFIC TRANSPORTATION INVENTIONS**. Series: Awesome Inventions You Use Every Day. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 2014. 32 p. \$26.60. GrLvl 3-6. Quality A; J 629.046 Wa.

Good introduction to the key transportation inventions that have vastly improved how people get from here to there. Discusses the passenger ship (steam & diesel powered), airplane, bicycle, tractor, submarine, car, motorcycle, semitruck, space shuttle, bus, passenger train, and helicopter. Color and black and white photos, illustrations, and sidebars enhance the factual text about each vehicle. A glossary, bibliography, list of websites, and index are appended.

Compiled by Duane Wenzel, Kathryn Arinaga,
Christine Illichmann, and Lisa Komatsu-Liu.
Additional Project assistance provided by Ann Luke, Kristine Kishida,
Janice Choy, and the Library Development Services Section.
Salt Lake-Moanalua Public Library
Hawaii State Public Library System
April 2015