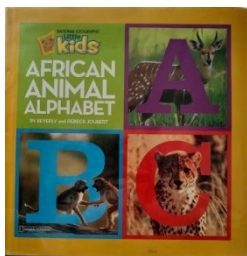


Animals--general, then alphabetically arranged

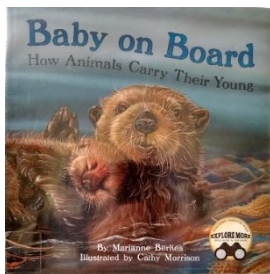


African Animal Alphabet by Beverly and Dereck Joubert (National Geographic Little Kids)
Map with climates at the beginning. Flexible levels—you can just read “A is for Antelope” and look at the picture. You can read a brief paragraph about antelope, and you can read a “Did you know?” fact. 1-2 page, excellent photos. Some alliteration. The alphabet letters are huge, first sentence is very large, and then a somewhat large font for the rest of the text. More animal facts in the back, a glossary, bibliography, and web sites.



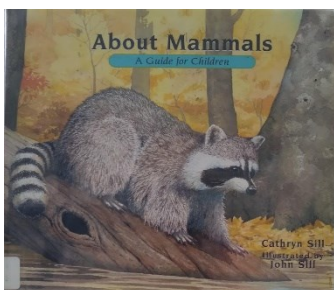
Odd Animals by Rose Davidson (National Geographic Kids Pre-reader)

“Pre-reader books are just right for kids who are ready to read.” Vocabulary tree at the front, describing activity at the end. Odd body parts, odd behavior. What does “odd” mean? Could be a good beginning to a discussion about accepting differences, and that different ways of looking, thinking/problem solving, and doing can be equally valid and effective. What is the problem to be solved? How does this animal solve it? Compare.



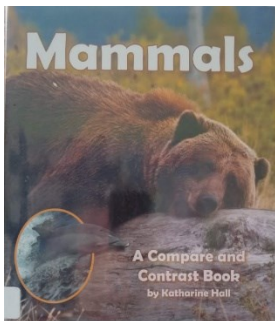
Baby on Board: How Animals Carry their Young by Marianne Berkes

“when you were a baby, someone carried you. Have you ever wondered what animal parents do?” Rhyming informative, large print text. Realistic 1-2 page illustrations. Nice variety of animals. Matching game at the end, more info, suggestions for Teachers and Parents, a code to scan for more resources online, including activities and standards-based lesson plans. List of additional books by the author and the artist.



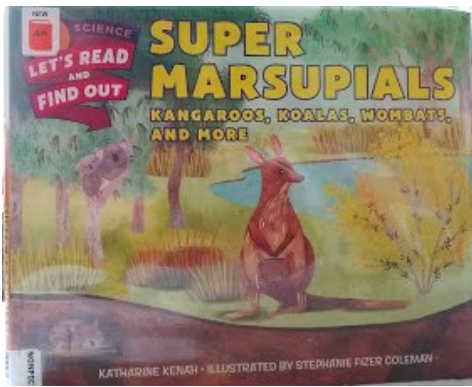
About Mammals: A guide for children by Cathryn and John Sill

Beautiful full-page realistic illustrations. Simple limited text in large font. Additional information and small versions of the illustrations at the end, followed by a glossary, bibliography, websites, and pictured additional titles: amphibians, arachnids, birds, crustaceans, fish, hummingbirds, insects, marsupials, mollusks, parrots, penguins, raptors, reptiles, and rodents—birds & mammals available in bilingual editions. Also habitats: deserts, forests, grasslands, mountains, oceans, wetlands. Excellent for preschoolers on up.

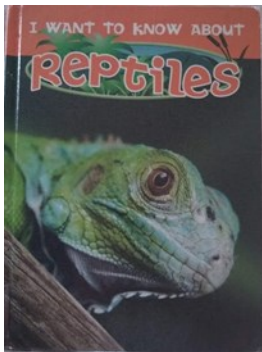


Mammals by Katharine Hall (Arbordale Compare and Contrast books)

Great photos, brief informative text in large font. Some of the vocabulary may need to be explained to young children. Ends with “You are a mammal too!” At the end is a chart for deciding if an animal is a mammal, then some pictured animals with descriptions, to decide if they are mammals or not. There’s a page about some different kinds of mammals (quite a lot of text), and signs of animals such as tracks, scat, etc. Other titles pictured on back: polar bears & penguins, clouds, trees, amphibians & reptiles, sharks & dolphins. Website for more learning activities.

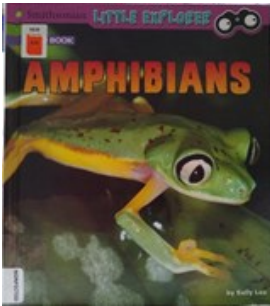


Super Marsupials: Kangaroos, Koalas, Wombats, and More by Katharine Kenah (Let's Read and Find Out science series, Level 1) About 2nd grade reading level. Illustrations not great for a non-fiction book about animals. Good information. The book could be read in sections for young children (a section about each animal). Included in this book: kangaroo, tree kangaroo, koala, opossum, sugar glider, Tasmanian devil, wombat. Glossary at the end; list of titles in the series—Levels 1 & 2, several about each topic: human body, plants & animals, earth science, space, weather, etc.



Reptiles by Dee Phillips (I Want to Know About series)

Content, more info, glossary, index. Simple map of world at the beginning that can be referred to in order to find where the animals are from. Key showing habitats and food the animals eat. Brief text in large font, great photos. Scale for each animal, comparing it to the size of a child or a dollar bill. About 2nd grade reading level, read aloud and discuss for younger children. Alligator, Bearded Dragon, Black Mamba, Chameleon, Cobra, Crocodile, Galapagos Tortoise, Komodo Dragon, Python, Rattlesnake, Sear Turtle, thorny Devil Lizard. More titles in the series pictured on back cover: amphibians, spiders, dinosaurs, mammals, ocean life.



Amphibians by Sally Lee (Smithsonian Little Explorer series, a 4D book)

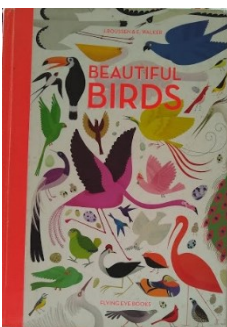
Contents, glossary, critical thinking questions, read more, internet sites, index. Great pictures, text about 2nd grade level, in large print, plus extra facts and captions—use as reference, browsing, or in short segments for younger kids. Nice T-chart contrasting frogs and toads. Animals in this title include frogs, salamanders, newt, toads, caecilian. 4D app download to scan the cover, and stars in the book for extra content; alternatively, there is a website given at the front. For more info on the Smithsonian's National Zoo, see <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/>



Eagle & Birds of Prey by Jemima Parry-Jones (DK Eyewitness)

More for intermediate grades, nevertheless, lots of great photos and illustrations (a picture is worth SO many words!), and could be a good browsing book: talk about the pictures, share appropriate brief summarization of the text for younger children. Includes: eagles, falcons, harriers, hawks, kites, ospreys, owls, (raptors), secretary bird, vultures . . .

Additional titles pictured on back cover, and searchable at www.dk.com



Beautiful Birds by Jean Roussen and Emmanuelle Walker

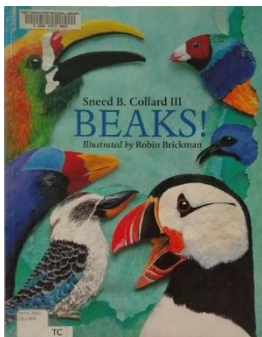
An alphabet book of birds. 1-2 birds for each letter of the alphabet (V is only illustrated by a flying formation, though—perhaps the author didn't consider vultures beautiful).

Somewhat stylistic, but nice, illustrations. Limited rhyming text in medium to large font. Read aloud picture book, classroom size. Would be a great intro to a bird unit, as well as animals by the alphabet. If you just can't stand not to have a bird beginning with v, (like me), see <https://thewebsiteofeverything.com/animals/birds/beginning-with/v>



Birds (National Geographic Kids Look & Learn)

Board book. Read aloud for toddlers/preschool. About 1st grade reading level. Birds of different colors, a few bird facts. Great photos. Invites interaction of child. 15 additional titles pictured on back cover.



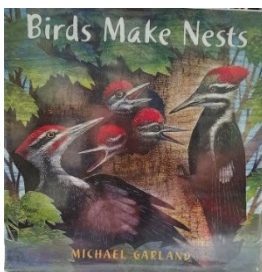
Beaks by Sneed B. Collard III

Great illustrations. Simple text in large font, more text in smaller font, each page. You can use what's appropriate for the children and the setting. It could be a shared reading (child reads large print, adult reads or summarizes smaller font), for example. A little "test" at the end, other books and websites. Excellent on various levels.



Feathers: Not Just for Flying by Melissa Stewart

Beautiful labeled illustrations. Each page has a sentence or phrase in very large text and additional brief information in medium large text. Includes various birds and their feathers/feather functions. An excellent book to share with just about anyone.



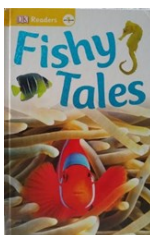
Birds Make Nests by Michael Garland

"Ages 4-8", "This book supports the Next Generation Science Standards for Life Science for grade 1 (Structure and Function, Growth and Development of Organisms and Information Processing) and for engineering Design for grades K-2. It can also support Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics curriculums." Beautifully illustrated, labeled pictures. Limited text in simple language, large font. 1st grade reading level. Great comparisons.



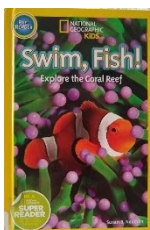
Animal Homes by Shira Evans (National Geographic Kids Pre-reader)

"Pre-reader books are just right for kids who are ready to read." Vocabulary tree. Excellent photos. Limited simple sentences. A matching activity at the end. Natgeokids.com/superreaders has more activities.



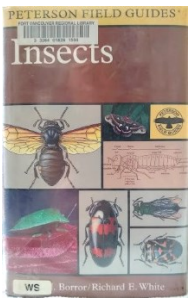
Fishy Tales by DK Readers (Level 1: pre-read)

"Simple sentences to introduce and reinforce vocabulary." Explanation of different reading levels on back cover. Contents, glossary, index. Great labeled photos. Limited simple text in very large font. This is a book with all sorts of ocean life: coral, fish, turtle, sea horse, starfish, jellyfish, sharks, octopus, crabs, rays, dolphins, eels, shark.



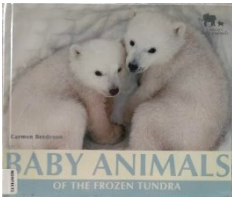
Swim, Fish!: Explore the Coral Reef By Susan B. Neuman (National Geographic pre-reader)

"Pre-reader books are just right for kids who are ready to read." And for read-aloud and browsing/conversation books for younger kids. Explanation of different reading levels on back cover. Great labeled photos. Vocabulary tree, range map, picture quiz. Animals included: coral, fish, seahorses, turtles, eels, whale shark, sea stars. Video at website on back cover.



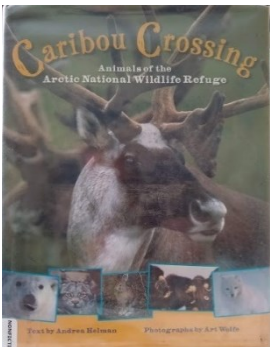
A Field guide to Insects: America north of Mexico by Donald J. Borror and Richard E. White (Peterson Field Guide series, sponsored by National Audubon Society)

Largely illustrated by line drawings, but 16 pages of color plates in the midst. Browsing and reference book. Take what befits your unit on insects (a little about arthropods, pp 48-55). Page 25 illustrates options for keeping insects in captivity. Illustrations of insects and their body parts throughout. List of lots of other titles in the series at the front.



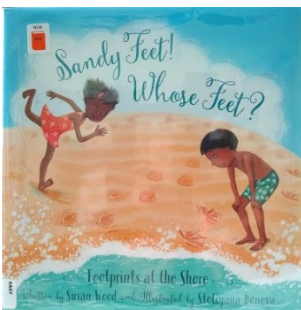
Baby Animals of the Frozen Tundra by Carmen Bredeson (Nature's Baby Animals)

Contents, words to know, map, learn more, websites, index. Great pictures, brief text in large format. About 2nd grade reading level. Arctic fox, musk ox, snowy owl, wolves, Dall sheep, Arctic terns, caribou. Great intro to habitat, as well as the various animals. Other titles pictured on back cover: forest, rain forest, grasslands.



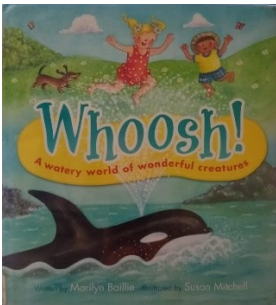
Caribou Crossing: Animals of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by Andrea Helman

Map of Alaska. Great photos. Read aloud or talk about pictures/summarize text. Includes a paragraph & photo of these animals/phenomena: lynx, gyrfalcons, arctic ground squirrel, red fox, caribou, eider, arctic fox, whimbrel, snowshoe hare, rock ptarmigan, seal, beluga whale, swallowtail butterfly, polar bear, porcupine, moose, grizzlies, beaver, musk ox, lichen, fossils, snowy owl, aurora borealis. Habitat, adaptations, etc.



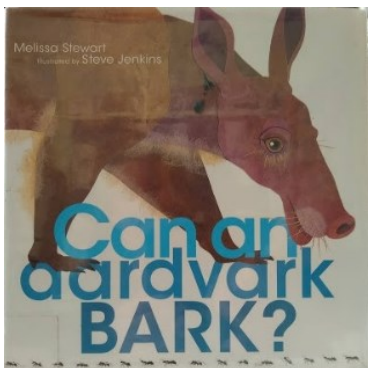
Sandy Feet! Whose Feet?: Footprints at the Shore by Susan Wood

Picture book illustrated for engagement. Curved, limited rhyming text in large font. 1st grade reading level. Some pages allow for prediction of the maker of the footprints coming up. Animal facts woven into the story/illustrations. Tracks: human, dog, sandpiper, crab, seagulls, pelican, sea star, barnacles, sea turtle. At the end is a page you can try to identify/remember who made each set of tracks. Then a double page of photos and more information about each animal. Can be used in a seashore habitat unit.



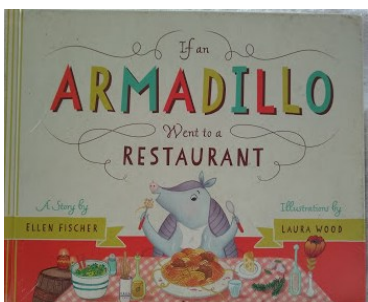
Whoosh! A watery world of wonderful creatures by Marilyn Baillie

Appropriate as a read-aloud to preschoolers. Likens various animals that live in water to water fun that children have, encouraging imaginative play. Did You Know? At the end gives more information about the different animals. Brief text in large font. About 2nd grade level reading. Pleasant enough illustrations.



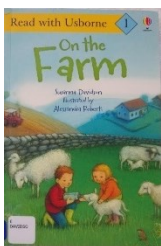
Can an Aardvark Bark? By Melissa Stewart

A book about animal sounds and what they mean. One simple sentence each page in large print. More information in a medium size font. Names other animals that make the same sound, and why. Illustrations are partly artistic, fairly realistic. Nice variety of animals: aardvark, river otter, baboons, deer, toadfish, seal, capybara, gecko, tree frog, woodchucks, wild boar, hedgehog, dolphins, Abert's towhee, margay, porcupine, black bears, beaver, mosquito, martens, dingo, platypus, cobra, ostrich, salamander, giraffe, monkey, hippo, koala, moose, kangaroo, kookaburra, hyena, rats, gorilla. In the end, the reader/listener is invited to make similar sounds.



If an Armadillo Went to a Restaurant by Ellen Fischer

An imaginative way to talk about what different animals eat. Brief simple text in large fonts. About 2nd grade reading level. Fun read aloud. Armadillo, sea turtle, rattlesnake, butterfly, wallaby, hedgehog, ostrich, giraffe, octopus. At the end, the reader/listener is invited to engage by choosing what to order for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and dessert—from a menu.



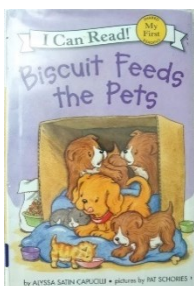
On the Farm by Susanna Davidson (Read with Usborne Level 1 "For new readers")

"Based on a story by Anna Milbourne" Two children live on a farm. We are introduced to some of the animals and routine of the farm. One sheep is missing, so they look for her. They find her in the barn with 3 little lambs. An opportunity to talk about farm life, farm animals, what we get from farms/farm animals, etc. 3 puzzles in the back relate to the story. Website for more information about Usborne books back cover.



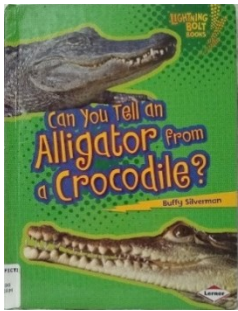
Piglets Belong to Pigs (Scholastic Rookie Reader, preschool)

Names of babies and adult female farm animals. Great labeled photos. Limited rhyming text in large font. Repetitive, with words highlighted with color. A good opportunity to compare body parts of different animals (wings, feet, legs, paws/claws/hooves, fur/hair/feathers/wool, tails, etc.)

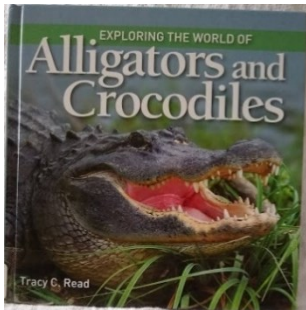


Biscuit Feeds the Pets by Alyssa Satin Capucilli (I Can Read—My First, shared reading)

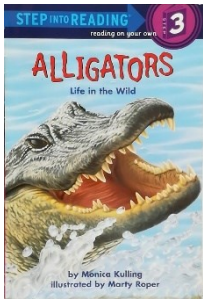
1st grade reading level (guided reading level E). Biscuit goes along to a neighbor to help feed the pets. It all seems like a disaster, but eventually all get fed. Good opportunity to talk about what animals/pets need/eat. Additional beginning reader Biscuit stories inside back cover/jacket, and a website with the complete list of titles.



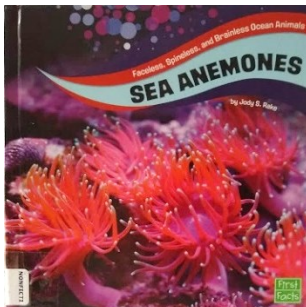
Can You Tell an Alligator from a Crocodile? By Buffy Silverman (Lightning Bolt Books)
Contents, who am I, fun facts, glossary, further reading, index. Fairly brief, simple text in large font. About grade 1-2 reading level. Excellent to share with younger children. Great pictures. (Animal Look-Alike series—more titles on back cover: bee/wasp, butterfly/moth, cheetah/leopard, dolphin/porpoise, frog/toad.)



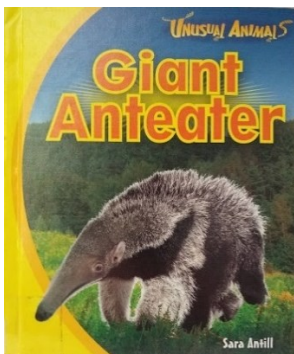
Alligators and Crocodiles by Tracy C. Read (Exploring the World of ...)
Contents, index. Great photos. Text appropriate for intermediate grades, but this could be a browsing book for younger children—talk about the pictures/summarize the text. A pictured anatomy chart could be converted to a simple labeled diagram (trace or use only your own personal copy). Another page shows a simplified chart of alligator senses. Nice pictured chart of prey.



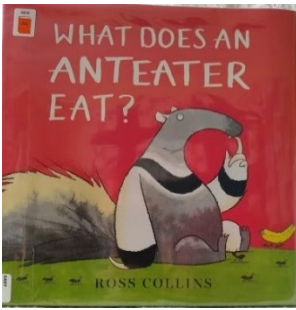
Alligators: Life in the Wild by Monica Kulling (Step into Reading level 3, reading on your own)
48 pp, reading level 6-8 years, grades 1-3



Sea Anemones by Jody S. Rake (Faceless, Spineless, and Brainless Ocean Animals)
Contents, facts, glossary, read more, internet sites, Critical Thinking quiz using the Common Core, Index. Great labeled photos. Brief text in large font, about 2nd grade reading level. Read aloud/discuss pictures/summarize text for younger children. Compare to other animals that sting/have venom. Have a suction cup to compare. Compare the anemone's nerve system to yours (emanating from and controlled by your brain—nerves are like the electric lines/communication lines of your body). Other titles listed on back cover: Jellyfish, sea cucumbers, sear urchins.

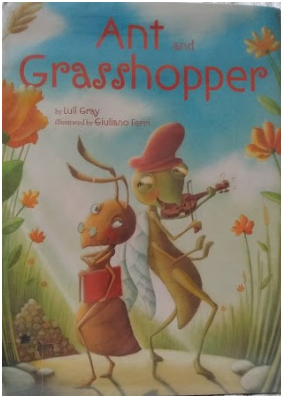


Giant Anteater by Sara Antill (Unusual Animals)
Contents, glossary, read more, index, web sites. Good photos, but some of the text boxes cover parts of the photos. Map of range. Measure out 7 feet on the floor and have the children lay down end to end. Weigh the child and see how many it would take to equal 100 pounds. Have the children hold their hands 2 feet apart, the length of the tongue. Try sticking out tongues 3 times a second for one minute. Walk into the kitchen blindfolded and try to identify different smells. About 2nd grade reading level can be adapted for younger children. Other titles listed on back cover: okapi, platypus, porcupines, red panda, stonefish.



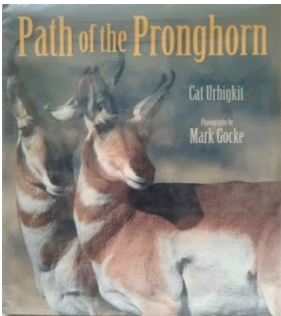
What Does an Anteater Eat? by Ross Collins

A fun and clever picture book with few, repetitive words in a very large font. Suitable illustrations accurate enough to know what the other animals are: sloth, toucan, snake, alligator, bats, jaguar, ants. Look for details in each illustration (including ants!), count the critters on each page, talk about what each animal eats and how it is adapted to its food (or vice versa). What do you think an anteater eats? What are the clues? A few other books by the author are listed on the front and back jacket. Google Ross Collins for more.



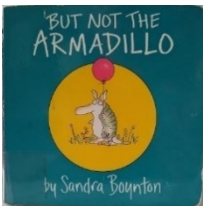
Ant and Grasshopper by Luli Gray

Fun Picture Book. Compare to Aesop's Fable "The Ants and the Grasshopper", the hymn "Come Ye Thankful People, Come", and the Christmas song "Here We Come A-Wassailing". Make swans with 2s, and snowmen with 8s. Punny end: "Everybody counts." Clever read aloud with nice enough illustrations.



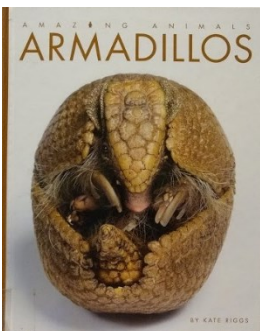
Path of the Pronghorn by Cat Urbigkit

Lots of great photos of this antelope of western North America. Talk about the pictures/summarize the text for young children. Map of range p. 19.



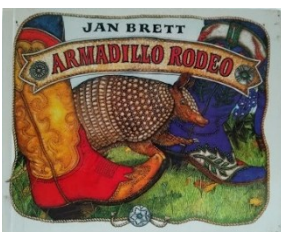
But Not the Armadillo by Sandra Boynton

Board Book. Cute, but definitely not a nonfiction science book. Great author for preschoolers, but adults can love her books as well. Other titles by the author pictured on the back cover.



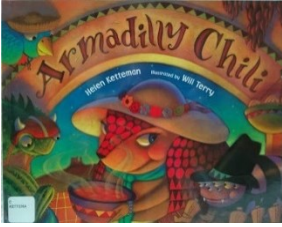
Armadillos by Kate Riggs (Amazing Animals)

Excellent photos. Brief text in very large type. About 2nd grade reading level. Great read aloud for younger children. Be ready with example comparisons of 70 lb/110 lb person, 3-11 lb cat or dog (pet), a yard stick to show length, stick of butter for size of babies. Do a sense of smell test (perhaps with eye glasses that make it hard to see—follow the nose). Show 2-5 months on a calendar. Try rolling in a ball and rolling around the room, yard, or down a small hill. More books to read, websites, index at the end. 70 titles listed on the back cover, including at least one for each letter except: N, Q, U, X, Y.



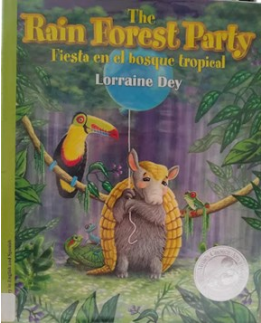
Armadillo Rodeo by Jan Brett

Great illustrations, fun story of an armadillo adventure. Read aloud picture book. A fun introduction to a unit on armadillos, Texas, or rodeos and rodeo folk. A favorite children's author (The Mitten etc).



Armady Chili by Helen Ketteman

Compare to The Little Red Hen, with a twist. Fun, colorful language. Read aloud, probably 2nd grade reading level. Southwestern US flavor.



The Rain Forest Party/Fiesta en el bosque tropical by Lorraine Dey

Bilingual English/Spanish, vocabulary/vocabulario at end. Read in English, Spanish, or both. Good comparison of 2 habitats in which armadillos live (see Armadillo Rodeo). Other animals of the rainforest are featured in the story. Hector wants to have a special talent like they each have, but is disappointed in his efforts to do what they can do. By accident he finds his special talent. Cutesy, but not too unrealistic illustrations.

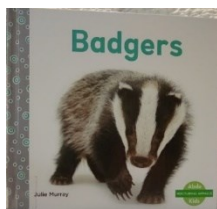
Wish List

National Geographic Readers: Ants by Melissa Stewart (Level 1)

All About Ants (Rosen Real Readers: Upper Emergent) by West Dr, Dr William

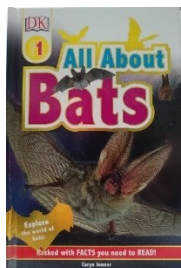
*Ants: A Children Pictures Book About Ants With Fun Ants Facts and Photos For Kids by Alma Ray

B



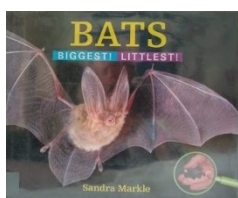
Badgers by Julie Murray (Abdo Kids Nocturnal Animals)

Contents, glossary, index. Great, full-page photos. Brief, simple text in large print. 1st grade reading level. Link to abdokids.com with a code at the back of the book "to access crafts, games, videos, and more". More titles in the series pictured on back cover: Aye-Ayes, Hedgehogs, Sugar Gliders, Tarsiers, Womabats.



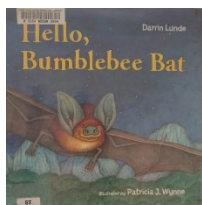
All About Bats by Caryn Jenner (DK level 1 reader)

Contents, pictured glossary, index, a note to parents. Great labeled photos. Brief text in large font. First grade reading level, but excellent read-aloud for non-readers. Additional titles pictured on back cover.



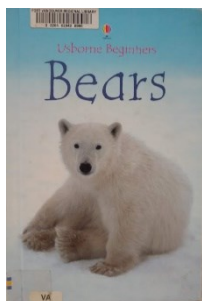
Bats by Sandra Markle (Biggest! Littlest! series)

World map of where different bats are found at the end, more information, books, websites. Great photos. Text appropriate for 2nd grade readers. Some parts may need summarized somewhat for younger children. Addition titles listed on the back cover: snakes, spiders, insects, sharks.



Hello, Bumblebee Bat by Darrin Lunde

Nice full page fairly realistic illustrations on the right. Brief, simple but informative text on left/facing page. Very large font question, followed by the answer in not as large font. White lettering on blue. About late first grade or early second grade reading level.



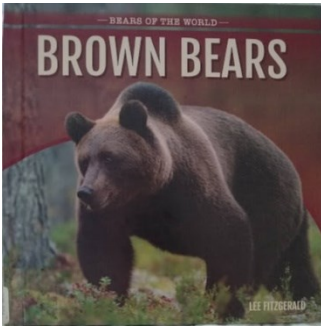
Bears by Emma Helbrough (Usborne Beginners)

Table of Contents, Glossary, list of websites, Index. Good pictures, simple brief, informative text at about a 2nd grade reading level. Other titles in the series are listed on the back cover.



Black Bears by Tammy Gagne (Wild Bears series)

Table of Contents, Facts, Words to Know, books/websites listed, and Index. Full page color photos, with simple brief informative text facing. Large font. About early 2nd grade reading level. Other titles pictured on back cover: Giant Pandas, Grizzly Bears, Polar Bears, Slth Bears, Spectacled Bears, Sun Bears.



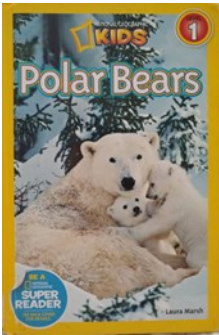
Brown Bears by Lee Fitzgerald (Bears of the World)

Table of Contents, Glossary, Index, Websites. Map of range. Great photos, many full page. About mid-2nd to 3rd grade as far as the amount on complexity of text. Medium large font. Other titles in the series are listed on the back cover: Black Bears, Brown Bears, Panda Bears, Polar Bears.



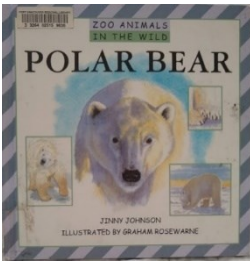
I Wish I Was a Polar Bear by Jennifer Bove (I Can Read! Series; Ranger Rick/Nature)

Level 1, Beginning Reading. "Short sentences, familiar words, and simple concepts for children eager to read on their own." Great photos. Simple informative text in large font. A paragraph each page. Each idea begins with a question, which is answered. Text invites the child to compare the polar bear's life with the child's life/preferences. Extra polar bear facts, an experiment, and a glossary at the end, as well as a Ranger Rick website. I Can Read! Website listed in the front, for more information.



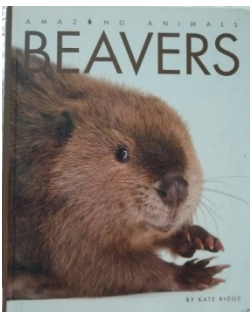
Polar Bears by Laura Marsh (National Geographic Kids)

Level 1 (Books are just right for kids who are beginning to read on their own). Table of Contents, a sort of picture puzzle, and a picture glossary at the end. Great pictures (some labeled), engaging text in large font. "Word Bites" define key words in the text. Little riddles included, with answers upside down. Nice job relating bear facts to children's knowledge.



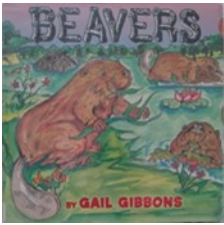
Polar Bear by Jinny Johnson (Zoo Animals in the Wild)

Table of Contents, Fact File, Words to Remember, and Index. Photos and realistic illustrations. Large and medium large font. If there is too much text, you can read the large parts, and summarize the medium large words, or talk about the pictures/illustrations. The medium large font is about 2nd grade level reading. Compares polar bear life in a zoo to that in the wild. Other titles in the series are pictured on the back cover.



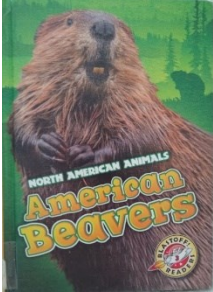
Beavers by Kate Riggs (Amazing Animals)

Further reading & websites, and index at back. Large, excellent photos. Simple, brief informative text in very large font. Perhaps early 2nd grade reading level. List of 46 other titles in the series, back cover. Great read aloud for pre-K and K.



Beavers by Gail Gibbons

Large realistic labeled illustrations; simple, brief text in a large font. Includes a nice map of beaver range. Extra information included in a medium large font—so the reading can be adapted to the attention of the listener. On subsequent readings more of the smaller text could be read or summarized. Reading level about grade 2-3? List of other books by Gail Gibbons inside back jacket. Read aloud for K-1 etc.



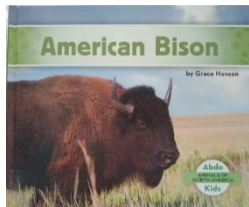
American Beavers by Megan Borgert-Spaniol (North American Animals)

Table of contents, glossary, further reading/websites, Index. Blastoff Readers level 3 “advances early-fluent readers toward fluency through increased text and concept load, less reliance on visuals, longer sentences, and more literary language.” Includes a nice map of range, picture chart comparing size to average human, and picture charts of predators, foods, facts about babies. Concise text gives a lot of information without extra language. About 2nd grade reading level, excellent read aloud for younger children.



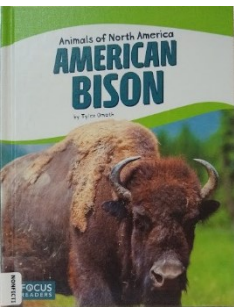
Buzz, Bee! By Jennifer Szymanski (National Geographic Kids Pre-reader)

“Pre-reader books are just right for kids who are ready to read.” Vocabulary tree at front, activity at the end. Great photos, simple, limited sentences in large font. An excellent reader or read-aloud.



American Bison by Grace Hansen (Abdo Kids, Animals of North America)

Table of contents, more facts, glossary, index, website for crafts, games, videos, etc. Great full page photos; simple, 2-3 sentence text in large font facing page. Possibly late 1st grade level text. Great read aloud for Pre K on. Pictures large enough for group. Pictured additional titles back cover.



American Bison by Tyler Omoth (Animals of North America)

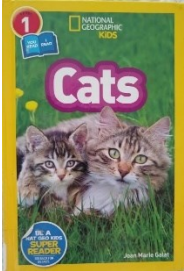
Contents, writing exercise (Focus on American Bison), glossary, to learn more, index. Great pictures, map of range, labeled body, pictured life cycle. Explains the difference between bison and buffalo. Compare size: height of a tall man, 2000 lbs (for weight comparisons, see The Measure of Things: <http://www.bluebulbprojects.com/measureofthings...>). Excellent text for 2nd graders, and excellent read aloud for younger children. Additional titles listed on the back cover: alligators, beavers, black bears, bald eagles, bighorn sheep caribou, coyotes, moose, mountain lions.

(Birds—look in the general Animals section)



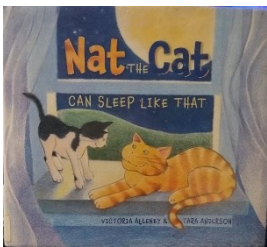
Camels by Rose Davin (Meet Desert Animals)

Contents, glossary, more reading, internet sites, common core critical thinking, and index at back. Full page photos; facing page simple sentences in large font 1st grade reading level. Includes a map of range. Read aloud great for Pre K. 6 other titles in the set listed back cover.



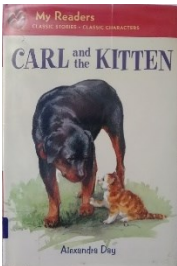
Cats by Joan Marie Galat (National Geographic Kids level 1; you read, I read)

Contents. "Level 1 co-readers are a perfect shared reading experience between kids who are beginning read on their own and an older reader or parent." You read perhaps grade 2-3 reading level; I read perhaps 1st grade reading level. You read in medium large font, I read in large font. Great photos. Tame and wild cats. Pages inviting thinking skills included. Invitation to be National Geographic Kids super reader—earn prizes, games, etc. website.



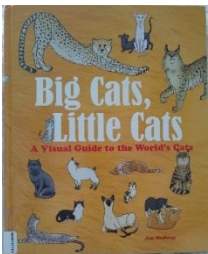
Nat the Cat Can Sleep Like That by Victoria Allenby

Through all kinds of ruckus and in all kinds of places and positions, Nat the Cat sleeps through the day. But come night, he is entirely awake and active. Fun story, told with fun words, rhyming, alliteration, in large handwritten-like font. 2nd grade reading level, delightful story to share with younger children.



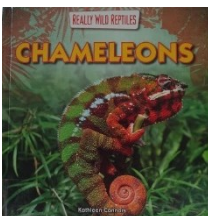
Carl and the Kitten by Alexandra Day (My Readers)

Letter to parents and teachers at the beginning, explaining 3 levels of readers. First grade reading level. A kitten has climbed up a tree and is stuck. Carl finally finds a way to get the kitten down. A good chance to discuss real and pretend, safety issues (getting on top of a precarious stack of items) . . . other titles pictured inside back cover jacket: Carl and the Puppies, and Carl and the Baby Duck.



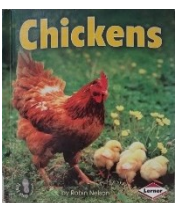
Big Cats, Little Cats: A Visual Guide to the World's Cats by Jim Medway

Pictured Contents, Index. Somewhat realistic/stylized labeled drawings illustrate different breeds of cats. Three double pages invite children to follow tangled dotted lines to match the cat and kitten/cub. Text limited to labels.



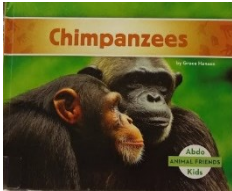
Chameleons by Kathleen Connors (Really Wild Reptiles)

Contents, glossary, more info, index. Great pictures. Text about 2nd grade reading level, but could be shared/adapted for younger children. Have a yard stick to show comparison of size. Compare incubation time to summer You may visit a pet store or have someone bring their chameleon set up and show how to care for them. Other titles pictured on back cover: geckos, gila monsters, iguanas, Komodo dragons, snapping turtles.



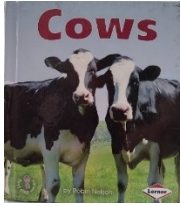
Chickens by Robin Nelson (Farm Animals, First Step Nonfiction)

Excellent photos and simple, clear text. One sentence per page in large print. Labeled photo of a rooster and an explanation of the parts of a chicken, chicken facts, pictured glossary, and index. First grade level reading, but excellent to share with younger children. Other titles in the series listed on the back: cows, goats, horses, pigs, sheep.



Chimpanzees by Grace Hansen (Abdo Kids Animal Friends)

Contents, more facts, glossary, index, website to access crafts, games, videos, and more. Great full-page photos, 2-4 simple sentences in large font. 2nd grade reading level. Excellent read aloud for non-readers. More books pictured on back cover: bonobos, bottlenose dolphins, elephants, gorillas, rats.

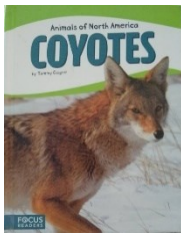


Cows by Robin Nelson (First Step Nonfiction, Farm Animals)

Parts of a cow (labeled photo), cow facts, glossary, index at back of book. Great photos. One simple sentence each page, in large font. 1st grade reading level. Excellent to share with younger children. Additional titles listed on back cover: chickens, goats, horses, pigs, sheep.

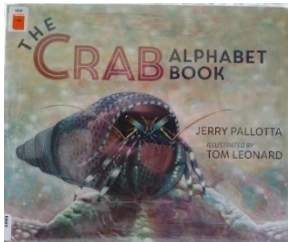


Cows/Las Vacas by JoAnn Early Macken (Animals that Live on the Farm; Weekly Reader Early Learning Library) Note to Educators and Parents, glossary, more info, websites, index. Bilingual English/Spanish. Good photos. 2-3 simple sentence each page, in large font. Covers some different facts from the above title—worth reading both.



Coyotes by Tammy Gagne (Animals of North America, Focus Readers)

Contents, quiz, glossary, more reading/website, Index. About 2nd grade reading level and language complexity/length of text, fairly large font. Great photos. Website has lesson plans, activities, etc. List of other books in this set on back cover.



The Crab Alphabet Book by Jerry Pallotta

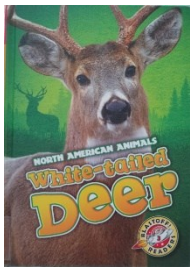
Great illustrations. Engaging, at times humorous, text in medium large font. Each page has a paragraph, at about a 2nd grade reading level. Read aloud and enjoy together with younger children. Each page has an upper and a lower case letter. Fascinating facts payed out gently.



Hermit Crabs by Ellen Lawrence (A Day at the Beach: Animal Life on the Shore)

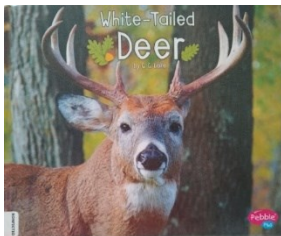
Contents, science lab, science words, index, read more, more online. Great labeled photos and diagrams. About 2nd grade reading level, read aloud to younger children. More details than The Crab Alphabet Book, because its focus is more narrow. Both are great books. Additional titles listed on the back cover: Beach Fleas (etc), Bloodworms (etc), harbor seals, rock stars (limpets, barnacles, and whelks), seagulls.

D



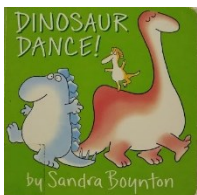
White-tailed Deer by Chris Bowman (Blastoff! Readers, level 3)

Contents, glossary, to learn more, index. "Level 3 advances early-fluent readers toward fluency through increased text and concept load, less reliance on visuals, longer sentences, and more literary language." Includes a nice map of range, identification chart, pictured food chart, pictured predator chart, size comparison chart, baby facts chart. Grade 1-2 reading level. Other titles in the series, level 3 early fluent readers, on back cover.



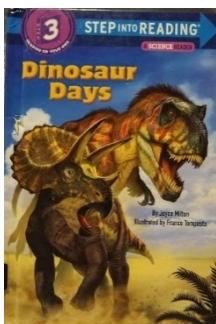
White-Tailed Deer by G.G. Lake (Woodland Wildlife)

Contents, glossary, more reading/internet sites, Critical Thinking questions, index. Excellent full-page photos. 3-4 simple sentences in large font on facing pages. Includes a map of range. First grade reading level. List of other titles in the set on back cover.



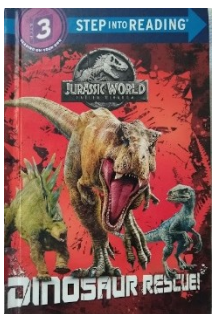
Dinosaur Dance! By Sandra Boynton (Boynton Board Books)

Rhythm, rhyme, alliteration, lots of movement words to dance to. Dinosaur names, interesting words. Another great book for toddlers by the author.



Dinosaur Days by Joyce Milton (Step into Reading Level 3)

Explanation of reading levels at the beginning. Level 3 "Reading on Your Own, Grades 1-3; engaging characters, easy-to-follow plots, popular topics. For children who are ready to read on their own." Factual and engaging with pronunciation guides. Nice illustrations. Good read aloud for younger children interested in dinosaurs.



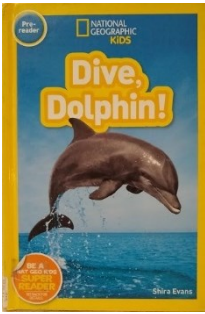
Dinosaur Rescue by Kristen L. Depken (Jurassic World; Step into Reading Level 3)

Letter to parents at beginning, Level 3 "Reading on Your Own, Grades 1-3; engaging characters, easy-to-follow plots, popular topics. For children who are ready to read on their own." A mix of fact and fiction, to engage dinosaur and Jurassic World lovers. Good chance to discuss fact vs fiction, theories vs knowledge. The story doesn't get to the rescue part, leaving one either dissatisfied, or eager for another book/movie to finish the story.



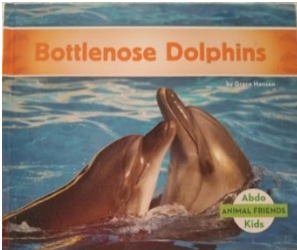
Dolphins by Becky Baines (National Geographic Kids Explore My World series)

Excellent photos. Brief text in large font. About 2nd grade reading level. Other titles pictured on back cover.



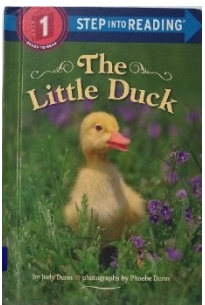
Dive, Dolphin by Shira Evans (National Geographic Kids Pre-reader)

“Pre-reader books are just right for kids who are ready to read.” Vocabulary tree. Great photos, habitat map, vocabulary matching at the end. Limited text in large font. 1st grade reading level, great read aloud for non-readers.



Bottlenose Dolphins by Grace Hansen (Abdo Kids Animal Friends)

Contents, more facts, glossary, index, website. Great full page photos. 2-3 simple sentences in large font. Website has crafts, games, videos, etc. Other titles pictured on back cover.



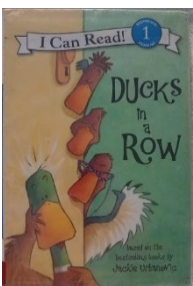
The Little Duck by Judy Dunn (Step into Reading Level 1)

Letter to parents at the front, Level 1 “Ready to Read: Preschool—Kindergarten; big type and easy words, rhyme and rhythm, picture clues. For children who know the alphabet and are eager to begin reading.” A realistic story of a duck from egg to maturity. Good opportunity to talk about real and pretend, life cycles, eggs, needs of animals, etc.



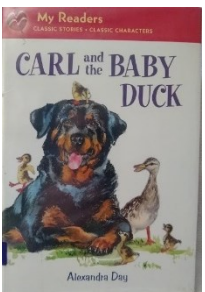
Ducks by Jennifer Szymanski (National Geographic Kids, pre-reader)

“Pre-reader books are just right for kids who are ready to read”. Vocabulary tree at the front, map of migration, and an invitation to draw a picture at the back. Explanation of reading levels on back cover. Great photos; 1-2 very simple sentences per page in large font. 1st grade reading level, but excellent to share with younger children.



Ducks in a Row by Lori Haskins Houran, based on books by Jackie Urbanovic (I Can read! Level 1—beginning reading).

“Short sentences, familiar words, and simple concepts for children eager to read on their own.” Letter to parents in the beginning, explaining different levels. Fun little story about Max, who wants to be helpful, and gets his chance. It’s nice also, to relax from a lot of demands.



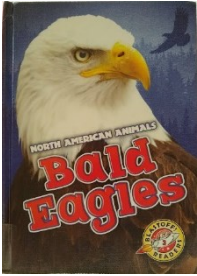
Carl and the Baby Duck by Alexandra Day (My Readers)

Letter to parents and teachers at the front. 1st grade reading level. A baby duck is missing, and Carl helps mother duck look for it. A good opportunity to talk about real and pretend, problems solving, how to look for things (Have you ever lost something? How did you find it? Did you think about the most likely place? Where you saw it last? Did others help you look for it? Etc.) Have you ever been lost? What to do when lost. How parents/loved ones feel when they find the lost person . . .

E

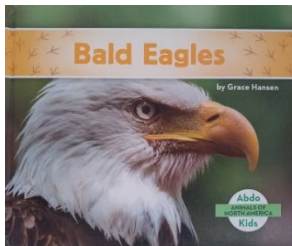
(eagles—see Eagle & Birds of Prey by Jemima Parry-Jones, under general animal books)

(eels—see Fishy Tales by DK Readers and Swim, Fish! By Susan B. Neuman: National Geographic Reader, both pre-readers, under general animal books)



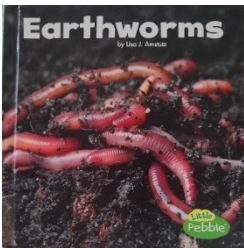
Bald Eagles by Chris Bowman (North American Animals; Blastoff Readers, level 3)

“Level 3 advances early-fluent readers toward fluency through increased text and concept load, less reliance on visuals, longer sentences, and more literary language.” About 2nd grade reading level (Amazon says grade 1-2). Note to Librarians, Teachers, and Parents; contents, glossary, to learn more, index. Includes range map, comparative size chart (human male, eagle, measure in feet), pictured prey, baby facts chart. Excellent. More titles back cover: bison, bears, squirrels, wolves, owls, rabbits, pronghorn (antelope), foxes, hawks, deer.



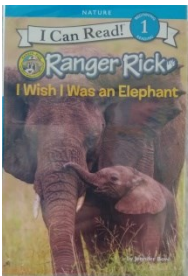
Bald Eagles by Grace Hansen (Animals of North America)

Contents, more facts, glossary, index, access to crafts, games, videos, etc. Great large photos, 2-3 simple sentences per page in large font. About 1st grade reading level, excellent to share with younger children. More titles pictured on back cover: American Bison, Coyotes, Gray Wolves, Grizzly Bears, Moose.



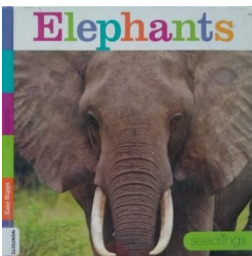
Earthworms by Lisa J. Amstutz (Little Critter series)

Contents, glossary, read more, internet sites, Critical thinking questions using the Common Core), index. Great photos. 2-3 simple sentences per page, in large font. 1st grade reading level. Excellent. Additional titles listed on the back cover: ants, butterflies, ladybugs.



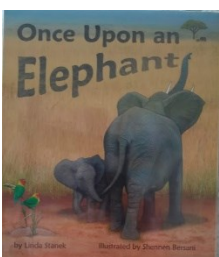
I Wish I Was an Elephant by Jennifer Bove (I Can Read! Level 1; Ranger Rick)

“Level 1 Beginning Reading; Short sentences, familiar words, and simple concepts for children eager to read on their own.” Begins with questions to stimulate interest. About 2nd grade reading level. Questions along the way for the child to relate elephant life with their own. Some word definitions, and a website at the end.



Elephants by Kate Riggs (Seedlings series)

Contents, Words to know, read more, web sites, index. Great large photos, very large font, limited text. About a 1st grade reading level. Labeled body of an elephant at the end. Great read aloud for pre K. Websites include coloring pages and finger puppets craft. Other titles in the series listed on back cover: Dolphins, Giraffes, Lions, Monkeys, Penguins.



Once Upon an Elephant by Linda Stanek

Clever perspective, way of telling a story how elephants benefit other animals in their habitat. Large realistic illustrations. Brief simple text, perhaps grade 1-2 level reading. More information “For Creative Minds” for adults at the back and online. Website has links with free resources and support. English and Spanish. Pictures of other titles by Arbordale books on back cover.



Elk by Valerie Bodden (Amazing Animals)

Great photos, brief text in large print. About 2nd grade reading level. Good read aloud for younger children. A large bull elk weighs about the same as a horse or a polar/grizzly bear (see the Measure of Things online). Drive on a 35mph street to see how fast they can run. Show 30 pounds of food. Could you eat that in one day? Do you have a sibling/friend that weighs 35 pounds? Talk about someone you know that is 20 years old. At the end: Read more, websites, index. 76 titles listed on back cover, including at least one for each letter of the alphabet except: N, Q, U, X, and Y.

Wish List

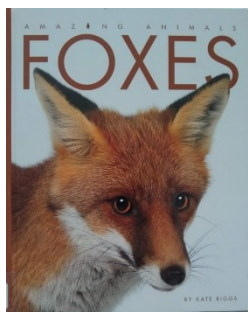
Think of an Eel: Read and Wonder by Karen Wallace

Everything You Should Know About: EMUS by Anne Richards

Edward the Emu by Sheena Knowles

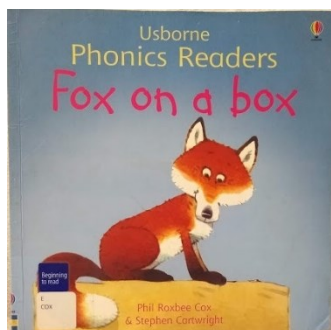
F

(falcons—see Eagle & Birds of Prey by Jemima Parry-Jones, under general animal books)



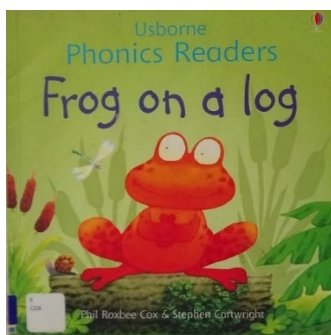
Foxes by Kate Riggs (Amazing Animals)

Great big (full page) photos, limited text (3-4 simple sentence each page) in very large font, beside a caption for the photo in medium italic font. Ok for K or preK . . . you may want to have some weights for comparison (15 pound child/pet or potatoes, 30 pound child or three 10# bags of sugar or flour, a 3.5 pound can/bottle of food or pet), and compare the speed to how fast a car can go in a 30 mph zone. Read more, websites, and Index in back. List of other titles on back cover—includes at least one animal for each letter of the alphabet except N, Q, U, X, and Y.



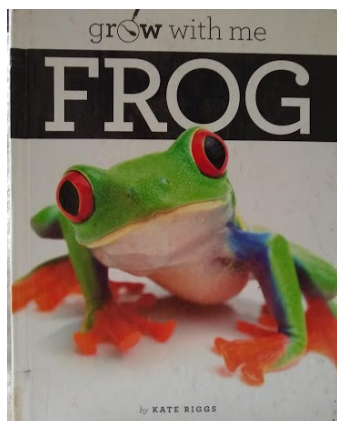
Fox on a Box by Phil Roxbee Cox (Usborne Phonics Readers—beginning to read)

“About Phonics” inside front cover, “About the Words in this Book” inside back cover. A delightful, humorous story told simply, with simple words. Hungry fox keeps using a box, unsuccessfully, to try to reach food. At last he finds the prize. Some pages fold out to reveal part of the story. An opportunity to talk about fiction/nonfiction, problem solving, word analysis (such as rhyming/word families), what makes things funny . . .



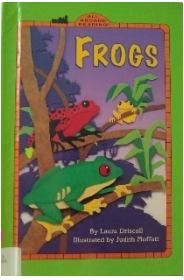
Frog on a Log by Phil Roxbee Cox (Usborne Phonics Readers)

“About Phonics” inside front cover, “About the Words in this Book” inside back cover. Frog goes on a little adventure . . . but in the fog the pup and the hog bump the log and off frog falls into the bog. Next day he has come up with a solution: it’s a sunny day, but he challenges pup and hog to bump his log . . . he won’t fall off, because he has strapped himself on. But, then the whole log rolls, and he still ends up in the bog. Humorous little story. Some fold out pages. An opportunity to talk about fiction/nonfiction, problem solving, word analysis (such as rhyming/word families), what makes things funny . . .

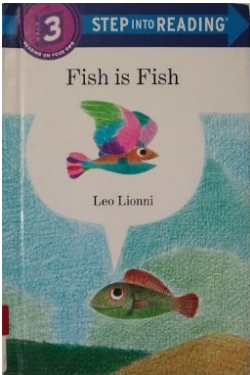


Frog by Kate Riggs (Grow with Me)

Contents, glossary, web sites, read more, index. Great, large photos. Text about 2nd grade level in large font. Read-aloud or talk about pictures, summarize for younger children. Additional titles listed on the back cover: bee, butterfly, ladybug, sunflower, tomato.



Frogs by Laura Driscoll (All Aboard Reading)
Simple early reading and illustrations.



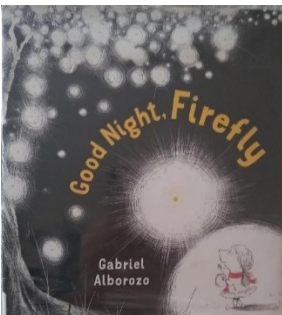
Fish is Fish by Leo Lionni (Step into Reading Level 3, reading on your own/F&P text level L) Letter to parents in the front, explaining the leveled readers. Level 3 Grades 1-3, “engaging characters, easy-to-follow plots, popular topics. For children who are ready to read on their own.” A (literally) imaginative story about two best friends, one a tadpole, the other a fish. The tadpole becomes a frog and leaves the pond to see the world. The fish can’t leave the pond. The frog tries to tell the fish what’s out there, and the fish tries to imagine, with his limited experience. Good opportunity to talk about life cycles, compare fish and frogs, talk about how to express and imagine new ideas, etc. Quiz, matching, comparing at the end, and another story on the same reading level by the author.



Fish by Cari Meister (My First Pet series)

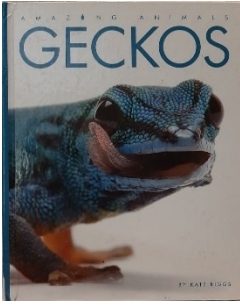
Ideas for Parents and Teachers, contents, picture glossary, index, to learn more. Great pictures, great first book about pets. 1-3 simple sentences per page in a large font. 1st grade reading. Excellent read aloud/talk about for non-readers as well as readers. Pictured list of things a pet fish needs. Additional titles in the series pictured on back cover: birds, cats, dogs, guinea pigs, hamsters, rabbits, turtles.

(fish—see Fishy Tales by DK Readers and Swim, Fish! By Susan B. Neuman: National Geographic Reader, both pre-readers, under general animal books)



Good Night, Firefly by Gabriel Alborozo

A sweet little story about a young girl and a firefly—dealing with fear of dark, and then what she does when she can’t get back to sleep. Brief text in large font. About 2nd grade reading level. Nice read aloud for younger children. Nice enough illustrations in mostly black and white.



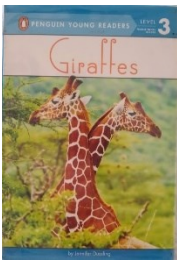
Geckos by Kate Riggs (Amazing Animals series)

Excellent photos. Brief text in very large type. About 2nd grade reading level. Great read aloud for younger children. Have a ruler ready to show from half an inch to 10 inches. More books to read, websites, index at the end. 46 titles listed on the back cover, including at least one for each letter except: I, N, Q, U, X, Y.



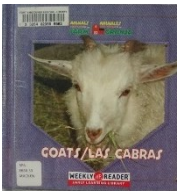
Giraffes by Laura Marsh (National Geographic Kids Level 1 reader)

Contents, picture quiz, word bank, pictured glossary. Level 1 "Starting to read ... books are just right for kids who are beginning to read on their own." Simple brief text in large font. Includes a size comparison picture, great pictures with captions, word definitions, pronunciation helps, little humorous riddles, fun facts. Back cover has an invitation to be a national Geographic Kids super reader—earn prizes, play games, etc, and the website address.



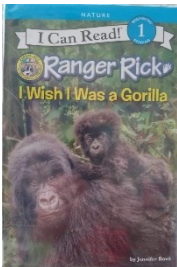
Giraffes by Jennifer Dussling (Penguin Young Readers Level 3, guided reading level K)

Explanation of reading level for parents and teachers at the beginning. "Transitional Reader can read multisyllable and compound words; can read words with prefixes and suffixes; is able to identify story elements (beginning, middle, end, plot, setting, characters, problem, solution); and can understand different points of view." Activity ideas. Great pictures, background info, relates info to reader, simple brief informative text in large font.



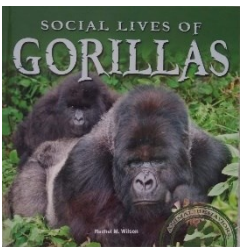
Goats/Las Cabras by JoAnn Early Macken (Weekly Reader Animals that live on the Farm)

A Note to Educators and Parents, great photos, simple limited text in large font (English and Spanish). 1st grade reading level, excellent read aloud to younger children. Glossary, resources to learn more, index. Additional bi-lingual titles listed on the back cover: chickens/las gallinas, horses/los caballos, pigs/los cerdos.



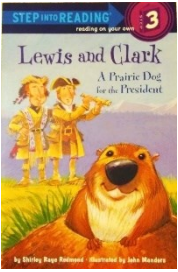
I Wish I Was a Gorilla by Jennifer Bove (I Can Read! Level 1, Ranger Rick; Nature; guided reading level K)

"Simple sentences for eager new readers". Starts out with questions to engage the reader, continues with questions for the reader to relate to the text. More facts, a recipe, website, and glossary at the end. Great pictures, simple brief text in a large font.

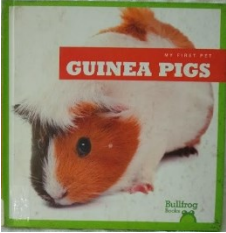


Social Lives of Gorillas by Rachel M. Wilson (Animal Behaviors) Reading Level N

Before and After Reading Activities at the front. Contents, photo glossary, index, websites. Includes a map of where gorillas live. Brief text in large font. Great pictures. Other titles in the series pictured on back cover: dolphins, elephants, lions, meerkats, pigs.



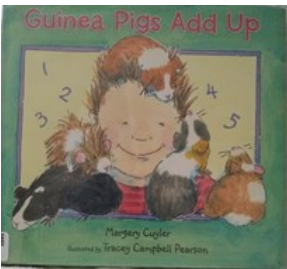
Groundhog Day by Lisa M. Herrington (Scholastic Rookie Read-About Holidays)
Step into Reading level 3, reading on your own. Grade 2.



Guinea Pigs by Cari Meister (My First Pet series)

Ideas for Parents and Teachers, contents, picture glossary, index, to learn more. Great pictures, great first book about pets. 1-3 simple sentences per page in a large font. 1st grade reading. Excellent read aloud/talk about for non-readers as well as readers.

Pictured list of things a pet guinea pig needs. Additional titles in the series pictured on back cover: birds, cats, dogs, fish, hamsters, rabbits, turtles.

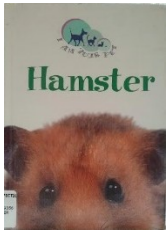


Guinea Pigs Add Up by Margery Cuyler

A fun story written in rhyme, about the propensity of guinea pigs to multiply. A counting, adding, counting backward, and subtracting book. Notice the illustrations of the ideas the kids have for possible pets at the beginning, persuasive writing when the kids think their pet needs a companion, charts, votes for the name, other classroom learning devices . . . How do the children keep the guinea pigs from running away outside? Humor to the end.

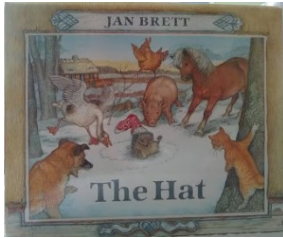
H

(Hawks—see Eagle & Birds of Prey by Jemima Parry-Jones, under general animal books)



Hamster by Matthew Rayner (I Am Your Pet)

Contents, glossary, find out more, index. Great pictures with a lot of text in a medium font. Geared more toward intermediate grades. Nevertheless, you can talk about the pictures and summarize the text for younger children. Other titles in the series listed on back cover: Cat, Dog, Rabbit.



The Hat by Jan Brett

A fun story about a clever hedgehog, from the author of The Mitten. Lovely illustrations with plenty of details to look for and talk about, including hints about what's coming next, and what else is happening in the meantime. Read aloud, though a 2nd grader could read it. Fun to share. www.janbrett.com has a "collection of projects and activities of books for kids, classroom activities, and lesson plans . . ."



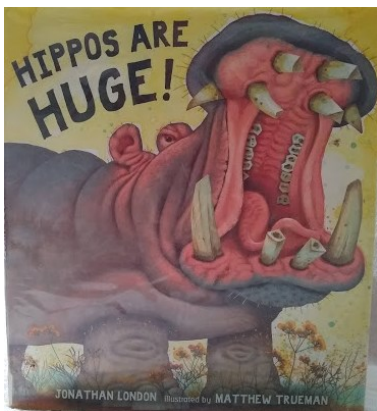
Hedgie's Surprise by Jan Brett

Beautiful illustrations and engaging story about how a clever hedgehog helped his friend hen raise a brood of chicks by tricking the Tomten that kept stealing her eggs. Coloring pages, etc. at www.janbrett.com

See also

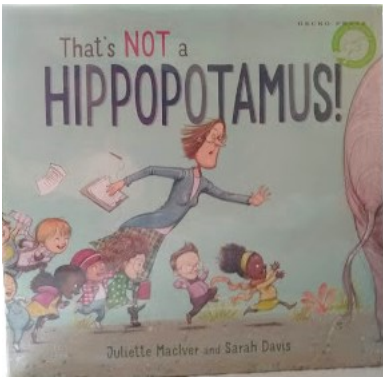
Hedgehogs by Mary Quattlebaum, (National Geographic Readers: Level 1)

32 pp, appropriate for ages 4-6, grades pre-K to 1st.



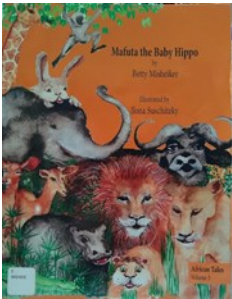
Hippos Are Huge! By Jonathan London

Very large wonderful illustrations, full of factual information—most in large letters, but extra facts in "small print". About 2nd grade reading level, but a fun and engaging read aloud for younger children. Includes an index at the end.



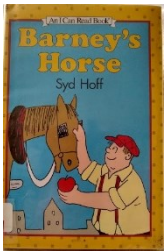
That's NOT a Hippopotamus! By Juliette MacIver

Fun and clever picture book/story. Engaging, rhyming text in a large font. 1st – 2nd grade reading level. Wonderful read aloud, or re-read. Name the African animals in the pictures. What features should they be looking for, to find a hippopotamus? Why is it important to stop and listen to each person, rather than run ahead? What is real and what is pretend in the story?



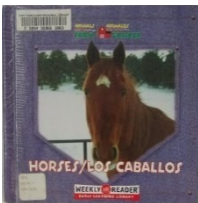
Mafuta the Baby Hippo by Betty Misheiker

Mafuta tries to make friends with a couple of antelope, who tease him meanly. But another day he saves them from lions, and then they become best friends. About 2nd grade reading level. More African tales listed last page: Nyati, the Big Bad Buffalo; Stranger in the forest; A New Coat for bunny Boy; Chubby Roars the Loudest Roar.



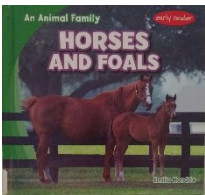
Barney's Horse by Syd Hoff (An I Can Read Book). 1st grade reading level.

Set in a time when peddlers had horse-drawn wagons in the city. Change comes, as an elevated train track is built. It scares the horse at first, but then he becomes accustomed to it. A little history, a little bit about adapting.



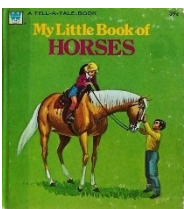
Horses/Los Caballos by JoAnn Early Macken (Weekly Reader Animals that live on the Farm)

A Note to Educators and Parents, great photos, simple limited text in large font (English and Spanish). 1st grade reading level, excellent read aloud to younger children. Glossary, resources to learn more, index. Additional bi-lingual titles listed on the back cover: chickens/las gallinas, goats/las cabras, pigs/los cerdos.

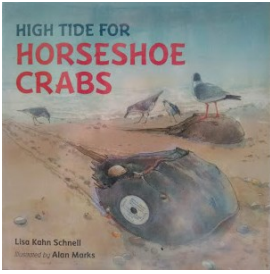


Horses and Foals by Emilia Hendrix (An Animal Family early reader)

Contents, words to know, index. Very simple limited text in very large font. 1-2 sentences each page; great full page photos. Additional texts in the series pictured on back cover: chickens, koalas, pigs, seals, tigers.

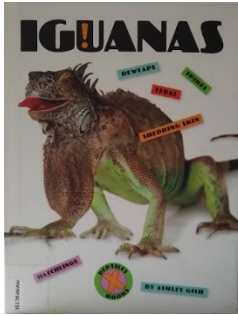


My Little Book of Horses (Whitman, A Tell-A-Tale Book)



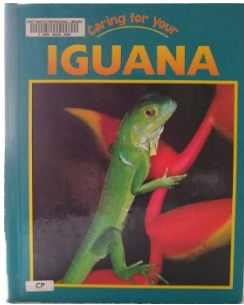
High Tide for Horseshoe Crabs by Lisa Kahn Schnell

Inside front and back covers are labeled diagrams of the top and bottom of horseshoe crabs. According to The Crab Alphabet Book, horseshoe crabs are not actually crabs, but related more closely to scorpions. What look like eyes in the illustrations are actually tags. This is the story of what happens every spring at Delaware Bay, when the horseshoes come ashore. Seabirds and people get involved. Read aloud picture book. More info at the back would need to be summarized.



Iguanas by Ashley Gish (Xtreme Reptiles)

Contents (in a very unconventional order), glossary, resources, index. Pictured types of iguanas, range map. Great photos. Geared toward intermediate grades, but if you read ahead to choose which parts to read or summarize to younger children as you browse the pictures together, there are informative parts of the text in larger print or highlighted. Be prepared to turn the book to read text in unconventional directions. The back cover lists other Xtreme animal series: predators (including piranhas), insects (ants, beetles, cicadas, crickets, dragonflies, moths, sticks, wasps), (human) fighters, weather.



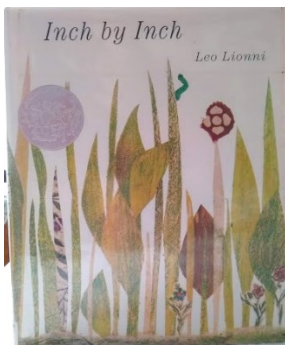
Caring for Your Iguana by Elizabeth Simon (Caring for Your Pet series)

Contents, pet puzzlers, FAQs, more info, web sites, glossary, index. Great photos. A simplified life cycle chart and labeled diagram could be adapted from those in the book. Geared toward intermediate grades or beyond, the information could be adapted for browsing with younger children.



I Wanna Iguana by Karen Kaufman Orloff

A unique way to tell a story, and a great introduction to persuasive writing/communicating, or deciding on an appropriate pet. Text in large font that looks handwritten. Presented as notes between Alex and his mom, as he tries to persuade her to let him take a friend's iguana when the friend moves. Fun and clever read aloud. About 2nd grade or so reading level (vocabulary).



Inch by Inch by Leo Lionni

Inchworm cleverly saves his own life, inch by inch. Birds mentioned: robin, flamingo, toucan, heron, pheasant, hummingbird, nightingale. Read aloud picture book, text about 2nd grade reading level in fairly large font. Brief, simple telling of the story. Caldecott Honor book. List of other titles by Leo Linni inside back jacket, including Fish is Fish. Author was born in Netherlands, lived in Italy, immigrated to US in 1939—if you need ways to tie literature to a couple difficult letters of the alphabet. Good intro to measuring. More about and by the author at Amazon.com and <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/17763/leo-lionni>

Insect books at bottom of

https://www.learninglab.site/files/ugd/383023_e96850ec2248477eb81c31dfe16a46de.pdf

Wish List

Ibex! Learn About Ibex and Enjoy Colorful Pictures by Becky Wolff

And Where Did All The Little Waliyas Go? by Mesenti Mwari (about Ibex)

Everything You Should Know About: Impalas Faster Learning Facts by Anne Richards

Impala: Fun and Fascinating Facts and Photos about These Amazing & Unique Animals for Kids

by Sofia Filippo

Inchworm

by Susan Ternyey, 2020

Inchworm has legs in front and legs behind, but not in the middle of its body. It stretches forward, then brings up the rear. As it moves, its middle looks like a loop. Sometimes it is called a Loopworm. (caption: some Inchworms are about an inch long)

Inchworm is not a worm, but a smooth caterpillar. Night after night it will eat and eat. Some inchworms eat lichens, flowers, or pollen. Some eat farmer's crops. (caption: Some Inchworms in Hawaii eat other insects.)

Gardeners who want to get rid of inchworms eating their plants may invite predators, like birds, wasps, and yellow jackets. (predator: an animal that eats other animals)

When danger comes, Inchworm may stand up very still, so it looks like a stick. Sometimes Inchworm will spin a silk thread and drop down 'til danger is past. Then Inchworm climbs back up the thread to keep eating.

After some weeks, Inchworm will let itself down to the ground on a silk thread that it spins for itself. Inchworm will get cozy in the dirt or leaves and spin a cocoon. Inside the cocoon Inchworm turns into an adult moth.

Like other caterpillars, Inchworm has 4 stages of life: egg, caterpillar (larvae), pupa (in a cocoon), and adult. Caterpillars become moths or butterflies. Inchworms become Geometer moths. Both moths and butterflies have tiny scales that fall off like powder when touched.

Moths fly at night and are less colorful than butterflies. Moths land in places colored like themselves to hide from predators. Some have colors that warn that they taste bad.

Although Inchworm caterpillars can be serious pests to farms and forests, adult moths can be helpful. Moths help pollinate plants. Moths are an important food for other animals. (pollinate: spread pollen so plants can make seeds)

An adult moth waits for, or finds, a mate. The mother Geometer moth lays eggs on the underside of a leaf. She lays many eggs. When the eggs hatch, they will be Inchworms.

There are over 20,000 species (kinds) of Inchworms. They live all over the earth, in many different habitats. Scientists found an Inchworm in amber they think is from 44 million years ago. (habitat: the kind of place plants and animals live in; amber: tree resin--liquid from the bark--that is so old it has turned to a gem of a stone)

An Inchworm Story

What kind of story would you tell about an inchworm? Since Inchworm looks like it is measuring as it moves, sometimes it is called a Measuring Worm, or a Geometer. Geometer means "earth measurer". An old folk tale from Kentucky says that if an Inchworm crawls on you, he's measuring you for your coffin. Leo Lionni wrote a fiction story called Inch by Inch that you can check out at your library. In a 1952 movie "Hans Christian Anderson", actor Danny Kaye sings a song to an Inchworm he sees crawling in the marigolds. It has become a popular folk and children's song:

(school children in the background sing the first stanza continuously)

Two and two are four;
Four and four are eight;
Eight and eight are sixteen;
Sixteen and sixteen are thirty-two.

(meanwhile, Danny Kaye sings)

Inchworm, inchworm,
Measuring the marigolds,
You and your arithmetic:
You'll probably go far.

Inchworm, inchworm,
Measuring the marigolds,
Seems to me you'd stop and see
How beautiful they are.

Read More

Moths by Patricia Perish (Insects Up Close). Minnetonka, MN: Bellwether Media, 2019.

Butterfly or Moth? Christina Leaf (Blastoff! Readers, Level 1: Spotting Differences). Minnetonka, MN: Bellwether Media, 2019

Moth by Isabel Thomas, New York: Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2018

Websites

"Facts About Inchworms for Kids", by Cindy Quarters,
and "Inchworm Identification" by Rob Harris
<https://animals.mom.me/inchworms-kids-8744.html>

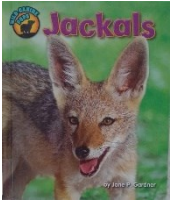
Animal Sake: Facts About Inchworms You Probably Didn't Know
Caterpillar facts for kids, information and photos.
<https://animalsake.com/facts-about-inchworms-you-probably-didnt-know>

Kiddle Encyclopedia: Caterpillar facts for kids--more information and photos of caterpillars.
<https://kids.kiddle.co/Caterpillar>

Minnesota Cold: Inchworms--one minute video of real inchworms moving. 2008.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cyasgr9mn3s>

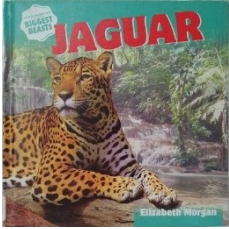
All Kids Network: Paper Inchworm Craft for Kids
<https://www.allkidsnetwork.com/crafts/bugs/paper-inch-worm.asp>

Danny Kaye sings "Inchworm" in the 1952 movie "Hans Christian Anderson"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXi3bjKowJU>



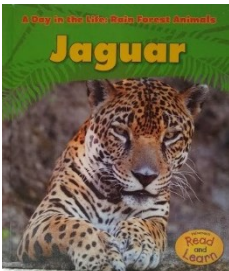
Jackals by Jane P. Gardner (Wild Canine Pups)

Contents, pictured glossary, index, read more, website. Simple sentences in large font. Great pictures with labels (most full page), pictured size comparison, map of range. List of other titles in the series on the back cover: African wild dogs, coyotes, dingoes, fennec foxes, gray foxes, gray wolves, rod foxes—great opportunity to compare and contrast.



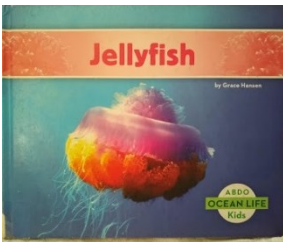
Jaguar by Elizabeth Morgan (North American's Biggest Beasts)

Contents, glossary, index, websites. Mostly full page photos and charts (comparing big cats, what jaguars eat, range map. Med sized font. Main text appropriate for 2nd grade or so, but many pages have "the big idea". Text can be summarized, browse and talk about the photos and charts with younger children. Other titles listed on back cover. Bison, caribou, elk, grizzly bear, moose.



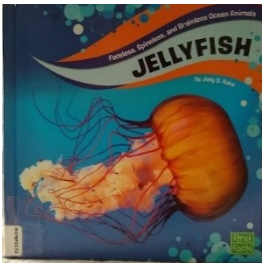
Jaguar by Anita Ganeri (A Day in the Life: Rain Forest Animals)

Contents, body map, glossary, find out more, index. Words in bold are in the glossary. Great photos, some labeled. Range map. Simple brief text in large font. 1st-2nd grade reading level. Amazon.com says 5-7 yrs, K-2. Great read aloud for younger children. Some other titles listed on back cover: anaconda, capybara, howler monkey, lemur, macaw, orangutan, piranha, poison dart frog, tarantula. (other series: A Day in the Life: Polar Animals; Desert Animals; Sea Animals)



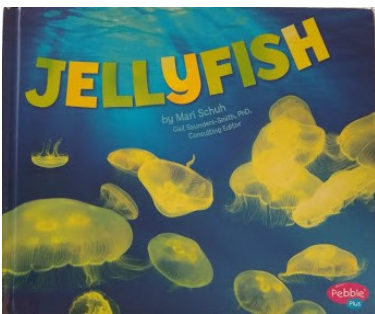
Jellyfish by Grace Hansen (Ocean Life, ABDO Kids)

Contents, more facts, glossary, index, website with crafts, games, videos, etc.) Great full page photos. 2-3 simple sentences in large font each page facing photo. Simple labeled photo of body parts, life cycle. 120 foot long jelly fish is longer than running to first base from home plate. Excellent for young children. More titles pictured on back cover: dolphins, octopuses, seahorses, tropical fish, whales.



Jellyfish by Jody S. Rake (Faceless, Spineless, and Brainless Ocean Animals; First Facts)

Contents, facts, glossary, read more, internet sites, critical thinking ideas using the Common Core, index. Great photos accompanied by simple brief text in large print. About 2nd grade reading level; Amazon.com says ages 6-8, grades 1-3, lexile 0540. Great read aloud (or browse, talk about pictures/summarize text) for younger children. Projects, games, etc. at www.capstonekids.com



Jellyfish by Mari Schuh (Sea Life series)

Note to Parents and Teachers, contents, glossary, read more, internet sites, index. Great, large photos. 3 simple sentences per page. "Word count 159, grade 1, early-intervention level 12." Other titles in the series listed on back cover: clown fish, regal tangs, sea stars.

(jellyfish—see Fishy Tales by DK Readers, pre-reader, under general animal books)



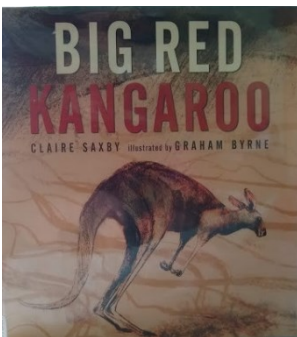
Kangaroos by Jill Esbaum (National Geographic Kids, Explore My World)

Range map, read Australian signs (with animal pictures). Great photos. Brief simple text in a large font. 1st -2nd grade reading level; Amazon.com says ages 3-7, grades pre-school to 2nd grade. Great read aloud for non-readers. Additional texts pictured on back cover: baby animals, planets, nighttime, a tree grows up, tigers . . . “and more”. 21 titles pictured at <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/series/EMW/explore-my-world>



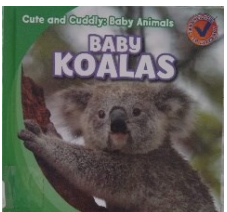
Kangaroos by Rose Davin (Meet Desert Animals)

Note to Parents and Teachers, contents, glossary, read more, internet sites, critical thinking using the common core questions, index. Great full-page photos, range map. Simple brief text in large font. 3-4 sentences per page. Grades 1-2 reading level. Weight comparison: a large human might be 200 lbs, show a beverage bottle that weighs 12 oz. Compare 1” on your finger, with a ruler. Other titles listed on back cover: armadillos, camels, lizards, ostriches, scorpions.



Big Red Kangaroo by Claire Saxby

Artistic illustrations for informative text in 2 size fonts, larger poetic language, and nearly as large italicized text with more condensed information. An adult male is as large as a large man. Beautiful language and artistic illustrations make this an engaging read aloud (at least for adults!), and the information is well-metted out. Index at the back.



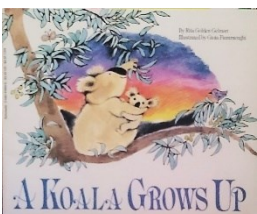
Baby Koalas by Katie Kawa (Cute and Cuddly: Baby Animals)

Content, words to know, index. Very simple sentences in very large font. 1-2 sentences per page. Great full-page photos, though the picture on p. 7 is a bit misleading . . . it's no longer the size of a jelly bean. Other titles in the series pictured on back cover: penguins, seals, ducklings, fawns, lambs.



Climb, Koala! By Jennifer Szymanski (National Geographic Kids pre-reader)

Vocabulary tree at the beginning, comparison of kids and koalas at the end (picture matching). Great photos accompany simple, very limited text in large font. About 1st grade reading level; great read-aloud and sharing with younger children. See <https://shop.nationalgeographic.com/collections/kids-books-kids-book-series>



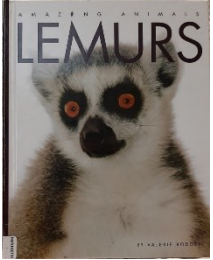
A Koala Grows Up by Rita Golden Gelman, Read-aloud for K-1, grades 2-3 reading level.

(kites (birds of prey)—see Eagle & Birds of Prey by Jemima Parry-Jones, under general animal books)



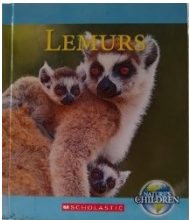
Ladybugs by Lisa J. Amstutz (Little Critters)

Contents, glossary, read more, internet sites, critical thinking using the common core questions, index. Great photos, Brief text, simple sentences (3 per page), in a large, easy-read font. Other titles listed on the back cover: ants, butterflies, earthworms.



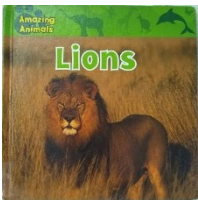
Lemurs by Valerie Bodden (Amazing Animals series)

Excellent photos. Brief text in very large type. About 2nd grade reading level. Great read aloud for younger children. Have a yardstick to show the size, and a 20 pound child or bag of potatoes to show weight. More books to read, websites, index at the end. 70 titles listed on the back cover, including at least one for each letter except: N, Q, U, X, Y.



Lemurs by Josh Gregory (Nature's Children)

Fact file, contents, words to know, habitat map, find out more, index. Great full page photos. Size compared to an adult human chart. Text appropriate for intermediate level readers, but younger children can browse/talk about the pictures, with an older person—who can briefly summarize the text. 57 titles listed on back cover, at least 1 for each letter, except e, i, n, q, u.



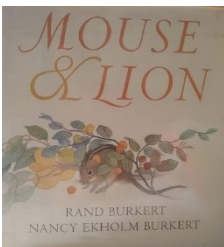
Lions by Sarah Albee (Amazing Animals)

Contents, glossary, show what you know, more info, index. Great mostly full-page photos, but others as well. Text appropriate for 2nd grade or so, but younger children can browse and discuss photos/information. A map of range. An adult male lion can weigh as much as 2-3 human adults. Nose to tail is as long as a small room. 30 titles listed on back cover.



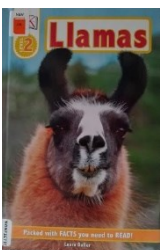
Go, Cub! (National Geographic Kids "Let's Play Collection", pre-reader)

4 books in one: otter, lion cub, puppy, kitten. "Pre-reader books are just right for kids who are ready to read." K to 1st grade reading level, perhaps with help/practice at first; great read aloud for younger children. Great photos can foster a lot of good conversation and thinking skills. Each story ends with a page for child interaction. Because this edition is a 4-in-one, it can easily be used for compare and contrast discussions.



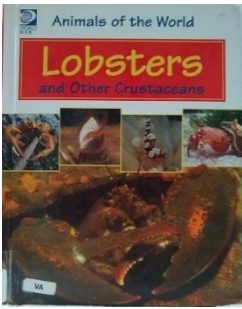
Mouse & Lion retold by Rand Burkert ("The Lion & the Mouse" fable of Aesop)

A beautiful picture book, great picturesque language. Set in Africa, rather than Greece. Not too much text for a young one to listen to, especially seeing the large illustrations. Story written in large letters.



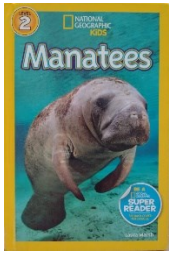
Llamas by Laura Buller (DK reader Level 2—beginning to read)

Contents, 5 chapters, Quiz, glossary. Great photos, range map with photos, graph of llamas and their relatives, and a chapter about them. Information about level 2 readers, and suggestions for adult interaction at the end. About a 2nd grade reading level, but fine to share with younger children. A few other titles pictured on the back cover.



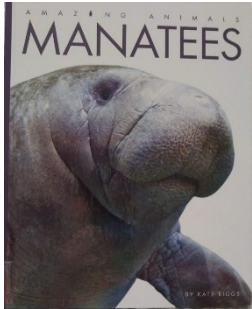
Lobsters and Other Crustaceans by Christina Johnson (World Book's Animals of the World) Contents, fun facts, glossary, index and resource list. Great full-page photos. Simple diagrams of the outside and inside of a lobster. Browse/talk about the pictures, summarize content for most primary grade learners. Appropriate reading for intermediate grades. A sample lobster, crab, crayfish, barnacle, and shrimp from the grocery store would be great—maybe a field trip to the store. Show that some lobsters can get bigger than a yardstick long, and can weigh as much as a 45 pound kid (or grocery item). Lists of 5 sets on back cover. (Lobsters in set 4, as well as quails & iguanas)

M



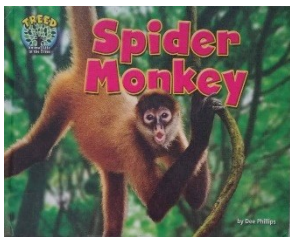
Manatees by Laura Marsh (National Geographic Kids Level 2 reader)

Contents, “Stump Your Parents” quiz, and pictured glossary at the end. “Level 2 Reading independently . . . books are perfect for kids who are ready for longer sentences and more complex vocabulary. New words are defined on the page, but occasional adult help might be welcome.” Humorous riddles, pictured size and weight comparisons, labeled picture manatee. Map of range. Written for 2nd grade readers, but good read aloud for younger children.



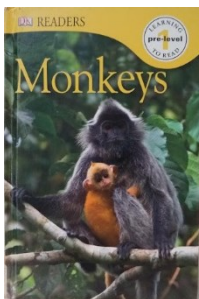
Manatees by Kate Riggs (Amazing Animals series)

Great full-page photos, Brief text in very large font, plus italicized captions, words defined on same page, You may need to think of things the same size and weight to compare (such as a small car), 68 degree water, a dish of food equal to 15% of the child’s weight, a friend or sibling that weighs about 60-70#, see how long you can hold your breath, see how far you can walk in 12 minutes (that’s 1/5 of an hour—a manatee can swim one mile in 12 minutes). More to read websites, index at the end. More titles in the series back cover—at least one for each letter of the alphabet except N, Q, U, X, and Y.



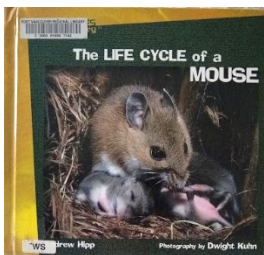
Spider Monkey by Dee Phillips (Treed: Animal Life in the Trees)

Contents, craft, glossary, index, more reading, website. Great full-page labeled photos, Main text simple sentences and large font, but young children may need help with vocabulary. About 2nd grade reading level. Map of range. Questions to stimulate thought before introducing that information. List of other titles in the series on back cover: Lemur, python, koala, owl, frog, kangaroo, woodpecker.



Monkeys (DK Readers Pre-Level 1)

“Learning to Read—high-frequency words; picture word strips, picture glossary, and simple index; labels to introduce and reinforce vocabulary; high level of adult participation helpful.” List of Pre-level 1 and Level 1 readers, and a Note to Parents at the front. Contents, pictured glossary and index. Great labeled photos. Variety of monkeys, pictured and labeled diet. Great read aloud for young children.

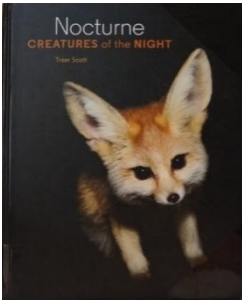


The Life Cycle of a Mouse by Andrew Hipp (The Life Cycles Library; PowerKids Press)

Contents, glossary, index, web sites. Great photos. Text in large font, about 2nd grade reading level; read aloud/talk about pictures/summarize for younger children. Other titles in the series listed on back cover: duck, earthworm, turtle, praying mantis, snail.

N

(Newts—see Amphibians by Sally Lee (Smithsonian Little Explorer series) under Animals, general)



Nocturne: Creatures of the Night by Traer Scott

Contents. Great photos. Read the text ahead and summarize for primary grades. 42 animals.

Wish List:

What Is a Narwhal? Board book –by Ginger Swift

I Am a Narwhal by Aaron Carr

I'm a Narwhal (Little Golden Book) by Mallory Loehr

Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea - a Smithsonian Oceanic Collection Book (Mini book) by Janet Halfmann

Narwhal (A Day in the Life: Polar Animals) by Katie Marsico

THE NARWHAL Do Your Kids Know This?: A Children's Picture Book (Amazing Creature Series)

(Volume 61) Paperback – December 29, 2016, by Tanya Turner

Narwhal Whale Up Close (Whales and Dolphins Up Close) by Jody S. Rake

Narwhals (The Whale Discovery Library) by Sarah Palmer

It's a Narwhal! (Bumba Books ® — Polar Animals) by Mari Schuh

Animals Illustrated: Narwhal by Solomon Awa

N is for Newt (DK Animal Alphabet Library), Board book. 16 pp. Simple but interesting info. An exciting series including an animal for each letter of the alphabet.

Newts And Other Amphibians (Scholastic News Nonfiction Readers) by Mary Schulte

Newts by Leo Statts (Zoom in on Swamp Animals)

Amazing Pictures and Facts About Newts: The Most Amazing Fact Book for Kids About Newts by Mina Kelly (Kid's U Presents), 23 pp Kindle edition

Newts and Salamanders: A Complete Pet Owner's Manual (Barrons)

Nautilus

by Susan Ternyey, 2020

Nautilus has a beautiful spiral shell. Inside the shell are chambers, meaning “rooms”. The nautilus lives in the first room. It can fill the other rooms with air or liquid to float upwards or to sink downwards in the ocean.

Interestingly, nautilus have blue blood. They breathe through gills, like fish do. Nautilus don’t have a brain like ours, they have a nerve ring that focuses on finding food and eating it. Nautilus have short memories, and no “higher learning”.

Nautilus is a mollusk, so it has a soft body without bones in it. Other mollusks are octopus, squid, sea slugs, oysters, and clams. Nautilus’ shell protects its body. It can hide in its shell and close the “door” when danger comes.

If Nautilus needs to escape, it can force a stream of liquid out a little tube called a “siphon” to jet propel itself away very fast: over 3 feet in only one second! Octopus, sharks, triggerfish, and sea turtles eat Nautilus, if they get a chance.

During the day Nautilus lives deep in the ocean near a coral reef. At night it comes up to feed in the shallower water of the coral reef. Using its many strong tentacles, it catches its food, then crushes and eats it with a powerful beak. Since it can swim without much effort, Nautilus only needs to eat about once a month. (caption: Nautilus may have as many as 90 tentacles. Its tentacles do not have suckers, but still have a super strong grip.)

When it’s a baby, Nautilus eats plankton, such as tiny shrimp. As an adult it eats larger crustaceans like crabs and larger shrimp, as well as fish. It also eats creatures that have died and fallen to the sea floor. (caption: if a nautilus lived on the ground floor of an apartment building at the bottom of the sea, it would be 150-180 stories to reach the surface of the sea!)

A mother nautilus hides her eggs among the rocks in shallow water. The eggs may not hatch for 8-12 months. Nautilus babies are only about the size of a quarter. As adults they are about 8-10 inches across, like a small dinner plate. (caption: nautilus can live about 16-20 years)

Called a “living fossil”, because nautilus have lived in the earth’s oceans since long before dinosaurs, and even before fish, they are one of few creatures that have survived for so long! In those earlier days some nautilus were as large as a small bedroom in a modern human house.

There are six species (kinds) of Nautilus. They live in the Pacific and Indian Oceans between 30 degrees north and 30 degrees south latitudes. (range map)

People all over the world like to collect nautilus shells for souvenirs or for carving. The inside layer of nautilus shells is sometimes used in place of pearl. Hundreds of years ago some artists made drinking cups with nautilus shells. Now countries have passed laws to protect nautilus.

A Nautilus Story

Can we learn anything from a nautilus? In the 1800s, a poet named Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr. wrote a poem “The Chambered Nautilus”. The word “nautilus” is from a Greek word meaning “sailor”. Perhaps he had found the broken shell of a nautilus, because Holmes’ poem speaks of the nautilus creature as a ship that was wrecked on a coral reef. He also speaks of how it had built its spiral shell home by adding new rooms and moving always to the last built, larger room. In the end of the poem, the poet wants to be like the nautilus, always building and moving toward a better life and self.

Read More

About Mollusks: A Guide for Children by Cathryn Sill, Atlanta, GA: Peachtree Publishing Company, 2008.

What Lives in a Shell? By Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld (Let’s Read and Find Out Science 1). New York, NY: HarperCollins US, 2015 (reissue).

Crabs & Mollusks by Brenda Ralph Lewis (Nature’s Monsters: Water Creatures). New York, NY: Gareth Stevens Publishing, 2006.

Websites

The National Aquarium, Baltimore. MD: chambered nautilus--interesting information and photographs.

- <https://www.aqua.org/Experience/Animal-Index/chambered-nautilus>

Monterey Bay Aquarium: chambered nautilus--more interesting facts and photos. They have published a video of a live nautilus on YouTube

- <https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/animals-a-to-z/chambered-nautilus>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qmE2gZMYC8A>

Science Friday: Teaching Ancient Nautilus New Tricks, by Luke Groskin, June 20, 2014

A 4 minute educational video with lots of interesting information and great video.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIheRYcm6sl>

Sources:

Sea and Sky: Chambered Nautilus

- <http://www.seasky.org/deep-sea/chambered-nautilus.html>

Aquarium of the Pacific: Chambered Nautilus

- https://www.aquariumofpacific.org/onlinelearningcenter/species/chambered_nautilus

Wikipedia: Nautilus

- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nautilus>

Newts

by Susan Ternyey, 2020

Newts are amphibians, like salamanders, but their skin is not as smooth. Other amphibians are frogs and toads. Amphibians need to live in moist places. Too much sun or wind can damage their skin or cause them to dry out.

Newts have interesting skin. Scientists shined blue light on newts, which glowed green through special lenses. Many newts secrete poison on their skin, but it's only poison if eaten. Garter snakes are not bothered by newt poison. (secrete: release or give off)

If a newt gets injured, it can regrow legs, eyes, a jaw, even a spinal cord, heart, or intestines! Scientists study newts to try to understand more about how animals or even humans might be able to regrow damaged body parts. Like other amphibians, newts grow and change through life stages: egg, larva, eft, and adult.

Young newts (larva) live in water. As they grow and develop, they move to land and are called efts. Efts have teeth. They breathe with gills that are outside their bodies.

Adult newts in America move back to the water. In Europe they live on land in damp habitats (places) with lots of plants to hide in. They return every year to the water to breed. North of the equator newts breed in June or July.

The mother newt lays one egg at a time on the underside of a leaf hanging over the water. Then she folds the leaf over the egg. In about 3 weeks the eggs hatch and the babies drop into the pond. Through the next few months, the young newts grow legs, and their gills become lungs inside their bodies.

Newts are carnivores all their lives. In the water they eat small shrimp, insect larvae, tadpoles, water insects, and other small creatures. On land newts eat slugs, worms, amphibian eggs, and insects. (carnivore: an animal that eats other animals for food)

While young newts live in the water, they are prey to fish. Adult newts are prey to foxes, snakes, and herons. Newts are an important link in the chain of life. (prey: food for another creature)

Common newts are 7-11 cm (3-4 inches), and weigh 10-50 grams (from about a third of an ounce to not quite 2 ounces). That's a little more than 2 or 3 paper clips long, and 10-50 paperclips heavy. The largest amphibian in Britain, the Great Crested Newt, can get twice as large as other newts (18 cm, 7 inches), and live as long as 15 years. There are hundreds of species (kinds) of newts living in North America, Europe, North Africa, and Asia.

Some people like to keep newts as pets. They are small and quiet, and can be kept in an aquarium with soil and plants. But newts have sensitive skin and are not for petting. It's important to learn how to care for a pet before you get one. (caption: popular species of newts for pets are firebellied newts, paddle-tail newts, and crocodile newts)

A Newt Story

Can a newt fall in love? People from the Baltic told this story. Once a woman raised a flea so large, she made a pair of shoes for her daughter from its skin. She said, "Whoever can guess what her shoes are made from, can marry my daughter." No one could guess, until a newt said, "They are made from the skin of a flea!"

So, the daughter was wed to the newt, who took her to his castle by the sea. After a long time, she wanted to take her children and visit her parents. The newt told her, "When you return, call out from the edge of the sea, 'Newt, if you live, let a whirlpool of milk rise up from the sea. If you are dead, let blood rise up.' And I will come meet you."

When the newt's wife wanted to return home, her parents didn't want her to go. They tricked the youngest child into telling the special words to say for the newt to appear. They went to the sea, called out the words, the newt appeared, and the father shot him.

The next day when the wife came and called out to the newt, blood rose up from the sea. She was so upset that she chose to become a cuckoo, and ever after calls for her beloved newt.

Source:

<https://www.fairytalechannel.com/2008/07/fairy-tale-of-newt-and-cuckoo.html>

Read More

Salamanders by Robin Nelson (First Step Nonfiction, Animal Life Cycles). Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publishing Group, Inc., 2009.

The Salamander Room by Anne Mazer, Decorah, IA: Dragonfly Books, 1994.

Websites

A – Z Animals: newt--more information and photo of a newt.

- <https://a-z-animals.com/animals/newt/>

One Kind Planet: Amazing Facts about the Newt--list of facts, a photo, and a list of quick facts about newts.

- <https://onekindplanet.org/animal/newt/>

Live Science: newt--photos and more information.

- <https://www.livescience.com/58396-newt-facts.html>

Sources:

National Geographic: amphibians

- <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/amphibians/>

Smithsonian Magazine: In Blue Light, Most Amphibians Have a Neon-Green Glow, by Theresa Machemer, Feb 28, 2020

- <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/fluorescence-surprisingly-common-amongamphibians-180974307/>

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife: Salamanders and Newts

- <https://myodfw.com/wildlife-viewing/species/salamanders-and-newts>

Wonderopolis: What is a Newt?

- <https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/what-is-a-newt>

Sandiego Zoo: Salamander and Newt

- <https://animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/salamander-and-newt>

Wikipedia: Newt

- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newt>

Nightingale

by Susan Ternyey, 2020

Nightingale is a robin-sized bird famous for its beautiful song. The name “nightingale” means “night singer”. Nightingales sing in the day as well as the night, but you may hear them better at night when there is less noise. (Old English “galen” means “to sing”)

Nightingales live alone except when they have a family. For hundreds of years nightingales were symbols of love, because of their beautiful song. Writers imagined that it was the lady nightingale that sang. Now we know differently.

It is the male nightingale that sings to attract (invite) a female to join him in creating a family. Nightingales breed in forest and scrub lands in Europe and Asia. They migrate (move) to Africa in winter where it is warmer. In the spring nightingales fly north again to nest.

Nightingales build their nests on or near the ground where plants are close so they can hide. Mother bird lays 2-6 eggs in her cup-shaped nest. After only a couple weeks or so, chicks hatch from the eggs. Father nightingale feeds his mate while she sits on the eggs, then he helps feed the chicks. Baby nightingales live in the nest for 10 or 12 days. After they leave the nest, they learn to fly in about 3 to 5 days. The parents still take care of their young for 2 to 4 more weeks, until they can live on their own.

Nightingales only live for 2-3 years. Like robins, nightingales eat fruit, seeds, and insects. They are prey to cats, rats, foxes, lizards, snakes, and larger birds. You may hear them, but it will be hard to spot them because they keep hidden.

One reason nightingales can hide so well is that they are not very colorful. They are mostly brown, with a reddish tail, and light grey streaks on their underside. They have pointed beaks. It would be difficult to tell the male and the female apart.

The song of the nightingale has inspired poets, storytellers, and other writers. They have inspired music writers. They have even inspired philosophers and scientists. Even though they look very ordinary, they have had an extraordinary influence. (extraordinary: beyond what is usual or expected)

Nightingales have even inspired nations. They are the national bird of Croatia and Iran, and the national animal of Ukraine. Being small and ordinary doesn't mean you can't have a powerful influence on others. (influence: affect others)

In the past, it was popular to keep nightingales in a cage. But the birds would kill themselves crashing against the cage, trying to obey their instinct to migrate. It's best to let wild animals live in the wild. (instinct: a natural way of behaving, without thinking about it)

A Nightingale Story from Ukraine

Long ago, it is said, nightingales only lived in India. They flew around the world to collect songs for their king. When a nightingale visited Ukraine, there were no happy songs, because life was so hard. The bird cheered them with its delightful singing, and the people were made glad. They began to sing cheerful songs. Every spring nightingales return to Ukraine in the spring to hear their happy songs. In Ukrainian culture the nightingale is a holy messenger of Spring and of the gods. Its song brings a message of love, kindness, happiness, good fortune. Of course, “Nightingale” is a word of praise for a talented singer.

Read More

Birds: Explore Nature with Fun Facts and Activities (Nature Explorers). London, England: Dorling Kindersley, 1992-2017.

The Emperor and the Nightingale by Rosie Dickins. London, UK: Usborne Publishing, 2011. This is the classic story by Hans Christian Anderson in simple text for beginning readers.

Websites:

A-Z Animals.com: nightingale

- <https://a-z-animals.com/animals/nightingale/> Fact list, map, article, photo.

SoftSchools.com Nightingale Facts-- A short paragraph, then a list of interesting facts.

- https://www.softschools.com/facts/animals/nightingale_facts/2710/

Wildaboutimages, photography by Paul Bunyard--Videos of nightingales singing.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TepTnIERuRo>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnjAtIWvzDQ>

Sources

Discover Wildlife: 10 amazing facts about nightingales and the best places to see them

List of facts, several photos. BBC Wildlife magazine published under license from the BBC.

- <https://www.discoverwildlife.com/animal-facts/birds/facts-about-nightingale/>

Wikipedia: common nightingale

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_nightingale

Kiddle Kids Encyclopedia: List of National Birds Facts for Kids

Chart with countries/flags, national bird, scientific name, whether official or not, and photo.

- https://kids.kiddle.co/List_of_national_birds

Bird Eden: A List of national Birds of All Countries With Stunning Pictures; great photos.

- <https://birdeden.com/list-of-national-birds-of-all-countries>

Ukrainian mythology, culture and history, posted April 13, 2014 "Sacred and Magical Birds: Nightingales"

- <https://www.facebook.com/1421520308097908/posts/sacred-and-magical-birds-nightingalea-name-ofthis-little-singing-bird-comes-fro/1423806744535931/>

Proud of Ukraine, All you wanna know about Ukraine: Ukrainian animal and bird symbols

Several animals that are meaningful to Ukrainians, with photos and information.

- <https://proudofokraine.com/ukrainian-animal-and-bird-symbols/>

Wikipedia: National symbols of Ukraine--flag, coat of arms, national anthem (w/sound), greeting, colors, patron, poet, musical instrument, food, sport, dance, liquor, plant, animal (nightingale), with pictures.

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_symbols_of_Ukraine

Numbat

by Susan Ternyey

Numbat is from Australia. (map Australia, range of Numbats)

Like some other animals of Australia, Numbat is a marsupial. Its pouch is more like a fold of skin that protects its baby as it grows.

About the size of a squirrel, Numbat's tail can be a furry curl like a squirrel's.

With a long, sticky tongue Numbat eats termites, which are the only food it likes. It doesn't have to drink.

People saw it licking up little insects for food, and stripes on its back, so they called it a banded anteater. It's also known as walpurti.

A hollow eucalyptus log, or a burrow, makes a nice woodland home to nest in. Little nearby clearings are warm enough for termites to be bustling about, providing lunch.

Since termites are only out and about during the day, so are numbats. If the day gets too hot, they each take a midday break to stay cool.

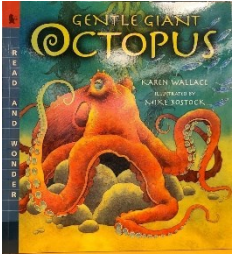
Numbat lives alone unless it's mating time. Only the mother lives with the babies until they are grown enough to go out on their own.

Sitting up like a meerkat, Numbat watches for danger. If danger comes, it either keeps very still, or makes a run for cover.

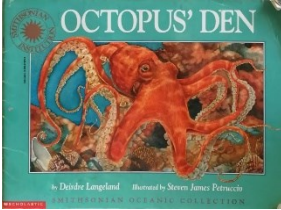
There are not many numbats left. Their natural enemies are large birds, snakes, and goannas. But foxes and feral cats have become a problem for them, as well as loss of habitat.

Sources:

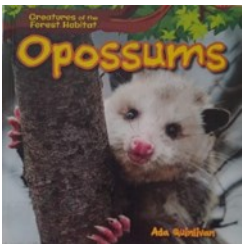
- <http://www.numbat.org.au/thenumbat>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Numbat>
- <https://www.australianwildlife.org/wildlife/numbat/>
- <https://a-z-animals.com/animals/numbat/>
- <https://www.wwf.org.au/what-we-do/species/numbat>



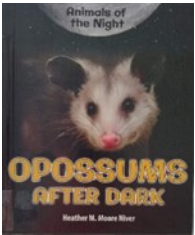
Gentle Giant Octopus by Karen Wallace; (Read and Wonder)
32 pp, AD680Lexile, suitable for 4-8 years



Octopus' Den by Deirdre Langeland (Smithsonian Oceanic Collection; Scholastic)
32 pp, appropriate for ages 4-5



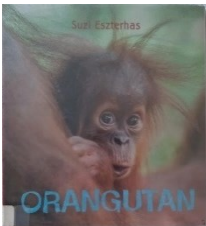
Opossums by Ada Quinlivan (Creatures of the Forest Habitat)
Contents, glossary, index, websites. Great full-page photos. Text may need to be summarized for younger children, or talk about the pictures. About 2nd grade reading level. Other titles in the series listed on back cover: bobcats, foxes, porcupines, skunks, wild boars.



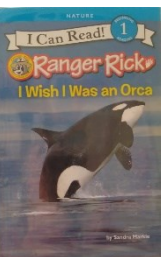
Opossums After Dark by Heather M. Moore Niver (Animals of the Night)
Words to know, contents, learn more, index. Good large pictures. Text may need to be summarized for younger children, or talk about the pictures. Grade 2-3 text in medium large font. Page 26 says that a **yapok** is a kind of opossum (good to know if you need an animal that starts with Y). Safety rules for opossums. Other titles in the series pictured on back cover: badgers, coyotes, foxes, skunks, wolves.



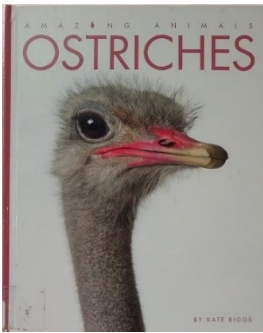
Cork & Fuzz Wait A Minute by Dori Chaconas (Penguin Young Readers Level 3 Transitional Reader; Guided Reading Level J; 9th of a series) Letter to parents and educators at beginning. 4 chapters. Cork is a muskrat, Fuzz is a possum. They are best friends. Cork knows how to wait, Fuzz is impatient. They have an adventure with what they think is a sun egg, but when it pops they decide it must be a sun seed, so they plant it hoping for a sun flower to grow. Humor, friendship, hypothesizing, patience . . .



Orangutan by Suzi Eszterhas (Eye on the Wild series)
About 2nd grade reading level, read aloud for younger children. Great photos. More about orangutans at the end. Additional titles listed on back cover; brown bear, cheetah, gorilla, lion, sea otter.



I Wish I was an Orca by Sandra Markle (I can Read! Level 1; Ranger Rick, Nature ; guided reading level M) "Simple sentences for eager new readers". Starts out with questions to engage the reader, continues with questions for the reader to relate to the text. More facts, a learning activity, website, and glossary at the end. Great pictures, simple brief text in a large font.



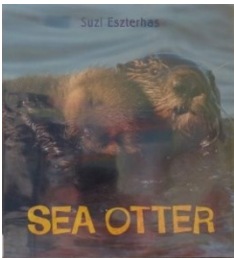
Ostriches by Kate Riggs (Amazing Animals)

Great photos, brief text in large font, beside captions and definitions. About 2nd grade reading level. Compare the speed of a car in a 45 mph zone. 9' tall is taller than a tall man. 300 lbs would be a very large human. Compare 7 pounds of food to eat. 12 eggs is a whole dozen. Not mentioned is the size of the eggs (about 6" long x 5" wide, weigh about 3 pounds (find something/s that weigh 3 lbs around the house). Almost a range map—map of Africa without labeling. More to read, websites, and index at end.



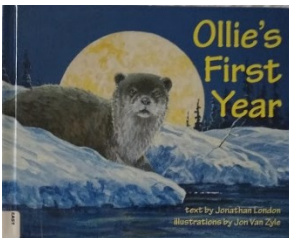
Peek Otter! (National Geographic Kids "Let's Play Collection", pre-reader)

4 books in one: otter, lion cub, puppy, kitten. "Pre-reader books are just right for kids who are ready to read." K to 1st grade reading level, perhaps with help/practice at first; great read aloud for younger children. Great photos can foster a lot of good conversation and thinking skills. Each story ends with a page for child interaction. Because this edition is a 4-in-one, it can easily be used for compare and contrast discussions.



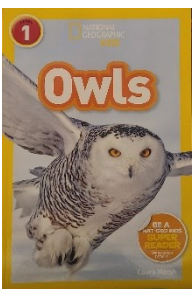
Sea Otter by Suzi Eszterhas (Eye on the Wild series)

Great large pictures. Brief text in a very large font. Read aloud for young children, about a 2nd grade reading level. More information at the end. Other titles in the series listed on back cover: brown bear, cheetah, gorilla, lion, orangutan.

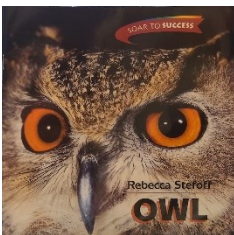


Ollie's First Year by Jonathan London

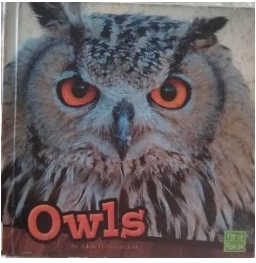
Great illustrations, engaging realistic story of the life of a river otter. Brief text in large font. About 2nd grade reading level. Good read aloud for younger children. Nice following of the seasons. Author's note at the end gives more information.



Owls by Laura Marsh, National Geographic Kids level 1. 32 pp, contents, 10 chapters, Q&A some pages, photo with parts labeled, fairly comprehensive info, find the photo, word bank, picture glossary, more titles inside back cover.



Owl by Rebecca Stefoff; Houghton Mifflin Soar to Success, 32 pp, great photos, brief text in large font, more info at the end, Find out more, index.



Owls by Adele D. Richardson (First Facts, Birds)

Contents, glossary, read more, internet sites, index. About 2nd grade reading level. Read aloud for younger children. Great labeled photos, map of range, various kinds of owls pictured. Opt: have a 10 lb and a 1 lb bag of sugar, a tape measure, a calendar to count weeks. Other titles listed on back cover: eagles, falcons, hawks, parrots, vultures.



Hoot, Owl! By Shelby Alinsky (National Geographic Kids Pre-reader)

“Pre-reader books are just right for kids who are ready to read.” Contains some fairly difficult vocabulary for an emergent reader. Great read aloud for young children. Vocabulary tree at the beginning. Great photos, limited text in large print. An activity at the end asks the child to act out owl behavior, and to draw a picture.

(ospreys and owls—see Eagle & Birds of Prey by Jemima Parry-Jones, under general animal books)

(octopus—see Fishy Tales by DK Readers, pre-reader, under general animal books)



Giant Pandas by Trudi Strain Trueit (Wild Bears series)

Contents, panda stats, words to know, learn more, index. Great full-page photos, brief text, simple sentences in a large font. Compare size to a big man, child 3-4' tall. Have a sample of bamboo if possible. Set 40 pounds of food on the table. Other titles in the series pictured on back cover: black bears, grizzlies, polar bears, sloth bears, spectacled bears, and sun bears. Great opportunity to compare and contrast.



Giant Pandas by Gail Gibbons

Large illustrations, appropriately labeled. Brief text in large font. Includes a map of panda range now and then, more facts at the end. Not Ms. Gibbons best illustrations, but informative text. About 2nd grade reading level, a read aloud to younger children. Other titles by the author listed inside back jacket.

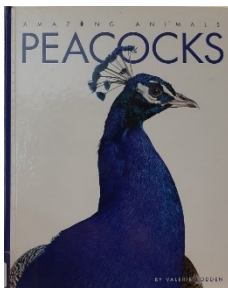


Panda Bears by Mary Austen (Bears of the World series)

Contents, glossary, index, websites. Great photos. Text may need to be summarized for younger children, or talk about the pictures. Written about a 2nd grade level reading. Map of range included, chart of diet. Other titles in the series listed on back cover: black bears, brown bears, polar bears.

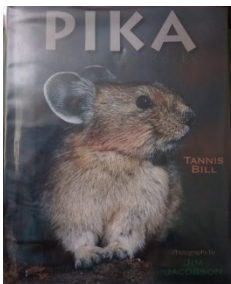


Cute and Cuddly: Baby Animals—Baby Penguins by Katie Kawa (other titles picture on back cover). Excellent full page photos faced by 1-2 sentences of informative text in a very large font. Table of Contents, Words to Know, and Index.



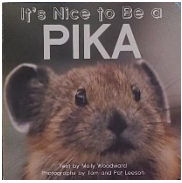
Peacocks by Valerie Bodden (Amazing Animals series)

Excellent photos. Brief text in very large type. About 2nd grade reading level. Great read aloud for younger children. You can show with a tape measure how long a feather can be. A toddler or a 15 lb bag of potatoes can show the approximate weight. Think of a place you go locally to give an idea of 5 miles. More books to read, websites, index at the end. 70 titles listed on the back cover, including at least one for each letter except: N, Q, U, X, Y.



Pika: Life in the Rocks by Tannis Bill

Great large photos. Brief text, simple sentences, in large font. About 2nd grade reading level; great read aloud for younger children. After "The End" are more pika facts, including a map of pika range, pictured predators, books and websites, notes for older readers, and pika words.



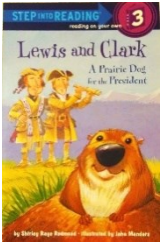
It's Nice to Be a Pika by Molly Woodward

Board book, very limited text in a large font with extra info in small text. Reading level grade 1. More titles pictured on back cover.



Platypus by Sue Whiting

Story-like text, fairly realistic illustrations. Read aloud. About 2nd grade reading level, large font. Have a tape measure to show size, or compare to adult elbow to fingertip. What other animals do you see in the pictures? More info and index at the end.

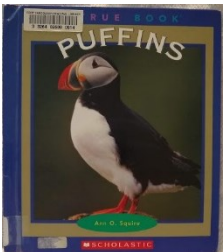


Lewis and Clark: A Prairie Dog for the President by Shirley Raye Redmond, Step into Reading level 3



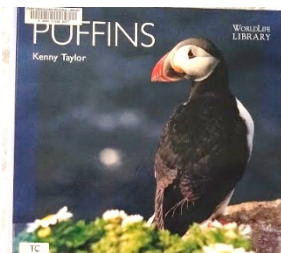
Puffins by Maya Myers (National Geographic Kids, Pre-reader)

Vocabulary Tree at front, activity at the back. Explanation of reading levels on back cover. Great photos, one simple sentence per page. Good for 1st grade readers. Excellent.



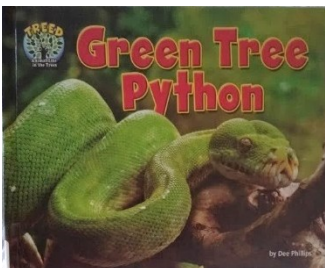
Puffins by Ann O. Squire (Scholastic True Books)

Contents, find out more, important words, index. Great photos. About 2nd grade level reading. May be read aloud or summarized for younger children, perhaps in more than one setting, depending on attention span. Additional titles listed on back cover: Beluga Whales, Lemmings, Moose, Penguins, Polar Bears.



Puffins by Kenny Taylor (WorldLife Library)

Contents, puffin facts and distribution maps, index. Great photos—way too much text for primary grades, but you can talk about the photos, and if you've read ahead, summarize for the children. Great range maps of 3 species at the end show breeding area and normal winter range.



Green Tree Python by Dee Phillips (Treed: Animal Life in the Trees)

Contents, science lab, science words, index, read more, online. Great labeled photos, range map. 1st to 2nd grade reading level, large text. Questions and activities to engage the child. Would be great to read along with Verdi by Janell Cannon. Additional titles in the series listed on back cover: flying lemur, koala, spider monkey, spotted owl, tree frog, tree kangaroo, woodpecker.

Q

(queen bee, hornet—pp 8-10, 19 Bees & Wasps by S.L. Hamilton (Xtreme Insects) under W)

Wish List

Q is for Quokka (DK The Animal Alphabet Library) Board book; great little book with lots of info in few words, part of a series that includes a book for each letter of the alphabet.

Quokka by Grace Hansen (Australian Animals, Abdo Kids)

Quail

by Susan Ternyey, 2020

Wild quail live in grasslands, scrub, and farmlands of Asia, Europe, Africa, Australia, and America. In some places they may live in woodlands. A group of quail is called a covey. Like chickens, a male is a cock, the mother is a hen, and the babies are chicks. (scrub: a dry area of low woody plants and grasses)

Quail hens lay 6-15, some even 20, spotted eggs in a ground nest clutch. Both the hens and cocks keep their eggs warm. The chicks hatch in about 16 days to 4 weeks. Quail chicks are only as big as a bumblebee. (clutch: a nest full of eggs the hen lays, one a day, to raise as a group. Some females raise 3 clutches per year.)

An adult quail may be about as long as a robin. It's wingspan can be twice as wide as a robin's. But it also weighs more than twice as much as a robin. Quail run and hide better than they can fly. (wingspan: a measure of the out-stretched wings of a bird, from tip to tip)

Many animals like to eat quail, such as bobcats, coyotes, fox, raccoons, opossums, hawks, owls, and humans. If it has to get away in a hurry, a quail can run up to 15 miles per hour, or fly a short distance up to 40 miles per hour. But mostly quail keep to their coveys, as well as hide, for safety.

Quail face many dangers beside being eaten. Winter storms, fires, floods, and droughts are natural disasters that can be deadly. Human dangers include cars on the road, lawn mowers, and loss of habitat. (drought: a time of little rain)

Baby quail follow their parents and stay close to them. Parents feed the baby quail beetles, worms, caterpillars, and grasshoppers. As adults, quail scratch around in the dirt like chickens, eating seeds, leaves, grass, berries, and some eat cactus, if it's around. Some species (kinds) of quail are active in the day, some at night.

Quails keep their feathers clean by taking dust baths. Quails can be brown, black, grey, and also have white and blue feathers. Some have a pattern on their feathers. Some have a topknot, or a teardrop shaped plume, on their heads. (plume: a group of feathers on top like a hat)

There are about 130 species (kinds) of quail. The 95 species of Old World quail are a little different from the 32 species of New World quail. New World quail look more like Old World partridges. Male quail may sit a little higher off the ground, such as on a fence, to attract female attention.

Quail and partridges are part of the pheasant family. Peacocks are also members of the pheasant family. Some scientists even consider turkeys and chickens as part of the pheasant family. What do you think?

Some people have quail farms to sell eggs, and quail for eating, like tiny chickens. Some people have quail pets. Quail don't get sick as much as chickens. Pet quail need fresh food, water, a clean safe place to live, and sand for dust baths.

The Quarrel of the Quails, an Arabic Story—how can cooperating help us?

Once a covey of quails was fortunate to have a wise leader. He saw that a quail catcher was using a quail call to gather all the quails and throw a net over them. Then he would take them to market to sell. The quail leader said, “When he throws the net over the group, everyone put their heads through the holes of the net and fly away together. Land on a thorny bush, slip out of the net and get away.” This worked very well until misunderstandings and arguments arose and the quail quit working together. Once again, they were caught and sold in the market.

Read More

Quails! by Becky Wolff; Learn About Quails and Enjoy Colorful Pictures. Amazon Kindle, 2012. Informative with, 50 high quality photos, fun facts.

Birds by Sara Parvis; PBS KIDS Look and Learn. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2016. 64-page book with fun facts and photos, packaged with binoculars.

Websites

National Geographic Kids: California Quail—Information, photo.

- <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/california-quail/>

Cornell University, The Cornell Lab: California Quail

Information, great photos, range maps, videos, sound.

- https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/California_Quail/id

Sources:

American Expedition!: Quail Information, Photos, Artwork, and Facts—great info & photos.

- <https://forum.americanexpedition.us/quail-information-facts-photos-and-artwork>

Cornell University, The Cornell Lab

Includes video with sound, pictures and links to other species of quail, and more to read.

- https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Gambels_Quail/lifehistory

World Animal Foundation: quails

- <https://www.worldanimalfoundation.com/advocate/wildanimals/params/post/1275458/quails>

Encyclopedia Britannica: quail—article, same 3 photos as below.

- <https://www.britannica.com/animal/quail>

Britannica Kids: quail and partridge

Comparison of quail and partridges, members of the same pheasant family. 3 photos.

- <https://kids.britannica.com/students/article/quail-and-partridge/276606>

National Geographic: Do Partridges Really Live in Pear Trees?—answers an age-old question.

- <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2017/12/animals-birds-holiday-culture-christmas/>

Missouri Department of Conservation, Xplor Magazine for Kids: A Quail of a Tale, Nov 1, 2018

Article about the life of bobwhite quails, written engagingly as a story. Photos include nest, eggs, babies, predators.

- <https://mdc.mo.gov/xplor/2018-11/quail-tale>

Quetzals

by Susan Ternyey

Quetzals are some of the most beautiful birds in the world. They are very colorful, with feathers of shimmering greens, blues, and reds. The tail feathers of the males may be 2-3 feet long! They were sacred birds to the Maya and Aztec people of ancient Central America.

Mayan and Aztec royals and priests could wear quetzal feathers for special ceremonies or events. They did not kill the birds, they took some of their feathers, then let the birds go. Ancient people of America even used quetzal feathers for money, and they were a symbol of wealth. Today in Guatemala, a country of Central America, their money is called “quetzals”.

Quetzal feathers are elegant, but they are not used much for flying. Quetzals live high in the tropical mountain rainforests. There, long feathers can get in the way of flying. Long feathers don't fit well into the quetzal's tree-hole homes, either. (caption: quetzals have 2 toes facing forward, 2 toes facing backward)

Quetzals are the largest of the trogon family of birds, growing up to 16” (40 cm) long, beside their tails. Trogons are brightly colored birds that live in warmer climates in Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Quetzals only live in America: from Mexico to Bolivia. There are 5 species (kinds) of quetzals. (climate: a place with a certain kind of weather patterns)

Quetzals migrate between the “cloud forests” and the medium high mountainsides. They live in holes near the tops of dead standing trees. Their strong beaks are well-suited to make their own nest holes. Yet they often use or adapt holes made by woodpeckers. (migrate: move from one home to another)

Most of the time quetzals live alone. The males grow long tails, once they are at least 3 years old. When they are 5-6 years old, they may look for a mate in March through June. They are usually quiet, but they may make a whistling sound to claim their territory.

The males do a dance to interest the females. If the female likes her partner's dance, she might dance the same moves. After the parents make a nest hole in a tall tree, far above the ground, the mother lays 2-3 light blue roundish eggs without anything to soften the floor of the nest. Both parents incubate the eggs. (incubate: keep the babies warm)

After about 17-18 days chicks hatch from the eggs. Then mother and father take turns feeding them first insects, then other small animals. Adult quetzals eat mostly fruit, but they will sometimes eat insects, lizards, frogs, or other small animals. The parents keep their nest very clean.

When the chicks are about 3 weeks old, they learn to fly. As they get good at it, they leave the nest, but stay near their parents awhile longer. Quetzals must watch out for kinkajous, eagles, and owls that will prey on them. (prey: to hunt another animal)

One problem for quetzals is the loss of their habitat. Many quetzals are caught and kept to attract tourists or to sell as pets. Quetzals do not make good pets because they don't live long in cages. They are a symbol of freedom to many freedom-loving people. (habitat: the kind of place where an animal or plant lives)

A Quetzal Story from Guatemala

When the Spanish made war with the natives of Central America, some of the battles were very bloody. After one terrible battle quetzal birds came to rest on the Mayan warriors who had been killed. According to the legend, the quetzals' breast feathers were stained red in the blood of the Mayans, and that's how quetzals got their red breasts.

Many of the native people living Central America, long before the Spanish came, believed in a very important “feathered snake” (or “plumed serpent”) god named Quetzalcoatl. Some believe this god may have been inspired by the quetzal bird.

Read More

Facts about the Quetzal by Lisa Strattin (A Picture Book for Kids). Independently published, 2019. Paperback version includes some coloring pages.

Quetzal: Sacred Bird of the Forest by Dorothy Hinshaw, New York: Harper Collins, 1996. Facts, folklore, and colored pencil illustrations.

Websites

Enchanted Learning: quetzal--printout for quetzals, with a picture to color and brief information. Enchanted Learning also has a printout for kinkajou and other tropical rainforest animals.

- <https://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/birds/printouts/Quetzalcoloring.shtml>

The Internet Bird Collection: Family Trogons (Trogonidae) Videos, photos, and sounds of birds related to quetzals.

- <https://www.hbw.com/ibc/family/trogons-trogonidae>

Sources:

Animals Network Editors. "Quetzal" Animals.Net. copyright 2018
Information, symbols, legend, several photos.

- <https://animals.net/quetzal/> (accessed March 28, 2020)

National Geographic: resplendent quetzal--facts, article, good photos.

- <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/r/resplendent-quetzal/>

American Bird Conservancy: resplendent quetzal--includes a video, article, range map, and a sound recording of a Resplendent Quetzal.

- <https://abcbirds.org/bird/resplendent-quetzal/>

Dayer, A. A. (2010). Resplendent Quetzal (*Pharomachrus mocinno*), version 1.0. In Neotropical Birds Online (T. S. Schulenberg, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. Neotropical Birds has become part of Birds of the World, a subscription site (scholarships available).

- <https://doi.org/10.2173/nb.resque1.01>

University of Michigan, Museum of Zoology: resplendent quetzal--lots of information, references, no great picture.

- https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Pharomachrus_mocinno/

Rafferty, John P (2019). Quetzal. Encyclopedia Britannica--information, short article, 2 photos, related article trogon.

- <https://www.britannica.com/animal/quetzal> (accessed March 28, 2020)

Wikipedia: quetzal--short article, photo, facts, related article Resplendent quetzal.

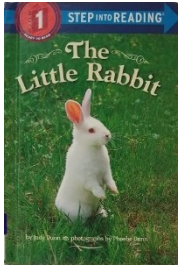
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quetzal>

R



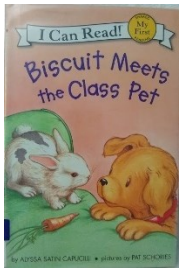
Rabbits by G.G. Lake (Woodland Wildlife series)

Contents, glossary, more to read, websites, Common Core critical thinking questions, index. Note to parents and teachers at beginning. Great full-page photos, rabbit range map. 3 simple sentences per page in large font. About 1st grade reading level, great read aloud for younger children. Other titles in the series listed on back cover: gray squirrels, North American black bears, raccoons, red foxes, white-tailed deer.



The Little Rabbit by Judy Dunn (Step into Reading level 1, Ready to Read)

Letter to parents at the front explains the levels—Level 1 “Rady to Read, Preschool-Kindergarten; big type and easy words, rhyme and rhythm, picture clues. For children who know the alphabet and are eager to begin reading.” A fairly realistic story about a pet rabbit. Great photos, 1 sentence per page.



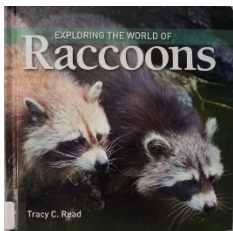
Biscuit Meets the Class Pet by Alyssa Satin Capucilli (I Can Read! My First—Shared Reading)

“Ideal for sharing with emergent readers” The class pet, a bunny, is visiting Biscuit’s home. Bunny explores, and Biscuit isn’t sure he wants to share his things with the visitor. Gentle humor. An opportunity to explore meeting/hosting visitors, sharing, comparing bunnies and puppies as pets, pets in general—how to choose one appropriate for home or classroom, etc. Additional titles inside back cover/jacket.



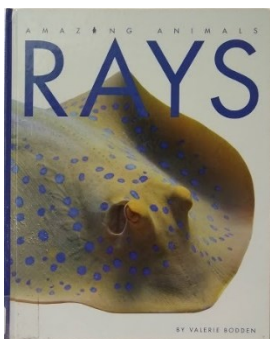
Raccoons by G. G. Lake (Woodland and Wildlife set—other titles listed on back cover)

Table of Contents, chapters, glossary, more info, internet sites, critical thinking using the Common Core, index. Excellent full page photos, brief informative text in large font. Page 11 has a “Raccoon Range Map”.



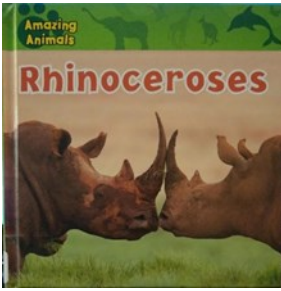
Exploring the World of Raccoons by Tracy C. Read (A Firefly Book)

Contents, index. Great photos. Text geared more for intermediate grades, a good browsing book for younger children. A “Raccoon Facts” page, a page of senses, photos of “what’s on the menu?”, photos of predators, encapsulate a lot. The photos give a lot to talk about.

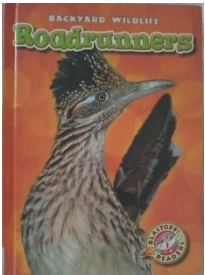


Rays by Valerie Bodden (Amazing Animals series)

Great photos. Brief text in large print, plus captions and word definitions. About 2nd grade reading level. Read aloud for younger children. To show size, have a 25’ tape measure (4” to 22”). Relate speed to a car, or about as fast as a fast human runner. Sources of more info and index at back. 70 titles in the series listed on back cover, at least one for each letter except: N, Q, U, X, and Y.

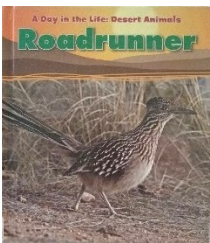


Rhinoceroses by Justine Ciovacco (Gareth Stevens Publishing Amazing Animals)
Contents, glossary, show what you know, more info, index. Great photos, grade 2-3 level reading. Fine as a read-aloud. Additional titles listed on back cover: baboons, birds, cheetahs, Gorillas, kangaroos, raccoons, seals, sheep, wolves.



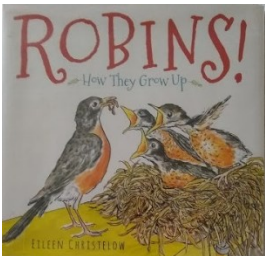
Roadrunners by Megan Borgert-Spaniol (Blastoff Readers Level 1)

Note to Librarians, Teachers, and Parents at the front explains reading levels: "Level 1 provides the most support through repetition of high-frequency words, light text, predictable sentence patterns, and strong visual support." Contents, glossary, to learn more, index. Great photos, brief text in large font. Pictured prey and predators. 38 additional titles on back cover. At least one title for each letter except: I, J, K, L, N, Q, U, V, X, Y, Z. Excellent.



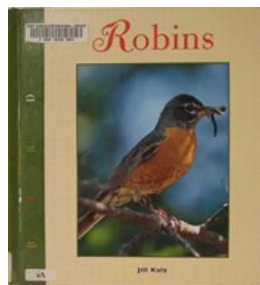
Roadrunner by Anita Ganeri (A Day in the Life: Desert Animals)

Contents, body map, glossary, find out more, index. Range map. Great photos. Brief text in large font. 1st to 2nd grade reading level. Excellent. Additional titles listed on back cover: Arabian oryx, Bactrian camel, fennec fox, gila monster, meerkat, red kangaroo, scorpion.



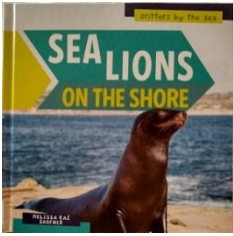
Robins! How They Grow Up by Eileen Christelow

Great illustrations closely follow the life of robins. About 2nd grade reading level in large font. Talk about pictures/summarize text with younger children. Great following of the seasons. Author's note, glossary, more about robins, sources.

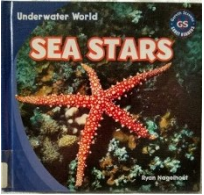


Robins by Jill Kalz

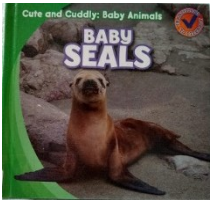
Contents, additional information, index. Great photos, though not as many as hoped. Read aloud, not large print. Have a ruler to show size. Possibly a line drawing for children to color in as you read esp. p. 8. Imagine if you ate half your weight each day! Compare speed to a car in a 35 mph zone. Could you run that fast? When you are inside the car, it may not seem fast, but if you are watching it go by it's a different story. 12 days incubation is not quite 2 weeks. The activity at the end suggests "fishing" for paper worms while kneeling on a chair . . . perhaps would be better standing or sitting. Not mentioned is the size of the egg, which is about half as long, and half as wide as a medium chicken egg.



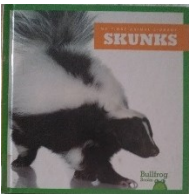
Sea Lions on the Shore by Melissa Rae Shofner (Critters by the Sea series, additional titles listed on back cover. Table of Contents, 2 page chapters, glossary, index, websites. About a second grade reading level. For Kindergarteners, you may need to summarize, or don't read the whole book at once. Good pictures, and good information.



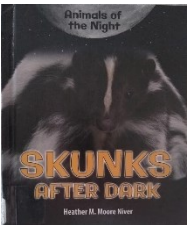
Sea Stars by Ryan Nagelhout (Underwater World series, additional titles pictured on back cover). Table of Contents, but not really chapters. Words to Know, and index. Limited, informative text in large font. Great full page photos on facing pages. Excellent for early learning.



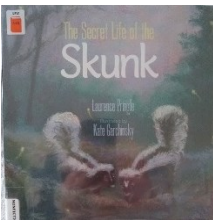
Cute and Cuddly: Baby Animals—Baby Seals by Katie Kawa (more titles pictured on back cover). Table of Contents, by not really chapters. Words to Know, and Index. 1-2 very short sentences in large font, facing great full page photos. Excellent for early learning.



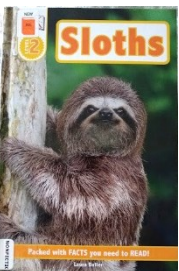
Skunks by Mari Schuh (Bullfrog Books, My First Animal Library)
Ideas for Parents and Teachers, contents, parts of a skunk, picture glossary, index, learn more. Good photos. Limited text in large font. 1st grade reading level. Additional titles pictured on back cover. Anteaters, badgers, bald eagles, beavers, brown bears, camels, chipmunks, groundhogs, kangaroos, opossums, peacocks, porcupines, tigers, wolves, zebras.



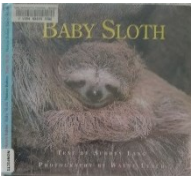
Skunks After Dark by Heather M. Moore Niver (Animals of the Night)
Words to know, contents, learn more, index. Appropriate reading for 2nd grade. Good pictures. Additional titles pictured on back cover: badgers, coyotes, foxes, opossums, wolves.



The Secret Life of the Skunk by Laurence Pringle
Great illustrations, quite realistic. Appropriate reading for 2nd grade, but read aloud to younger children. Medium large text font. More info, glossary, more books, at the end. Combine with another book about skunks with more info.



Sloths by Laura Buller (DK reader Level 2)
Contents, pictured fun facts, quiz, glossary, index. Explanation of reading level(s) at the back). Grade 2 level reading. Great photos. Map of range, explanation of 4 habitats. Mark 7 feet and 1 foot with chalk on the sidewalk, a timeline of a day (marked by hours and illustrated with things a child does in a day & night—mark sleep time for sloths, a month calendar to show time to digest). Pictured predators. 3 other titles pictured on back cover, including llamas and mythical beasts.



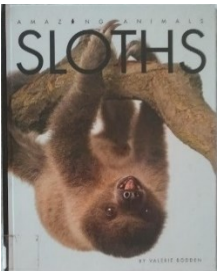
Baby Sloth by Aubrey Lang (Nature Babies)

Some great photos. Narrative text in medium large font. Read aloud.



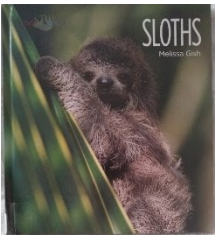
Slow, Slow Sloths by Bonnie Bader (Penguin Young Readers, Level 2)

Letter to parents and educators explains reading level & suggests activities, map of range, Brief simple text in large font. 1st grade reading level. Informative text, excellent pictures. Have a yardstick to show size and compare to a pet dog or cat for weight. Show on a one-day timeline how much they sleep (contrasting activities the child does all those hours). Includes pictures of related animals and sloth food. Good for early learners. 3 other titles pictured inside back jacket: kittens, pigs, hedgehogs.



Sloths by Valerie Bodden (Amazing Animals series)

Brief text in very large font. Great photos. Range map. Have a yardstick to show size, and a pet for weight comparison. Further info and index at back. 70 titles listed on back cover, with at least one animal for each letter, except: N, Q, U, X, and Y.

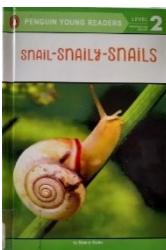


Sloths by Melissa Gish (Living Wild series)

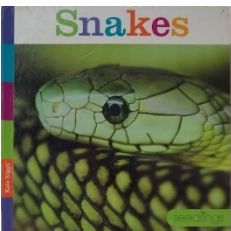
Browsing book, or summarize/talk about the great photos. Not really that great for Primary Grades. Map of range, glossary. 72 titles listed on the back cover, at least one animal for each letter except: N, Q, U, X, Y.



Backyard Wildlife: Snails by Margo Gates (Level 1: Emergent reader; 32 more titles listed on the back cover). Table of Contents, not chapters, glossary, guide to more info, index. "Blastoff! Readers are carefully developed by literacy experts and combine standards-based content with developmentally appropriate text. Level 1 provides the most support through repetition of high-frequency words, light text, predictable sentence patterns, and strong visual support." Great large photos, with close-ups. Excellent early learning.

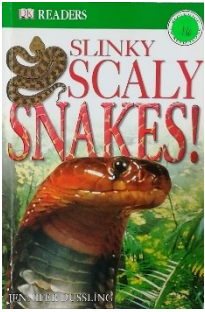


Snail-Snaily-Snails by Bonnie Bader (Penguin Young Readers level 2, guided reading level G; "Progressive Reader: longer sentences, simple dialogue, picture and context clues, more in-depth plot development, nonfiction and fiction." Still very good early learning. Interesting and informative text in a large font, great pictures.

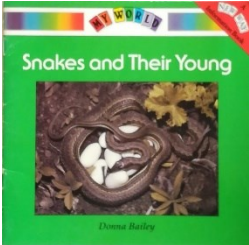


Snakes by Kate Riggs (Seedlings series)

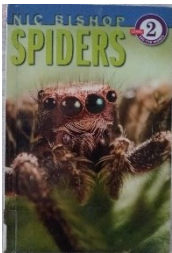
Contents, words to know, read more, websites, index. Good pictures, including a labeled one of body parts. Limited text in large font, 1-3 sentences per page. 1st grade level reading. Good as a read aloud for younger children. Additional titles listed on the back cover: bulldozers, cranes, diggers, dolphins, dump trucks, elephants, giraffes, lions, monkeys, penguins, sharks, tigers, wolves.



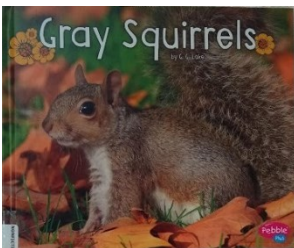
Slink! Scaly Snakes! By Jennifer Dussling (DK Readers, level 2)
32 pp, reading level ages 6-8 years, grades 1-3, Lexile 550
Interesting and informative photos, encourage discussion. Text is not difficult; written for children beginning to read alone. DK Readers series. DRA level 16; mid 2nd grade.



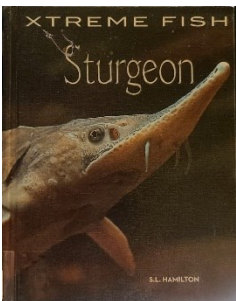
Snakes and Their Young by Donna Bailey (My World)
Good photos and illustrations are as informative as the simple text in a large font. My World series about animals.



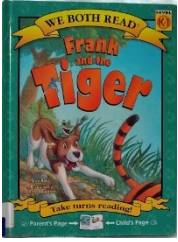
Spiders by Nic Bishop (Scholastic Paw Prints, Level 2 Developing Reader)
"Grade Level 1-2, Guided Reading Level M, Lexile 620L, Word Count 313." Excellent close-up photos, mostly simple text in large, bold font (some higher vocabulary). Creative writing/word choice. Interesting information about the Author/Photographer at the back, glossary, photo index. The author has also done a book about Butterflies, same reading level. This is an excellent for kids interested in spiders, maybe a bit gruesome for those who don't like them.



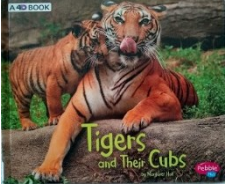
Gray Squirrels by G.G. Lake (Woodland Wildlife series)
Contents, glossary, read more, internet sites, critical thinking questions, index. Note to parents at front. Great photos, range map. Brief simple text in large print. Grades 1-2 reading level. Appropriate read aloud for younger children. Compare squirrel speed to a car in a 20mph zone, Other titles in the series listed on the back cover: North American black bears, rabbits, raccoons, red foxes, white-tailed deer.



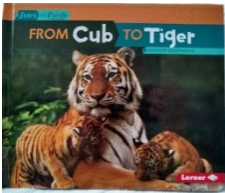
Sturgeon by S. L. Hamilton (Xtreme Fish series)
Non-fiction title with 2-page chapters, glossary, index. More titles in the series listed on the back cover. Short paragraph each page over great photos. Reading level grades 2-3.



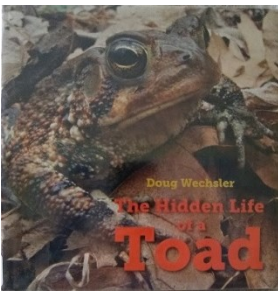
Frank and the Tiger by Dev Ross (We Both Read series, website on back cover for all the titles) A page for the parent to read is followed by a very simple page for the child to read. Parent's page is simple brief text in large font; child's page is Very simple one sentence text in a very large font. Suggestions for the parent at the beginning. Opportunities for anticipation/predicting, humor, adventure, friendship. Fiction.



Tigers and Their Cubs by Margaret Hall (Animal Offspring set—more titles listed on back cover). Table of Contents, 4 page chapters, glossary, guide to more info, internet sites, critical thinking questions, index. Great full page photos faced by brief informative text in large font. Pictured timeline of growth pp 20-21. Excellent early learning.



From Cub to Tiger by Jennifer Boothroyd (Start to Finish series—about 40 more titles listed on back cover; animals, plants, things in everyday life). Table of Contents and 2 page chapters, glossary, further information, index. Great full page photos with a short informative paragraph on facing page in large font. Still suitable for early learning.



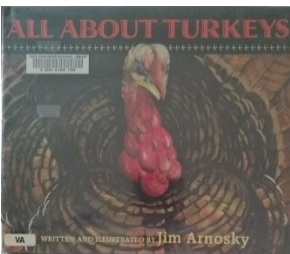
The Hidden Life of a Toad by Doug Wechsler

Great labeled photos, engaging brief text in large font. About 2nd grade reading level; read aloud for younger children. Photos labeled by day. Pictured glossary, comparison of frogs and toads, toad facts, saving toads, explanation of getting the photos, books, websites, map of range.



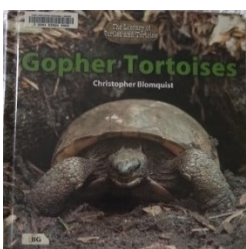
Turkeys by Katie Marsico (21st Century Junior Library, Farm Animals)

Contents, glossary, find out more, index. Brief text in large font. 1st to 2nd grade reading level. Have a frozen turkey to compare weight, if possible; a calendar to show time elapsing as the turkeys hatch and grow. Text also talks about nutritional benefits of turkey meat, and other turkey products. Covers domestic turkeys. Additional titles on the back cover: chickens, cows, dogs, ducks, goats, horses, llamas, pigs, sheep.



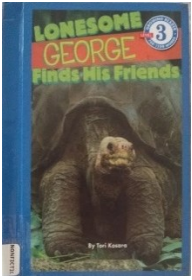
All About Turkeys by Jim Arnosky

Great illustrations, including tracks, silhouette showing actual size of head (also feather and egg), map of original range and introduction. Text appropriate for 2nd grade or read aloud/tell about. Some in large font, some small print. Covers wild turkeys.



Gopher Tortoises by Christopher Blomquist (The Library of Turtles and Tortoises)

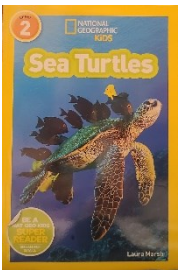
Contents, glossary, index, web sites. Map of range. Great photos. Text in large font, about 2nd grade reading level. May need to be summarized for younger children. Other titles in the series listed on back cover: box turtles, desert tortoises, green sea turtles, snapping turtles, spiny softshell turtles. (PowerKids Press)



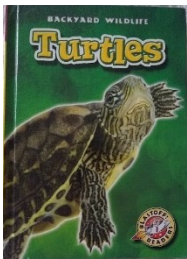
Lonesome George Finds His Friends by Tori Kosara (Scholastic Growing Reader, Level 3)
Back cover explains levels of reading: “level 3: Reading for inspiration & information; grade level 1-3, guided reading level O, lexile level 720L, word count 898.” A Galapagos island tortoise, nearly 100 years old . . . friends: sea lion, sea turtle, crab, sperm whale and other honorable mentions, dolphins, blue-footed booby, frigate bird, seals, finch, iguana, penguins, albatross, cormorant, lava lizards, bee. Gather a pile of 80 lbs of food! Excellent 2nd grade reading, or read aloud.



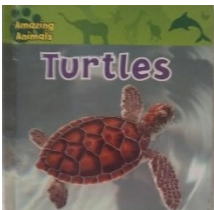
Turtles by Laura Marsh (National Geographic Kids Level 1)
Reading levels explained on back cover, Level 1 “Starting to read . . . just right for kids who are beginning to read on their own.” Contents, picture quizzes, glossary. Other examples of reptiles, riddles, great photos, labeled body parts, cool facts, pictured prey, various kinds of turtles/tortoises.



Sea Turtles by Laura Marsh (National Geographic Kids level 2), grades 1-2; letter to parents, contents, 32 pp, 10 chapters, Q&A on some pages, map of range, photos w/labeled body parts, fairly comprehensive coverage, picture glossary; more titles inside back cover.



Turtles by Emily Green (Backyard Wildlife; Blastoff! Readers Level 1, emergent)
(Note to Librarians, Teachers, and Parents at beginning describes reading levels: “Level 1 provides the most support through repetition of high-frequency words, light text, predictable sentence patterns, and strong visual support.”) Contents, glossary, to learn more, index. Great photos. Mostly 2 sentences per page in very large font. Great for 1st grade readers, and read aloud/discussion for non-readers. List of other titles on back cover: bears, chipmunks, coyotes, deer, foxes, frogs, rabbits, raccoons, skunks, snakes, squirrels.



Turtles by Christina Wilsdon (Amazing Animals)
Contents, glossary, show what you know, more info, index. Text appropriate for 3rd grade. Could be adapted to younger children, but there are better books for Primary grades. Still, depending on the skills and maturity of the reader ... Great photos.

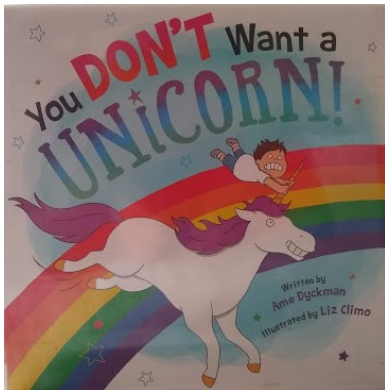
(turtles—see Fishy Tales by DK Readers and Swim, Fish! By Susan B. Neuman: National Geographic Reader, both pre-readers, under general animal books)

U

(umbrella wasp—see p. 15 Bees & Wasps by S.L. Hamilton (Xtreme Insects), under W)

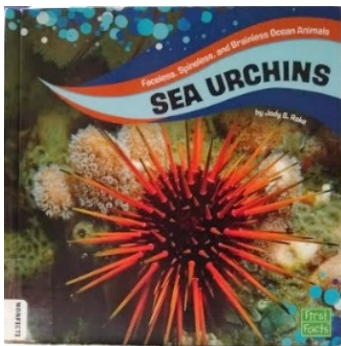
(unusual animals—see Giant Anteater by Sara Antill, series includes okapi, platypus; look under A)

Also ungulates: large mammals with hooves



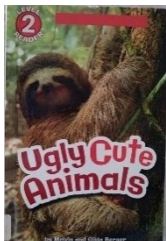
You Don't Want a Unicorn! By Ame Dyckman

An imaginative tale about considering what you wish for, and appropriate pets. Illustrator also illustrates for Simpsons. Compare how cute a unicorn might look, with some of its behavior. What about when your pet is lonely? Discuss needs of pets, responsibilities for pets, etc. Discuss real vs pretend. What do you think the characteristics of a unicorn would be? Read aloud. Perhaps a 2nd grade reading level, not too much text; large font.



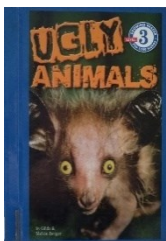
Sea Urchins by Jody S. Rake (Faceless, Spineless, and Brainless Ocean Animals)

Contents, glossary, read more, internet sites, critical thinking response using the common core, index. Great labeled photos. Brief text in a large font. About 2nd grade reading level, read aloud or browse/talk about pictures for shorter attention. Use a ball or tomato about 2-4.5" diameter to show size. Demonstrate how a suction cup works, show a straw/tube/or tubular noodle. Show a pencil and a needle, 1" of a finger, 8" hand span. Show a finger joint. If possible show a sand dollar. A 200 year old urchin could live as long as 2-3 human lifetimes. Additional titles listed on back cover: Jellyfish, sea cucumbers, sea anemones.



Ugly Cute Animals by Melvin and Gilda Berger (Scholastic Paw Prints Reader, Level 2)

"Appeals to K-2nd graders, Reading Level grade 2." What is ugly or cute is very subjective, and it's perhaps unfair to call any animal ugly, but the epithet is an attention-getter. This title includes bulldog, sphynx cat, fennec fox, red-eyed tree frog, sloth, emu, llama, orangutan, axolotl, okapi, elephant shrew, dugong, meerkat, hedgehog. Glossary.



Ugly Animals by Gilda & Melvin Berger (Scholastic Reader, Level 3)

"Growing Reader, Grade Level 1-3, Guided Reading Level O, Lexile level NC780L, Word Count 1392."

"Ugly" sometimes just means "unusual". This text includes Komondor dog, babirusa wild pig, naked mole rat, **uakari monkey**, proboscis monkey, star-nosed mole, shovel-nosed frog, shoebill bird, aye-aye, anglerfish, red-lipped batfish, blue-tongued skink, hooded seal, pig-nosed turtle, thorny devil lizard. Glossary

V

(Velvet Ants, see pp. 20-21, Bees & Wasps by S.L. Hamilton (Xtreme Insects), under W)
(vultures—see Eagle & Birds of Prey by Jemima Parry-Jones, under general animal books)

V is for Vulture (DK The Animal Alphabet Library) Board book, excellent series of informative but limited text.

Vultures by Kate Riggs (Amazing Animals), 24 pp, ages 6-9, grades 1-4, Lexile 570

Facts About the Vampire Bat by Lisa Strattin (A Picture Book For Kids), 40 pp

Snakes! A Kids Book About Snakes by Alexander G. Michaels; 79 pp, ages 5-7, Fun Facts & Amazing Pictures About the Python, Anaconda, Viper & More (eBooks Kids Nature 6) Kindle Edition

Facts About the Water Vole by Lisa Strattin (A Picture Book For Kids), 40 pp

75 Animals That Start With V (Updated 2023)

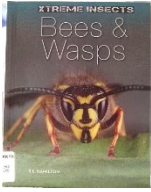
- <https://www.thecoldwire.com/animals-that-start-with-v/>

other animals:

vermin—animal pests

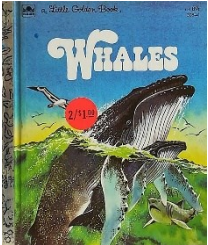
vicuna—South American relative of llamas & alpacas

W

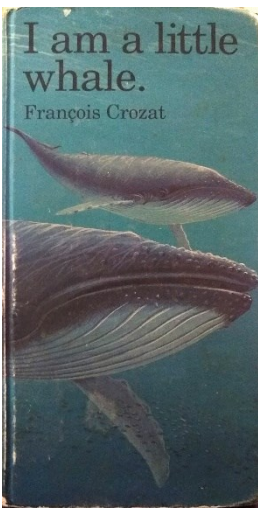


Bees & Wasps by S.L. Hamilton (Xtreme Insects)

Contents, glossary, index. Great photos, including labeled bee and wasp parts. Fairly brief text, about 2nd grade reading level. Great reference or browsing book for children with shorter attention spans—but it's a pretty engaging subject for many. Could be read in sections for more focus. Other titles in listed on back cover: Ants, Beetles, Flies, Mantis, Roaches.



Whales (a Little Golden Book)



I Am a Little Whale by François Crozat ("I Am" series)

28 pp, appropriate for ages 2-4; a day in the life of a little whale.

There are many, many books about whales, here are a few great titles:

W is for Whale (DK The Animal Alphabet Library) Board book, 16 pp; an excellent series with an animal for each letter of the alphabet.

Whales by Jennifer Szymanski (National Geographic Readers:Pre-Reader)

24 pp. Great photos, very limited text in large font. Appropriate for ages 2-5

Whales: Amazing Pictures & Fun Facts on Animals in Nature by Kay de Silva (Our Amazing World series)

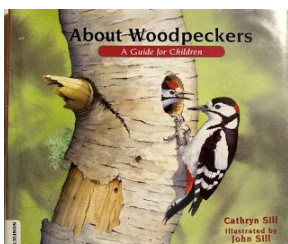
34 pp, 20 chapters, Excellent photos, brief text in large font. Appropriate for ages 3-8, reading level grades 1-2; More titles at www.ouramazingworldbooks.com

The Blue Whale by Yuliya Barannikova (HOW Collections)

39 pp, great illustrations, lovely text.

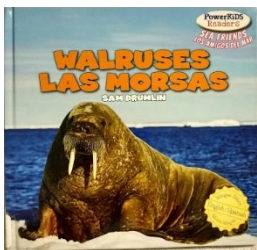
Rory: An Orca's Quest for the Northern Lights by Sarah Cullen and Carmen Ellis

Engaging rhyming story & illustrations

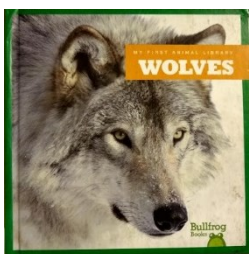


About Woodpeckers: A Guide for Children by Cathryn & John Sill

Picture book: large full page beautiful illustrations, with large print and limited informative text on facing page. Covers a good variety of woodpeckers. Excellent for Early and Primary Learners. Afterward includes more information about each plate, and further resources are given. Pictured array of other titles in the series—about other animals.

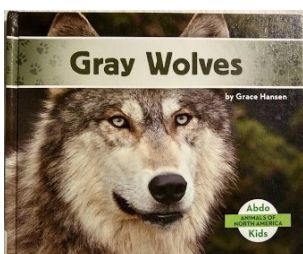


Walruses/Las Morsas by Sam Drumlin (Bilingual: Spanish translation by Eduardo Alaman. PowerKids Readers series) Excellent full page photos with one sentence (and translation) on facing page, in large font. Other titles in the series listed on back cover.



My First Animal Library: Wolves by Cari Meister

Good photos and arrangement. Short, simple sentences in large font. Informative content about wolves hunting. Parts of a wolf and picture glossary at back, index, and how to search for more information online. Ideas for parents and teachers at front. Other titles in the series pictured in an array on outside back cover; anteaters, bats, beavers, brown bears, camels, groundhogs, iguanas, kangaroos, owls, peacocks, sloths, tigers, toucans, tree frogs, zebras.



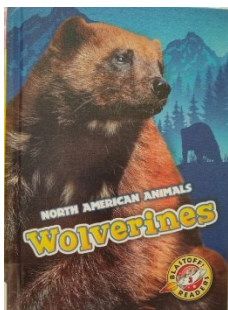
Gray Wolves by Grace Hansen (Animals of North America series)

Great, large, full page photos, with brief text facing, in a large font. Have a map or globe handy to show where North America, Europe, and Asia are. Informative content on how they look, live, eat, grow...More facts at the end, glossary, index, and how to access crafts, games, videos, and more. Other titles in the series pictured on back cover: Bison, Eagles, Coyotes, Grizzlies, and Moose.



Wolves Eat by Matt Reher

Non-fiction. Great photos, limited text in large font discusses characteristics of wolves, their prey, habitat, food web. Vocabulary & reading strategies at end. Reading level grade 1



Wolverines by Betsy Rathburn (North American Animals; Blastoff! Readers level 3)

Note to Librarians, Teachers, and Parents; Contents, glossary, to learn more, index. Great pictures, map of wolverine range, labeled wolverine features, comparative size chart, pictured chart of diet, chart of baby facts. "Level 3 advances early-fluent readers toward fluency through increased text and concept load, less reliance on visuals, longer sentences, and more literary language." Grade 1-2 reading level. Good read aloud for younger children. List of 42 other titles at the same level on back cover. At least 1 for every letter except I, J, K, N, Q, T, U, V, X, Y, Z.

(Wombats—see Super Marsupials: Kangaroos, Koalas, Wombats, and More by Katharine Kenah (Let's Read and Find Out science series, Level 1 . . . under Animals, general)

X

(Xtreme Insects—see Bees & Wasps by S.L. Hamilton, under W)

X is for X-Ray Fish (DK The Animal Alphabet Library) Board book, 16 pp; an excellent series with an animal for each letter of the alphabet.

75 Animals That Start With X (Updated 2023)

<https://www.thecoldwire.com/animals-that-start-with-x/>

Animals That Start with X: A List of All the Animals Beginning with X

Hal Brindley, 2018, Animal Answers

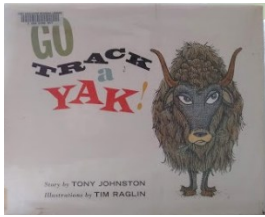
<https://www.travel4wildlife.com/animals-that-start-with-x/>

Animals that Start With X--List With Pictures & Fun Facts; Jan 2022

<https://www.activewild.com/animals-that-start-with-x/>

as well as other sites you can Google

Y



Go Track a Yak! By Tony Johnston

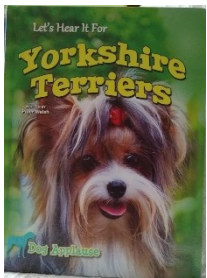
An imaginative tale of magic (a crone/witch figures importantly), touching on boo-hoo-hooing, problem solving, tracking. Illustrations not beautiful, but having a certain interest. Fairly brief repetitive and sometime rhyming text in large fonts. About 2nd grade reading level. Read aloud for younger, lots of opportunity for discussion.



Yak and Dove by Kyo Maclear

Read aloud; about a 2nd grade reading level. Dove poses a question, “Do you ever wish we were twins?” Yak answers, “No, dove, I have never wished that.” Yak and dove explore what it might be like to be twins (good chance to talk about whether twins really share all those things). Then they talk about all the ways they are different. They have a chance to discover that we can be very different, but still be good friends.

Y is for Yak (DK The Animal Alphabet Library) Board book, 16 pp; an excellent series with an animal for each letter of the alphabet.



Yorkshire Terriers by Piper Welsh (Dog Applause, Let's Hear It For)

Contents, 5 short chapters, glossary, Index, Websites, 3 questions to answer. Great pictures (including other “toy” and terrier breeds), map of place of origin. Brief text in large font. About 2nd grade reading level. Additional titles pictured and listed on back cover: golden retrievers, Labrador retrievers, bulldogs, German shepherds, boxers, poodles, beagles. “This title will allow students to explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text, identifying which reasons and evidence support which point(s).”

(Yellow Jackets, see pp 16-18, Bees & Wasps, under W)

yellow-backed duiker—antelope

yellow-bellied marmot

yellow-bellied weasel

yellow-eyed penguin

yellow-footed antechinus —marsupial

yellow-footed rock wallaby

yellow jacket

yellow-necked field mouse

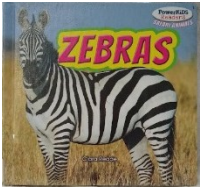
yellow-nosed cotton rat

yellow pine chipmunk

yellow-throated marten

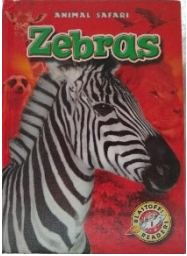
yellow-winged bat

Z to zoo



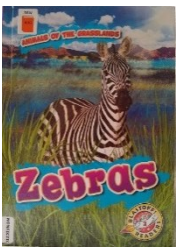
Zebras by Clara Reade (PowerKids Readers, Safari Animals)

Contents, words to know, index, websites. Great full-page photos. One simple sentence on each page facing the picture, in large font. First grade reading level. Excellent to share with young children. Other titles listed on back cover: cheetahs, hippos, lions, meerkats, warthogs.



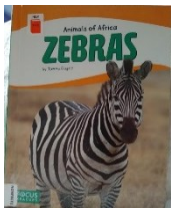
Zebras by Derek Zobel (Animal Safari; Blastoff! Readers, Level 1--emergent)

Note to Librarians, Teachers, and Parents at the front; "Level 1 provides the most support through repetition of high-frequency words, light text, predictable sentence patterns, and strong visual support." Contents, glossary, to learn more, index. Great full-page photos, very large print, about grade 1-2 reading level. Other titles in the level 1 series listed on back cover: alligators, chimps, elephants, giraffes, gorillas, hippos, koalas, lions, pandas, polar bears, tigers.



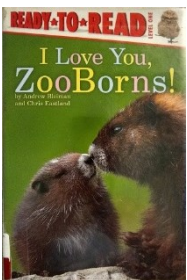
Zebras by Kaitlyn Duling (Animals of the Grasslands; Blastoff! Readers Level 2)

Note to Librarians, Teachers, and Parents in the front explains reading levels. "Level 2 offers early readers a bit more challenge through varied simple sentences, increased text load, and less repetition of high frequency words." Contents, glossary, to learn more, index. Great photos, map of range, labeled picture, pictured diet. About 2nd grade reading level. Other level 2 titles in the series pictured on back cover. Elephants, lions, bison, giraffes, hyenas.

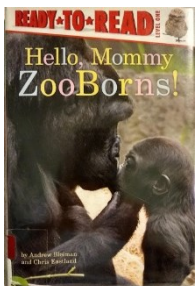


Zebras by Tammy Gagne (Animals of Africa; Focus Readers)

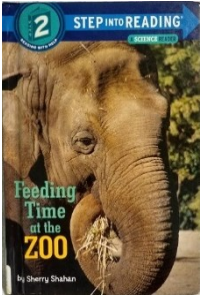
Contents, quiz, glossary, to learn more, index. Great full page photos, map of range, life cycle chart. About 2nd grade level reading, but could be a read aloud/adapted for younger children. Additional titles in the series listed on the back: cheetahs, elephants, gazelles, giraffes, gorillas, hippopotamuses, lions, meerkats, warthogs.



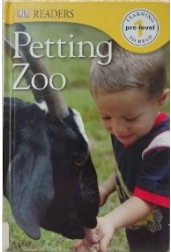
I Love You, ZooBorns! By Andrew Bleiman and Chris Eastland (Ready to Read Level 1, "Star Reader! Easy sight words and words to sound out. Simple plot and dialogue, familiar topics and themes.") Full page photos with brief text in large print.



Hello, Mommy, ZooBorns! By Andrew Bleiman and Chris Eastland (Ready to Read Level 1, "Star Reader! Easy sight words and words to sound out. Simple plot and dialogue, familiar topics and themes.") Full page photos with brief text in large font.

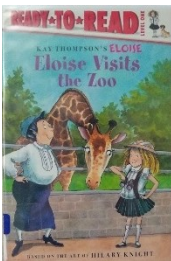


Feeding time at the Zoo by Sherry Shahan (Step into Reading Science Reader, level 2 “Reading with Help. Preschool-Grade 1 . . . recognize familiar words on sight and sound out new words with help . . . Basic Vocabulary, Short Sentences, Simple Stories.” Nice photos, informative text in large font. Questions at the end relate content to children (eating).



Petting Zoo (DK Readers, Learning to Read pre-level 1)

List of Pre-level 1 and Level 1 readers, and A Note to Parents at the beginning. Great labeled photos. Pictured glossary, index. 1-2 simple sentences per page in large print.



Eloise Visits the Zoo by Lisa McClatchy (Ready to Read Level 1)

“Level One Star Reader! Easy sight words and words to sound out, simple plot and dialogue, familiar topics and themes.” Eloise is an exuberant young girl, cared for by her nanny. They visit the zoo and enjoy looking at different habitats as well as animals.