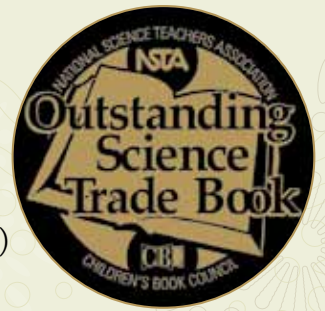


Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K–12: 2012

(Books published in 2011)



The National Science Teachers Association, in collaboration with the Children's Book Council, is pleased to announce that the following titles have been selected as Outstanding Science Trade Books for 2012. This excellent literature represents the best in integration of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Among the award winners are books for readers at the primary, middle, and secondary levels—and many that will fascinate adults as well. They represent the practices of science around the world and throughout the ages. These outstanding selections can be a source of great personal reading, encouraging children of all ages to stretch their skills and allow their imaginations to interact with the printed page. We encourage you to share the sense of wonder and rewards of learning that they offer.



About Habitats: Grasslands

Cathryn Sill

Peachtree Publishers

Beautiful plates are enhanced by the annotations, which make valuable distinctions among grasslands.



About Hummingbirds

Cathryn Sill

Peachtree Publishers

Illustrations make this book come to life; the dual-level text is great for students and mentors.



After the Kill

Darrin Lunde

Charlesbridge

A new slant on predation; illustrations are accurate but not too graphic for elementary readers.

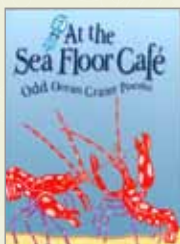


Animal Eyes

Beth Fielding

EarlyLight, distributed
by Charlesbridge

Simple presentation of a complex idea with excellent compare-and-contrast information.



At the Sea Floor Café

Leslie Bulion

Peachtree Publishers

This book of poetry demonstrates a strong integration of science and literacy and can be used in different ways at different ages.



At This Very Moment

Jim Arnosky

Penguin/Dutton

Great supplemental information and illustrations support this book of poetry.



B is for Blue Planet

Ruth Strother

Sleeping Bear Press

With a strong focus on Earth science, this book gets at very important concepts.

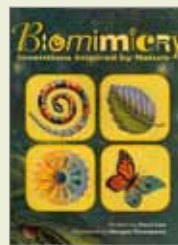


Baby Mammoth Mummy Frozen in Time

Christopher Sloan

National Geographic

This unique book is a fabulous illustration of scientific research methods and shows cultural connections.



Biomimicry

Dora Lee

Kids Can Press

With beautiful images, this information-rich book highlights an important topic.



Bug Shots

Alexandra Siy

Holiday House

One of the few books that appropriately distinguishes between bugs and other insects; great use of magnification with electron microscope images.

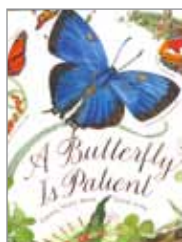
Outstanding Science Trade Books



Butterflies

Seymour Simon
HarperCollins

With beautiful photos and good detail, this reads like a story and will hold students' attention.



A Butterfly Is Patient

Dianna Hutts Aston
Chronicle Books

Excellent facts and illustrations with accurate behaviors; visually beautiful and perfect for language arts illustrations.



Butterfly Tree

Sandra Markle
Peachtree Publishers

A captivating story line conveys a sense of wonder; more than just another butterfly book, this is about looking at something and making a discovery.



Can We Save the Tiger?

Martin Jenkins
Candlewick Press

A beautiful book with some political background regarding conservation that will be especially meaningful for older students.



The Case of the Vanishing Golden Frogs

Sandra Markle
Lerner/Millbrook Press

Shows international cooperation among scientists; great model of scientific problem solving.



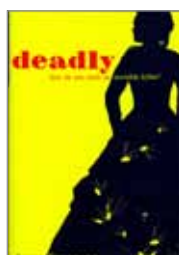
Caterpillars

Marilyn Singer
EarlyLight, distributed by Charlesbridge
This would make a great read-aloud; illustrations of life cycles enhance the text. A thematic poem weaves through the text.



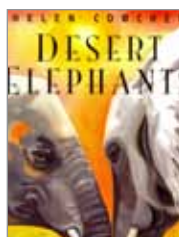
Coral Reefs

Jason Chin
Macmillan/Flash Point
A fantasy about diving into a book, with great information about coral.



Deadly

Julie Chibbaro
Simon & Schuster
Accurate biographical portrait of Typhoid Mary that focuses on methodology; good connections between science and societal problems.



Desert Elephants

Helen Cowcher
Macmillan/Farrar, Straus, and Giroux
A different type of migration study, with cultural connections and great analogies.



Dinosaur Discovery

Chris McGowan
Simon & Schuster
Not your average dinosaur book; real experiments and novel activities embedded in the text aid understanding.



Eco Dogs

Judith Bauer Stamper
Bearport Publishing
High-interest book about dogs who work in collaboration with ecoscientists to identify endangered animals.



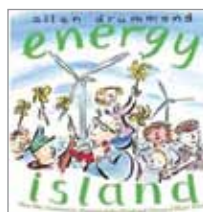
Elephant Scientist

Caitlin O'Connell and Donna Jackson
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
Part of an excellent series, with challenging reading about the methods and careers of scientists.



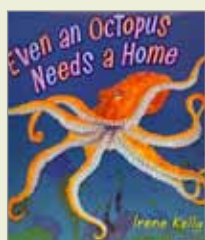
Elephant Talk

Ann Downer
Lerner/Twenty-First Century Books
Excellent book about communication; includes a great account of the long history of humans' fascination with elephants.



Energy Island

Allan Drummond
Macmillan/Frances Foster Books
Great story line with a realistic scenario; shows the impact that one person can have through collaboration.



Even an Octopus Needs a Home

Irene Kelly

Holiday House

Excellent stories about habitat with visual richness, good connections, and information about adaptations.

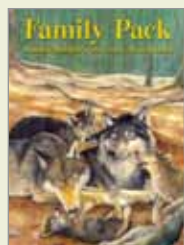


The Honeybee Man

Lela Nargi

Random House/Schwartz & Wade

Bee ecology with an urban twist; great scientific illustrations and information about pollination and life cycles.

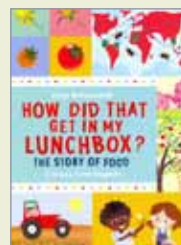


Family Pack

Sandra Markle

Charlesbridge

Great story about species reintroduction to an ecosystem; explains a harsh food chain in a gentle and developmentally appropriate way.

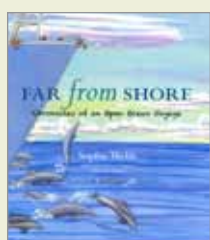


How Did That Get in My Lunchbox?

Chris Butterworth

Candlewick Press

Shows the path from farm to school; great STEM integration; helps kids understand where their food comes from.



Far from Shore

Sophie Webb

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Wonderful example of a scientist's journey recorded in a journal; encourages writing in science.



How the Weather Works

Christiane Dorion

Candlewick Press

This comprehensive weather book is an ideal choice for families, with pop-ups, challenging concepts, and vocabulary.



First Garden

Robbin Gourley

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt/
Clarion Books

Helps children see history made in a true story about White House gardening.



Manatee Scientists

Peter Lourie

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

This is a great example of the nature of science; shows the value and styles of research that are used in the study of an endangered animal.



For the Birds

Peggy Thomas

Boyd's Mills Press/Calkins Creek

Visually stunning illustrations tell the story of how the interest sparked in a child can lead him or her into a scientific career.

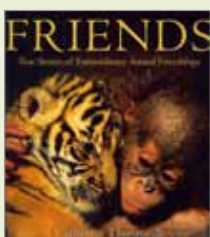


Meadowlands

Thomas F. Yezerski

Macmillan/Farrar, Straus, and Giroux

A story of habitat recovery, with unique borders and illustrations.



Friends

Catherine Thimmesh

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Dual-level text shows unusual relationships between animals and explains the circumstances of the pairs.



Michael Vey

Richard Paul Evans

Simon & Schuster

Science fiction with sound science and an accompanying English curriculum.

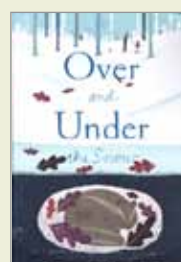


Hatch!

Roxie Munro

Marshall Cavendish

Riddle format takes the life cycle beyond eggs to include habitats.



Over and Under the Snow

Kate Messner

Chronicle Books

Integrates facts into a story line; repetitive phrasing helps kids internalize concepts; good read-aloud.



A Place for Fish

Melissa Stewart

Peachtree Publishers

A book within a book, with detailed information about habitats; good storyline and side notes.



Time for a Bath

Steve Jenkins and Robin Page

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

This unusual topic, how animals clean themselves, will fascinate the youngest readers.



Planting the Wild Garden

Kathryn O Galbraith

Peachtree Publishers

Great introduction to the natural world; conveys the complex idea of seed dispersion easily, which is rare for a book at the elementary level.



Tornado!

Judy and Dennis Fradin

National Geographic

Amazing and timely photos tell the story of this devastating weather event.



Polar Bear: Shrinking Ice

Stephen Person

Bearport Publishing

This book presents information about polar bears and shows an interesting partnership between an author and a scientist.



Trapped

Marc Aronson

Simon & Schuster

Great example of a book to illustrate international cooperation and STEM problem-solving.



Polar Bears

Mark Newman

Macmillan/Henry Holt and Co

Simply beautiful! This book has informative text and is great to read aloud and share.



Voyage of Turtle Rex

Kurt Cyrus

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

A rhyming narrative connects today with the past, with an important author's note to make the story relevant.



Star of the Sea

Janet Halfmann

Macmillan/Christy Ottaviano Books

Clarifies this unique group; great description of predator/prey relationships in the sea.



The Watcher

Jeanette Winter

Random House/Schwartz & Wade

The story of Jane Goodall makes for an easy book to introduce observation and journaling; accurately but simply tells her story and how ethologists work.



Swirl by Swirl

Joyce Sidman

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Beautiful illustrations and attention to detail encourage student observations, integrating art with nature brilliantly.

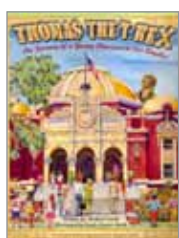


What's for Dinner?

Katherine B. Hauth

Charlesbridge

This poetic book shows early elementary readers energy transfer among animals in a food chain.



Thomas the T. Rex

Michael Smith

East West Discovery Press

A fictionalized account of a story of dinosaur discovery.