
OSTB home

Archaeology, Anthropology, and Paleontology

**Anthropologist: Scientist of the People** (Scientists in the Field Series). Mary Batten. Illustrated with photographs by A. Magdalena Hurtado and Kim Hill. Houghton Mifflin. 64pp. Trade ISBN 0-618-08368-5, $16.00. (I, A) This remarkable book takes us into the rain forest with practicing anthropologists to examine the complex world of the Aché, a hunter-gatherer society endangered by contact with outsiders. The appealing and effective visuals combine with an engaging narrative to create a compelling ethnography. It effectively conveys the science and art of anthropology. Bibliography, Index. MJL (IV, VII, VIII)

**Dinosaur Parents, Dinosaur Young: Uncovering the Mystery of Dinosaur Families.** Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld. Illustrated by Paul Carrick and Bruce Shillinglaw. Clarion Books. 64pp. Trade ISBN 0-395-91338-1, $17.00. (E, I) Using the latest findings, the author describes some amazing discoveries that changed forever the way scientists think about dinosaurs. The book provides evidence about how some types of dinosaurs tended their eggs and cared for their young. The book includes beautiful illustrations and full-color photographs. Glossary, Index, Further Reading. TMC (V)


**Egyptian Mummies: People from the Past.** Delia Pemberton. Illustrated with photographs. Harcourt Children’s Books. 48pp. Trade ISBN 0-15-202600-2, $18.00. (I) Pemberton skillfully demonstrates how forensic science can yield clues to the daily lives of ancient Egyptians. The book examines seven mummy “case studies” to reveal the details of Egyptian culture. With more than 100 detailed photos,
the author presents a window into the world of archaeology. Glossary, Index, Bibliography. MJL (VII, VIII)

**National Geographic Dinosaurs.** Paul Barrett. Illustrated by Raul Martín and with photographs. National Geographic Society. 192pp. Trade ISBN 0-7922-8224-8, $29.95. (I, A) This richly illustrated, comprehensive text provides an overview to more than 50 of the “terrible lizards.” Filled with more than 300 full-color photographs, 90 vivid illustrations, a timeline, fact file, and map for each species. Clearly distinguishing fact from theory, this book provides an exciting guide to the life and times of the dinosaurs. Introduction, Glossary, Index. SYH (II, V, VIII)

**Woolly Mammoth: Life, Death, and Rediscovery.** Windsor Chorlton. Illustrated with photographs. Scholastic, Inc. 40pp. Trade ISBN 0-439-24134-0, $15.95. (E,I) This story emphasizes the excitement and enormity of the project to excavate and remove a frozen woolly mammoth. The experience highlights the expertise and technology needed for such a venture. Several new discoveries are illustrated and old theories are reinforced. The project is brought to life by brilliant photographs and illustrations. Websites, Index, Mammoth Sites and Finds. LEO (VIII, VI, I)

**Biography**

**Charles Darwin: The Life of a Revolutionary Thinker.** Dorothy Hinshaw Patent. Illustrated with photographs and drawings. Holiday House. 144pp. Trade ISBN 0-8234-1494-9, $22.95. (I, A) The nature of science is clearly depicted in this biography of Charles Darwin. During the voyage of the *Beagle* and subsequently after many years of research and thought, Darwin developed a theory of evolution that continues to influence our lives today. Bibliography, Index, Chronology of *Beagle’s* Voyage, Friends and Colleagues, Internet Resources, Glossary. LEO (VIII, I, II)


**Rocks in His Head.** Carol Otis Hurst. Illustrated by James Stevenson. Greenwillow Books. 32pp. Trade ISBN 0-06-029403-5, $15.95; Library ISBN 0-06-029404-3, $15.89. (E) The simple narrative and sensitive illustrations vividly portray how a childhood passion for rocks leads to a productive and satisfying career. This true story describes how study, commitment, and a love for learning overcome such obstacles as a lack of education, money, and formal training. BBB (II, VII)

**Life Sciences**

**Coyote and Badger: Desert Hunters of the Southwest.** Written and illustrated by Bruce Hiscock. Boyds Mills Press. 32pp. Trade ISBN 0-56397-848-2, $15.95. (E) This book has taken a fascinating fact and a Southwestern setting to create a realistic fictional account of how the coyote and badger
sometimes pair to hunt for survival in the desert. The reader follows the animals on their pursuit of survival. Author’s Note. JMH (I, IV)


**Fireflies (Early Bird Nature Books Series).** Sally M. Walker. Illustrated with photographs. Lerner Publications. 48pp. Library ISBN 0-8225-3047-3, $23.93. (E) The text and illustrations in this book help the young reader to understand how a lightning bug’s abdomen is able to glow in the dark. It is an excellent resource for teaching about life cycles, insect characteristics, and animal behaviors. This book is a fact-filled, delightful read. Author’s Note, Glossary, Index. JMH (IV)

**Salamander Rain: A Lake & Pond Journal.** Written and illustrated by Kristin Joy Pratt-Serafini. Dawn Publications. 32pp. Trade ISBN 1-58469-018-6, $16.95; Paperback ISBN 1-58469-017-8, $7.95. (E) Bold illustrations and journal notes, maps, clips from news articles, and fun tidbits provide a brilliant model for student journals. The story joyfully describes major seasonal changes that occur in a temperate pond community. BBB (II, IV)

**Tough Beginnings: How Baby Animals Survive.** Marilyn Singer. Illustrated by Anna Vojtech. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers. 32pp. Trade ISBN 0-8050-6164-9, $16.95. (E) From tough beginnings in the sea to hiding underground, this book takes readers into the world of baby animals. The author provides many amazing survival stories about the tough start in life that babies of many animal species experience. Colorful illustrations complement the text. Author’s Note. TMC (IV)

**Welcome to the River of Grass.** Jane Yolen. Illustrated by Laura Regan. G.P. Putnam’s Sons. 32pp. Trade ISBN 0-399-23221-4, $15.99. Paper ed., (F). (E) The magnificent illustrations and rich language make this volume of interest across the grades as the author depicts a day in the Everglades. The lush river of grass—inches deep and miles wide—is home to a wide variety of interesting residents, both flora and fauna. Predator/prey relationships are depicted. PSB (IV)

**Integrated Science**

**Antarctic Journal: Four Months at the Bottom of the World.** Jennifer Owings Dewey. Illustrated by the author and with photographs. HarperCollins Children’s Books. 64pp. Trade ISBN 0-06-028586-9, $16.95; Library ISBN 0-06-028587-7, $16.89. (E) This eye-opening portrayal of an icy-cold adventure to one of the most forbidding, fascinating places on Earth carefully mixes amazing narratives, science facts, and colorful photographs that are sure to intrigue and inspire young explorers. A warm, thoughtful diary sharing the fears and wonders of the “last great wilderness on Earth.” Bibliography. SYH (II, III, IV, VII, VIII)

$12.95. (A) This rich resource serves as a comprehensive integrated studies tool. Students conducting science, technology, and society investigations may tap into the wealth of information in this atlas. Included are maps featuring various topics: geologic history, physical characteristics, climate, vegetation, population, culture, economy, food distribution, and natural resources. Glossary, Index, Websites. LMN (I, V, VII)

**The Technology Book for Girls and Other Advanced Beings.** Trudee Romanek. Illustrated by Pat Cupples. Kids Can Press. Trade ISBN 1-55074-936-6, $14.95; Paperback ISBN 1-55074-619-7, $8.95. (E, I) Focusing on the fun aspects, this book shows how relevant technology is in the world and tries to entice girls to explore career fields. In-depth explanations with suggested activities complement science fair project ideas. A good choice to show girls how exciting the world of science and technology can really be. Bibliography, Index. SYH (II, III, VI)


**Breast Cancer: Questions & Answers for Young Women.** Carole Garbuny Vogel. Illustrated with photographs and drawings. Millbrook Press. 176pp. Library ISBN 0-7613-1855-0, $25.90. (A) This book is a must for all who have experienced the devastation of breast cancer personally, in their families, or with friends. It describes breast development, the nature of cancer, diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer, and how to help someone cope who is losing the battle to the disease. Glossary, Index, Resources, Author’s Note. JMH (IV, VII)

**The Chimpanzees I Love: Saving Their World and Ours.** Jane Goodall. Illustrated with photographs. Scholastic Press. 80pp. Trade ISBN 0-439-21310-X, $17.95. (I) Jane Goodall has written a compelling book that describes the fascinating world of chimpanzees. Through her vast experiences and research, she has been able to describe her discoveries and compare the many similarities between chimpanzees and humans. Facts and Resources. JMH (IV, VII)

**Claws, Coats and Camouflage: The Ways Animals Fit into Their World.** Susan E. Goodman. Illustrated with photographs by Michael J. Doolittle. Millbrook Press. 48pp. Library ISBN 0-7613-1865-8, $22.90. (E) How well different animals from insects to humans are adapted for surviving in their environments is described and illustrated in this book. The book poses questions that promote careful observations, critical analysis, and more inquiry. Index. GJB

**Dig, Wait, Listen: A Desert Toad’s Tale.** April Pulley Sayre. Illustrated by Barbara Bash. Greenwillow Books. 32pp. Trade ISBN 0-688-16614-8, $15.95; Library ISBN 0-688-16615-6, $15.89. (E) This book illustrates the life of a spadefoot toad. Through the creative use of onomatopoeia, young readers will be introduced to five other desert creatures that travel over the spadefoot toad as she waits
underground for the sound of rain. Beautiful and scientifically accurate illustrations complement the
text. DW (IV, I)

**Insects.** Robin Bernard. Illustrated with photographs. National Geographic Society. 16pp.
Paperback ISBN 0-7922-6670-6, $5.95. (P) This book introduces the reader to the world of insects with
captivating illustrations and precise text. The magnificent layout and design of each page visually
scaffolds the conceptual development of the unique physical characteristics and behaviors of insects.
Topics include anatomy, animal adaptations, and camouflage for survival. LMN (IV, I)

**Interrupted Journey: Saving Endangered Sea Turtles.** Kathryn Lasky. Illustrated with photographs
vivid photographs meld with the text and tell of the miraculous journey of a stranded sea turtle found
by a 10 year-old boy and rescued through the cooperation of scientists, veterinarians, and volunteers.
DW (IV, VII)

**The Elephant Book: For the Elefriends Campaign.** Ian Redmond. Illustrated with photographs.
of the characteristics of elephants and their plight. Efforts to protect these magnificent animals are called
for, and the photographs throughout the book enhance the story and the cause. Preface, Introduction,
Index. GJB (I, VII)

reveal the inner world of the human body. Multiple imaging techniques such as X-ray, MRI, and CT
scans present the reader with views of the human body from the microscopic to the macroscopic level.
Each image helps to explain the complex functions of the body systems. Glossary, Websites, Index.
LMN (I, IV)

**Medical Ethics: Life and Death Issues (Issues in Focus Series).** Karen Judson. Illustrated with
work is a useful introduction to what is normally a daunting subject: the consequences of medical
practice. The reader explores the topic through a balanced case-study approach while probing the
nature of ethical behavior. If your students doubt how science can impact daily life, look no further
than this work. Chapter Notes, Glossary, Further Reading, Internet Resources, Index. MJL (IV, VI, VII)

Library ISBN 0-7613-2274-4, $23.90. (I) In this inspirational book, we are reminded that new
discoveries still await budding field biologists. This fascinating book highlights new animal discoveries
within the last two decades and the scientists who brought them to the attention of the scientific
community. Photographs of rare and endangered animals are included. Index, Foreword by Jane
Goodall, Sidebars. DW (IV, VIII)

**Salmon Stream.** Carol Reed-Jones. Illustrated by Michael Maydak. Dawn Publications. 32pp.
yet accurate description of the life cycle of the salmon. The sense of movement of the “Salmon Stream”

Sea Soup: Zooplankton. Mary M. Cerullo. Illustrated with photographs by Bill Curtsinger. Tilbury House. 40pp. Trade ISBN 0-88448-219-7, $16.95. (A) The world of the invisible microbe is alien to us. Too often we are unaware of the vital role and stunning beauty such creatures present. This book effectively captures the important niche filled by zooplankton. The book’s microscopic photography reveals this unseen universe, documenting the teeming life that occurs in just one cubic centimeter of ocean water. Index, Bibliography. MJL (IV, V)

Ten Seeds. Written and illustrated by Ruth Brown. Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children’s Books. 22pp. Trade ISBN 0-375-80697-0, $9.95. (P) Plant life cycles and predator/prey relationships are depicted in a clever counting book. Ten sunflower seeds are planted, and all but one are destroyed. However, the one seed grows and flowers, completing the cycle. This is an excellent depiction of interaction in nature and the need for multiple seeds to be planted. PSB (IV, I)

Twin Tales: The Magic and Mystery of Multiple Birth. Donna M. Jackson. Illustrated with photographs. Megan Tingley Books/Little, Brown. 48pp. Trade ISBN 0-316-45431-1, $16.95. (E, I) This reference examines both the physiology and the psychology of multiple births. Differentiation is made between identical versus fraternal siblings, and issues of nature versus nurture are considered. Common questions about topics such as conjoined births, mental telepathy among siblings, and the increase in multiple births in today’s society are discussed as well. Glossary. PSB (IV, VII)


Wildflowers Around the Year. Hope Ryden. Illustrated with photographs by the author. Clarion Books. 96pp. Trade ISBN 0-395-85814-3, $17.00. (E, I, A) The exceptional photographs in this book clearly illustrate 38 different wildflowers, allowing for easy identification. The accompanying text describes specific adaptations of each plant to its particular habitat, other inhabitants of the ecosystem in which the plant is found, as well as practical uses of many of the plants. Bibliography. TH (IV)

Physical Science

Readers. 160pp. Trade ISBN 0-374-32908-7, $17.00. (I,A) This perspective of the development, uses, and misuses of the X-ray is both complete and interesting. Beginning with Roentgen’s radiation experiments and concluding with high-tech potential for the future, this volume chronicles the history of X-rays. While reading like a novel, it is filled with excellent reference material as well. Index, Bibliography, Websites, Further Reading. PSB (III, VI, VII, VIII)


**Science-Related Careers**

**Rainforest Researchers** (*Deep in the Amazon Series*). James L. Castner. Illustrated with photographs. Benchmark Books/Marshall Cavendish. 64pp. Library ISBN 0-7614-1129-1, $18.95. (I) Research of six tropical biologists is showcased. Studies of entomology, dendrology, bats, botany, and birds are included in five short but informative biographies of rain-forest researchers who have focused their careers on learning more about the South American rainforest and sharing their knowledge with the world. Author’s Note, Glossary, Index, Book List, Websites, “Getting Started” Background Information About Tropical Investigations as a Career. DW (IV, VIII, II)

**Hidden Worlds: Looking Through a Scientist's Microscope** (*Scientists in the Field Series*). Stephen Kramer. Illustrated with photographs by Dennis Kunkel. Houghton Mifflin. 64pp. Trade ISBN 0-618-05546-0, $16.00. (E, I) Stunning photos of microscopic images invite the reader to investigate the amazing hidden world that comes to life under a microscope. This captivating book discusses how a scientist becomes interested in microscopes, how he uses them in his work, and what he has discovered in his research. Author’s Note, Further Reading, Index. TH (VIII, II)

**Exploring Caves: Journeys into the Earth.** Nancy Holler Aulenbach and Hazel A. Barton with Marfé Ferguson Delano. Illustrated with photographs. National Geographic Society. 64pp. Trade ISBN 0-7922-7721-X, $17.95. (E, I) Visit the spectacular world of caves with a teacher and a microbiologist who are part of a National Geographic team creating an IMAX movie. Join these amazing women and share the science they investigate inside this subterranean world, as well as the experiences that led them to science and caving. Glossary, Index, Resources. TH (II, VIII, V)

**Technology and Engineering**

**The Big Dig: Reshaping an American City.** Peter Vanderwarker. Illustrated with photographs. Little, Brown. 56pp. Trade ISBN 0-316-60598-0, $17.95. (E, I) This is a fascinating chronicle of the building of Boston’s underground expressway, the largest and most complex construction project any U. S. city has ever undertaken. The book describes a people’s vision, determination, and cooperation. The
colorful photographs, illustrations, and maps emphasize the many stages of this mammoth construction project. Glossary. LEO (VI, VII)

**Brooklyn Bridge.** Lynn Curlee. Illustrated by the author. Atheneum Books for Young Readers. 40pp. Trade ISBN 0-689-83183-8, $18.00. (E, I) This engaging book describes the engineering challenges that had to be surmounted to build the Brooklyn Bridge and tells of the enormous efforts of the workmen. The charming illustrations reflect the period during which the bridge was built and include excellent diagrams outlining important structural features of the building process. Table of Bridge Specifications, Timeline, Bibliography. TH (VIII, III, VII)

**About the Books and the Selection Process**

The books that appear in this annotated bibliography were selected as outstanding science trade books published in 2001. They are intended primarily for kindergarten through twelfth grade. They were selected by members of a book review panel appointed by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) and assembled in cooperation with The Children’s Book Council (CBC). NSTA and CBC have cooperated on this bibliographic project since 1973.

The panel looks at both content and presentation. Selection is based generally on the following criteria:

- The book has substantial science content;
- Information is clear, accurate, and up to date;
- Theories and facts are clearly distinguished;
- Facts are not oversimplified to the point where the information is misleading;
- Generalizations are supported by facts and significant facts are not omitted; and
- Books are free of gender, ethnic, and socioeconomic bias.

The panel also uses rigorous selection guidelines relating to the presentation of material, including the following: logical presentation and a clear sequence of ideas; appropriate content level for the intended audience; compatible text and illustrations; illustrations that are accurate representations in size, color, and scale; appropriate trim size and format of the book for the subject and audience; and well organized layout that advances the text. The panel also gives attention to the quality of binding, paper, reproduction, and the appropriateness of typeface.

Each panel member reads all the books, but annotations reflect only the appraisal of the individual panelist whose initials follow at the end of each entry.

Publishers’ names appear in abbreviated form; complete names and addresses are available from The Children’s Book Council and in standard reference works. To obtain CBC’s Members List, send $2 and a self-addressed 6” x 9” envelope with 80¢ postage to CBC, Attn: Publications, 12 West 37th St., 2nd Fl, New York, NY 10018-7480; or the list may be downloaded from the CBC website.

Titles are arranged by subject category. Although some titles are appropriate for more than one category, the books have been placed where their usefulness in science education appears greatest. Panelists have also indicated the National Science Content Standards (see explanation below) to which the books relate. Where more than one standard is listed, the most applicable standard is given first.
About the Annotations

1. Titles marked with ★ are Selectors’ Choices—books that individual panel members responded to with particular enthusiasm.
3. The prices are current as of January 2005.
4. The notation Paper ed. (F) indicates that a paperback edition is forthcoming and whether the publisher is different from the hardcover edition.
5. Reading levels [P = Primary (K–2); E = Elementary (3–5); I = Intermediate (6–8); A = Advanced (9–12)] are provided by the reviewers. They are intended as guidelines and are not meant to limit the potential use of titles.
6. The reviewer’s initials follow each description (see Members of the Book Selection Panel).
7. The most relevant National Science Content Standards are indicated by Roman numerals (see below).

National Science Content Standards

I Unifying Concepts and Processes
II Science as Inquiry
III Physical Science
IV Life Science
V Earth and Space Science
VI Science and Technology
VII Science in Personal and Social Perspectives
VIII History and Nature of Science

About CBC and NSTA

The Children’s Book Council (CBC) is a not-for-profit association encouraging the use and enjoyment of children’s books and related literacy materials. CBC is the official sponsor of National Children’s Book Week and Young People’s Poetry Week.

The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) is an organization of science education professionals and has as its purpose the stimulation, improvement, and coordination of science teaching and learning. For further information on NSTA membership and services, call 800-722-NSTA.
Single copies of this list are available for $2.00 with a stamped (3 oz.) self-addressed 6" x 9" envelope with 80¢ postage to CBC at 12 West 37th St., 2nd fl, New York, NY 10018-7480. 10–24 copies, $1.50 each; 25 or more copies, $1.00 each. Payment must accompany order.

**Members of the Book Selection Panel**

**Patricia S. Bowers** (PBS)
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NSTA Recommends
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