

# Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)

## Books for Young Children

A selected list from *The Bank Street Children's Book Committee's Best Books of the Year*

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### **ABC Safari**

by Karen Lee

(Sylvan Dell, 2007)

Clever poems introduce creatures in a wide variety of habitats. Accurate illustrations with reproducible cards. (5-8)

### **About Crustaceans: A Guide for Children**

by Cathryn Sill, illustrated by John Sill

(Peachtree, 2004)

The basic characteristics of crustaceans with detailed drawings. (5-8)

### **About Insects: A Guide for Children**

by Cathryn Sill, illustrated by John Sill

(Peachtree, 2000)

How they live and what they do. (2-5)

### **About Marsupials: A Guide for Children**

by Cathryn Sill, illustrated by John Sill

(Peachtree, 2006)

The kangaroos, opossums, koalas, bandicoots, wallabies and wombats of Australia and the Americas. Watercolors. (5-7)

### **About Mollusks: A Guide for Children**

by Cathryn Sill, illustrated by John Sill

(Peachtree, 2005)

Snails, clams and octopuses. Detailed paintings. (6-9)

### **About Raptors: A Guide for Children**

by Cathryn Sill, illustrated by John Sill

(Peachtree, 2010)

Simple text and detailed watercolor illustrations introduce young children to birds of prey. Notes at the end provide more information for older children and adults. (4-6)

### **Actual Size**

by Steve Jenkins

(HMC, 2004)

Stunning highly textured cut-and-torn-paper illustrations show the true scale of some of earth's more unusual animals and insects. (5-10)

### **African Elephants**

by Shannon Knudsen

(Lerner, 2006)

The habits, habitats and life cycles in clear text and excellent photographs. Includes maps, glossary, index and diagrams. (6-8)

### **All About Sharks**

by Jim Arnosky

(Scholastic, 2008)

The physical characteristics, behavior and survival techniques of various kinds of sharks. Useful illustrations. (6-9)

### **All About Turkeys**

by Jim Arnosky

(Scholastic, 2008)

Informative illustrations and excellent text. (6-9)

### **All About Turtles**

by Jim Arnosky

(Scholastic, 2000)

An introduction to a favorite reptile. Beautifully illustrated. (6-9)

### **Amazing Armadillos**

by Jennifer Guess McKerley, illustrated by Paul Mirocha

(Random House, 2009)

The life of the only armored mammal is described with colorful, detailed illustrations. (6-8)

### **Amazing Grazing**

by Cris Peterson, photos by Alvis Upitis

(Boyd's Mills, 2011)

Three Montana ranchers use new grazing methods to preserve the lands of the American West. Attractive photographs. (6-9)

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### **\*And Tango Makes Three**

by Justin Richardson, and Peter Parnell, illustrated by Henry Cole  
(S&S, 2005)

After two male penguins at the Central Park Zoo adopt an abandoned egg, the hatchling becomes the focus of their happy family. (5-8)

### **Animal Babies (Scholastic Discover More series)**

by Andrea Pinnington and Tory Gordon-Harris  
(Scholastic, 2012)

Beautiful color photographs and simple easy-to-read text explain how animals are alike and different. Glossary and index. (5-7) See also others in the series

### **Animals in Flight**

by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page  
(HMC, 2005)

This beautiful and lucid book with cut-paper illustrations makes flight understandable. (4-10)

### **\*Ants**

by Melissa Stewart  
(National Geographic, 2010)

Inviting photographs and simple text show the anatomy, life style, and different species. (6-8)

### **Ape**

by Martin Jenkins, illustrated by Vicky White  
(Candlewick, 2007)

The five great apes are captured in strong pencil and oil illustrations. Brief, informative text. (5-7)

### **\*Apples**

by Jacqueline Farmer, illustrated by Phyllis Limbacher Tildes  
(Charlesbridge, 2007)

The farming, varieties and history of the most popular fruit in the United States. Colorful watercolor and pencil illustrations. (5-8)

### **Apples A to Z**

by Margaret McNamara, illustrated by Jake Parker  
(Scholastic, 2012)

Fascinating facts about apples, with inviting animal characters, are presented with full-page harvest-colored illustrations. (4-8)

### **The Bald Eagle**

by Norman Pearl, illustrated by Matthew Skeens  
(Picture Window, 2007)

The history and biology of America's national emblem in simple text and engaging cartoon-style illustrations. (5-8)

### **Bamboo Valley: A Story of a Chinese Bamboo Forest**

by Ann Whitehead Nagda, illustrated by Jim Effler  
(Soundprints, 1997)

Panda wanders through his changing habitat seeking a fresh source of food. (5-8)

### **\*Bat Loves the Night**

by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Sarah Fox-Davies  
(Candlewick, 2004)

The nocturnal world of the pipistrelle bats. Interesting information and splendid illustrations. (5-8)

### **Bats**

by Elizabeth Carney  
(National Geographic, 2010)

These fascinating mammals are explained in clear, simple text and color photographs. (6-8)

### **Bats**

by Gail Gibbons  
(Holiday House, 2000)

Simple text and clear illustrations about this under-appreciated flying mammal. (4-7)

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### **Beachcombing: Exploring the Seashore**

by Jim Arnosky

(Dutton, 2004)

An inviting guide to Atlantic and Gulf coast beaches told with fascinating details and labeled illustrations. (5-8)

### **Beavers**

by Gail Gibbons

(Holiday House, 2013)

Full-page and close-up labeled illustrations bring common and unique facts about beavers and their habitats to life. (7-10)

### **\*The Beekeepers**

by Linda Oatman High, illustrated by Doug Chyka

(Boyd's Mills, 2002, paperback)

An easy-to-read book about a young child's introduction to beekeeping. (4-6)

### **\*Bees, Snails, & Peacock Tails**

by Betsy Franco, illustrated by Steve Jenkins

(McElderry, 2008)

Shapes, colors and patterns in nature are explored through poetic text and dynamic collages. (4-8)

### **The Beetle Book**

by Steve Jenkins

(Houghton Mifflin/HMH, 2012)

Stunning cut-paper illustrations and captivating text capture the fascinating diversity of beetles. (6-10)

### **The Best Book of Bugs**

by Claire Llewellyn

(Kingfisher, 2005)

The world of spiders, bees, ants, beetles and more. Helpful illustrations. (6-9)

### **The Big Green Book of the Big Blue Sea**

by Helaine Becker, illustrated by Willow Dawson

(Kids Can Press, 2012)

Follow these experiments with water and learn about ocean science. Color illustrations, drawings and photos. (6-8)

### **Bird Talk: What Birds Are Saying and Why**

by Lita Judge

(Roaring Brook/Macmillan, 2012)

Birds from around the world communicate with sounds, motions and mimicry. Glossary, references, and web site invite further study. Lush watercolors. (4-8)

### **\*Birds Build Nests**

by Yvonne Winer, illustrated by Tony Oliver

(Charlesbridge, 2002)

The amazing variety of birds' nests in various parts of the world. Lyrical verse, detailed illustrations. (6-9)

### **Birds: Nature's Magnificent Flying Machines**

by Caroline Arnold, illustrated by Patricia J. Wynne

(Charlesbridge, 2003)

The structure and methods of flight, including steering and landing. Illuminating illustrations. (6-9)

### **\*Bone by Bone: Comparing Animal Skeletons**

by Sara Levine, illustrated by T.S Spookytooth

(Millbrook/Lerner, 2013)

What animal would you be like if your finger bones reached your feet? If you had no arms? Guess and compare your skeleton to other animals. Useful illustrations. (6-9)

### **Bread Comes to Life: A Garden of Wheat and a Loaf to Eat**

by George Levenson, photos by Shmuel Thaler

(Tricycle, 2004)

The stages that transform wheat into bread. Vibrant photographs. (6-8)

### **Bug Safari**

by Bob Barner

(Holiday House, 2004)

A boy follows a group of marching ants, and experiences the wonders of a bug safari. Colorful cut- and torn-paper illustrations. (4-6)

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### **Bugs Are Insects**

by Anne Rockwell, illustrated by Steve Jenkins  
(HarperCollins, 2001)  
How to recognize an insect. Well illustrated. (3-6)

### **\*Building Our House**

by Jonathan Bean  
(Farrar Straus Giroux /Macmillan, 2013)  
From weedy field to family home, a compelling look at the how-to's of construction and the experiences that bind a family. Informative, detailed, watercolor illustrations. (5-8)

### **Butterflies and Moths**

by Nic Bishop  
(Scholastic, 2009)  
Simple explanations and astonishing photographs will appeal to the younger set. (5-7)

### **Butterflies in the Garden**

by Carol Lerner  
(HarperCollins, 2003)  
All about butterflies and ways to attract them. A carefully illustrated guide. (5-8)

### **A Butterfly Called Hope**

by Mary Alice Monroe, with Linda Love,  
photographed by Barbara J. Bergwerf  
(Sylvan Dell, 2013)  
Hope finds a butterfly and learns to identify and care for it in this story of the life cycle of a monarch. Photographs show development at each stage. (4-7)

### **Can It Rain Cats and Dogs? Questions and Answers about Weather**

### **Do Stars Have Points?: Questions and Answers about Stars and Planets**

by Melvin and Gilda Berger, illustrated by Vincent Di Fate  
(Scholastic, 1999)  
Information for the curious. (4-7)

### **Cars**

by Nancy Smiler Levinson, illustrated by Jacqueline Rogers  
(Holiday House, 2004)  
A highly informative easy-to-read introduction to the birth of the automobile. (6-9)

### **Change It!: Solids, Liquids, Gases and You**

by Adrienne Mason, illustrated by Claudia Dávila  
(Kids Can, 2007)  
Simple experiments about the properties of matter. (6-8)

### **\*Chameleon, Chameleon**

by Joy Cowley, photos by Nic Bishop  
(Scholastic, 2005)  
A chameleon searches for a new home in a tropical forest. Dramatic, up-close photographs. (5-8)

### **Chirping Crickets**

### **Day Light, Night Light: Where Light Comes From**

### **Floating in Space**

by Melvin Berger  
(Harper, 1998)  
Three more in this superb science series for young children. (5-8)

### **Choppers!**

by Susan E. Goodman, photos by Michael J. Doolittle  
(Random, 2004)  
Helicopters--the amazing machines that go many places and do a variety of helpful things. (6-9)

### **\*Cicadas!: Strange and Wonderful**

by Laurence Pringle, illustrated by Meryl Henderson  
(Boyd's Mills, 2010)  
Text and clear illustrations explain the history and life cycles of the many kinds of cicadas that reside in the United States. (6-10)

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### **Cloud Dance**

by Thomas Locker  
(Harcourt, 2005)  
Spectacular paintings and poetic text depict the many types of clouds, followed by factual information. (4-6)

### **Dazzling Dragonflies: A Life Cycle Story**

by Linda Glaser, illustrated by Mia Posada  
(Millbrook, 2008)  
The life cycle is presented with realistic watercolors. (5-7)

### **Deadly Praying Mantises**

#### **Smelly Stink Bugs**

by Meish Goldish, consultant Brian V. Brown  
(Bearport Publishing, 2008)  
A complete presentation of the life cycle discusses various habits of insects. Enlarged photographs. (5-8)

### **Discover the Stars**

by Cynthia Pratt Nicolson, illustrated by Bill Slavin  
(Kids Can, 2006)  
Information in a question-and-answer format. Drawings and NASA photographs. (6-9)

### **Dolphins**

by Melissa Stewart  
(National Geographic, 2010)  
Basic facts with clearly labeled photographs show them in their habitats. Vocabulary and riddles. (6-8)

### **Down Comes the Rain**

by Franklyn M. Branley, illustrated by James Graham Hale  
(HarperCollins, 1997 [new edition])  
A reprint of an old favorite about the rain cycle with new comic book-style illustrations. (5-8)

### **The Eagles Are Back**

by Jean Craighead George, illustrated by Wendell Minor  
(Dial/Penguin, 2013)  
In the 1950s, when the bald eagle was in danger of extinction, a ranger placed an egg from Alaska in a local nest in hopes it would be adopted. Soft paintings in gouache and watercolor. (7-10)

### **Earthquake!**

by Marion Dane Bauer, illustrated by John Wallace  
(Aladdin, 2009)  
The real cause of and the various myths about this destructive natural disaster are explained in this early reader. (6-8)

### **The Emperor Lays an Egg**

by Brenda Z. Guiberson, illustrated by Joan Paley  
(Henry Holt/Macmillan, 2004)  
How mother and father penguins share the responsibility for laying, nesting and nurturing their newborn. (5-8)

### **The Emperor's Egg**

by Martin Jenkins, illustrated by Jane Chapman  
(Candlewick, 2002)  
The penguin's life cycle, simply written and invitingly illustrated. (4-6)

### **Energy Makes Things Happen**

by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley, illustrated by Paul Meisel  
(HarperCollins, 2003)  
Where energy comes from and how it affects us. Simple language and explanatory illustrations. (5-9)

### **\*Even an Ostrich Needs a Nest: Where Birds Begin**

by Irene Kelly  
(Holiday House, 2009)  
From the American Dipper to the Yellow-Rumped Thornbill, birds build their nests in an astonishing variety of ingenious ways. Wonderfully detailed illustrations. (6-9)

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### **Eye (How It Works series)**

by David Macaulay, with Sheila Keenan  
(David Macaulay Studio/Macmillan, 2013)  
Labeled illustrations and clear, simple text, describe how human eyes function. (6-9)

### **Eye Guess: A Foldout Guessing Game**

by Phyllis Limbacher Tildes  
(Charlesbridge, 2005)  
Look at the eyes, focus and guess who the various creatures are. (4-7)

### **Fantastic Farm Machines**

written and photographed by Mary Holland  
(Boyd's Mills, 2006)  
Tractors, plows, planters and more. Clear photographs. (6-8)

### **Ferdinand Fox's First Summer**

written and photographed by Mary Holland  
(Sylvan Dell, 2013)  
The first summer of a litter of foxes is described in detail. Close-up and dramatic photographs add to the text. (6-8)

### **\*First Peas to the Table: How Thomas Jefferson Inspired a School Garden**

by Susan Grigsby, illustrated by Nicole Tadgell  
(Albert Whitman, 2012)  
Maya is determined to win the "first peas" contest in her class, following the directions in *Thomas Jefferson's Garden Book*. Watercolor illustrations. (6-8)

### **Flash, Crash, Rumble, and Roll**

by Franklyn M. Branley, illustrated by True Kelley

### **Sounds All Around**

by Wendy Pfeffer, illustrated by Holly Keller  
(HarperCollins, 1999)  
Information about the physical world, simply explained. Colorful and appealing illustrations. (6-8)

### **Flight of the Honey Bee**

by Raymond Huber, illustrated by Brian Lovelock  
(Candlewick, 2013)  
Travel along with Scout as she leaves the hive in search of nectar and pollen to make delicious honey. Colorful acrylic, pencil and watercolor illustrations. (6-8)

### **The Flyer Flew!: The Invention of the Airplane**

by Lee Sullivan Hill, illustrated by Craig Orback  
(Millbrook, 2006)  
How the Wright Brothers built the first airplane. Clear, simple text and diagrams. (7-9)

### **Forest Animals**

by Deborah Hodge, illustrated by Pat Stephens  
(Kids Can, 2009)  
Which animal hangs upside down, sleeps under leaves, or buries food for later? Find out in this well-illustrated guide. (5-7)

### **Frog Song**

by Brenda Z. Guiberson, illustrated by Gennady Spirin  
(Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, 2013)  
Lush illustrations in tempera, watercolor, and pencil illuminate facts about various frogs around the world. Rich background information. (7-10)

### **Frogs!**

by Elizabeth Carney

### **Penguins!**

by Anne Schreiber  
(National Geographic, 2009)  
Outstanding photographs and simple text explain the amazing variety of these creatures. (5-7)

### **A Fruit Is a Suitcase for Seeds**

by Jean Richards, illustrated by Anca Hariton  
(Millbrook, 2006)  
An imaginative metaphor introduces different types of seed-bearing fruits and vegetables. Emphasizes how seeds travel. (5-8)

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### **Galaxies, Galaxies!**

by Gail Gibbons  
(Holiday House, 2006)  
Galaxies, telescopes and other astronomical subjects, clearly presented with painted and drawn illustrations. (5-8)

### **A Giraffe Grows Up**

by Amanda Doering Tourville, illustrated by Michael Denman & William J. Huiett  
(Picture Window, 2007)  
A giraffe's journey from birth through adulthood. Simple facts and realistic acrylic illustrations. (4-7)

### **Glaciers: Nature's Icy Caps**

by David L. Harrison, illustrated by Cheryl Nathan  
(Boyd's Mills, 2006)  
Glaciers, where they are located, how they are created and how they affect the rest of the environment. Vibrant collages. (6-9)

### **\*A Grand Old Tree**

by Mary Newell DePalma  
(Scholastic, 2005)  
A tree's life cycle. Simple text and delicate illustrations that ring true for human life as well. (4-8)

### **Great Estimations**

by Bruce Goldstone  
(Henry Holt/Macmillan, 2006)  
Illustrations to help train one's eyes and mind to estimate quantities. (6-9)

### **The Great Graph Contest**

by Loreen Leedy  
(Holiday House/Macmillan, 2005)  
Two amphibians compete for recognition as they put the results of research into pie charts, Venn diagrams and more. (7-10)

### **\*The Greatest Dinosaur Ever**

by Brenda Z. Guiberson, illustrated by Gennady Spirin  
(Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, 2013)  
Simple, clear text describes the special feature that might make each of the twelve dinosaurs presented "the greatest." Exquisite oil paint illustrations. (5-8)

### **Guess What Is Growing Inside this Egg**

by Mia Posada  
(Millbrook, 2007)  
Easy rhymes create a guessing game about animals and their babies. Illuminated by watercolor collages. (4-7)

### **Hands Down: Counting by Fives**

by Michael Dahl, illustrated by Todd Ouren  
(Picture Window Books, 2005)  
Children's handprints are cleverly transformed into animals to illustrate counting by fives. (5-8)

### **Hear Your Heart**

by Paul Showers, illustrated by Holly Keller  
(HarperCollins, 2001)  
All about how your heart works and how you can keep it healthy. (4-7)

### **Hello, Bumblebee Bat**

by Darrin Lunde, illustrated by Patricia J. Wynne  
(Charlesbridge, 2007)  
Clear language and detailed watercolor with colored pencil illustrations describe the world's smallest bat. (4-6)

### **Hello, Squirrels!: Scampering through the Seasons**

by Linda Glaser, illustrated by Gay W. Holland  
(Millbrook, 2006)  
A year in the life of this familiar animal. Gentle lyrical text and illustrations. (4-6)

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### **Here Come the Humpbacks!**

by April Pulley Sayre, illustrated by Jamie Hogan  
(Charlesbridge, 2013)

An information-filled account of whale migration, birth and nurturing of the young, pod behavior and ways of protecting them. Rich charcoal and pastel illustrations. (6-12)

### **Hide and Seek: Nature's Best Vanishing Acts**

by Andrea Helman, photos by Gavriel Jecan  
(Walker, 2008)

The search for hidden creatures in their diverse environments is accompanied by sharp color photographs. Additional facts included. (4-8)

### **Horse**

by Malachy Doyle, illustrated by Angelo Rinaldi  
(Margaret McElderry/S&S, 2008)

The simple story of a foal's growth into a horse is depicted with lush oil paintings. (5-8)

### **How Animal Babies Stay Safe**

by Mary Ann Fraser  
(HarperCollins, 2001)

A warm and reassuring story about how mother and father animals nurture their young. (4-7)

### **\*How Big Were Dinosaurs?**

by Lita Judge  
(Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, 2013)

Simple text and amusing color illustrations compare the size and weight of familiar and lesser-known dinosaurs to familiar animals and objects. (4-7)

### **How Many Baby Pandas?**

by Sandra Markle  
(Walker, 2009)

Close-up photographs portray the development of baby pandas in captivity from birth to one year. A counting book. Notes, glossary. (6-8)

### **How Many Jelly Beans?**

by Andrea Menotti, illustrated by Yancey Labat  
(Chronicle Books, 2012)

Using jelly beans, a boy and a girl explore numbers. Bold illustrations with lots of counting to be done. (5-8)

### **How to Talk to Your Cat**

### **How to Talk to Your Dog**

by Jean Craighead George, illustrated by Paul Meisel  
(HarperCollins, 2000)

The ways dogs and cats communicate through body language, scent, and touch...with the people they choose. Charming illustrations. (6-9)

### **Hurricane Hunters!: Riders on the Storm**

by Chris L. Demarest  
(McElderry, 2006)

The Air Force's "Hurricane Hunters" save lives by flying into the storms. Descriptive, pastel illustrations. (6-9)

### **Hurricanes**

by Seymour Simon  
(HarperCollins, 2003)

The life of a hurricane and its effect on people. (6-8)

### **I Face the Wind**

by Vicki Cobb, illustrated by Julia Gorton  
(HarperCollins, 2003)

Exploring the movement of air with simple experiments and activities. Engaging art. (4-6)

### **Ice Cream: The Full Scoop**

by Gail Gibbons  
(Holiday House, 2006)

The history of ice cream and the methods of production today--yum! (6-9)



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### **Inclined Planes and Wedges**

#### **Levers**

#### **Pulleys**

#### **Screws**

#### **Wheels and Axles**

by Sally M. Walker and Roseann Feldmann, photos by Andy King  
(Lerner, 2002)

Simple explanations of simple machines with easy activities and helpful photographs. (6-8)

### **Infinity and Me**

by Kate Hosford, illustrated by Gabi Swiatkowska  
(Carolrhoda/Lerner, 2012)

Children and adults explore the concept of things that go on forever. Whimsical illustrations. (6-8)

### **Insect Detective**

by Steve Voake, illustrated by Charlotte Voake  
(Candlewick, 2010)

Take a walk in the garden with an informed adult and search for hidden insects, especially shy creatures. Detailed watercolor illustrations. (5-8)

### **Insects**

by Barbara Taylor  
(Kingfisher/Macmillan, 2006)

Facts about six-legged animals--beetles, butterflies, bees, wasps, flies and more. Close-up photographs. (5-9)

### **\*Insects: Biggest! Littlest!**

by Sandra Markle, photos by Dr. Simon Pollard  
(Boyd's Mills, 2009)

Close-up photographs and simple text illustrate and explain how the special features of each creature help it to survive. (5-8)

### **It's about Time, Max!**

by Kitty Richards, illustrated by Gioia Fiammenghi  
(Kane Press, 2001)

Max's lively and amusing adventures in learning to tell time. (5-7)

### **It's Our Garden: From Seeds to Harvest in a School Garden**

by George Ancona  
(Candlewick, 2013)

Photographs chronicle a school's communal garden through the growing seasons, demonstrating the work and joy of growing food. (5-10)

### **A Journey into a Wetland**

by Rebecca L. Johnson, illustrated by Phyllis V. Saroff  
(Carolrhoda, 2004)

Interdependence in a swamp with handsome photographs. (6-9)

### **Knut: How One Little Polar Bear Captivated the World**

told by Juliana Hatkoff, Isabella Hatkoff, Craig Hatkoff and Dr. Gerald R. Uhlich  
(Scholastic, 2007)

A bear keeper raises a cuddly cub, born in a German zoo. Brilliant, full-color photographs by Zoo Berlin. (5-7)

### **Koalas**

by Sara Louise Kras, edited by Gail Saunders-Smith, PhD  
(Capstone, 2010)

Simple, interesting facts are accompanied by close-up photographs. (4-7)

### **Ladybugs**

by Gail Gibbons  
(Holiday House, 2012)

These beetles live on six of the seven continents. Their physical characteristics, stages of development, and habitats come to life in bright, labeled illustrations. (4-8)

### **A Leaf Can Be...**

by Laura Purdie Salas, illustrations by Violeta Dabija  
(Millbrook, 2012 New Edition)

A poetic text describes all the things leaves can do throughout the seasons. Notes, glossary, list for further reading. Warm illustrations. (4-6)

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### **Leaving Home**

by Sneed B. Collard III, illustrated by Joan Dunning  
(HMC, 2002)

The various ways young animals leave home. Lively watercolors with simple text above and in-depth information below. (4-8)

### **Life in a Coral Reef**

by Wendy Pfeffer, illustrated by Steve Jenkins  
(HarperCollins, 2009)

Explore the complex and interdependent underwater neighborhoods that exist within coral reefs. (5-9)

### **Lifetime: The Amazing Numbers in Animal Lives**

by Lola M. Schaefer, illustrated by Christopher Silas Neal  
(Chronicle, 2013)

A glimpse into the amazing amounts animals will shed, molt, bore, give birth, and grow over various lifespans. Includes extra animal facts and math challenges. Colorful mixed-media illustrations. (5-9)

### **\*Life-Size Reptiles**

by Hannah Wilson  
(Sterling, 2007)

A plethora of well-organized information is accompanied by colorful, detailed illustrations, many of which are life-size. (4-10)

### **\*Living Sunlight: How Plants Bring the Earth to Life**

by Molly Bang and Penny Chisholm, illustrated by Molly Bang  
(Blue Sky/Scholastic, 2009)

Stylized, colorful illustrations and clear text explain to young readers how the sun creates life through photosynthesis. (7-9)

### **The Long, Long Journey: The Godwit's Amazing Migration**

by Sandra Markle, illustrated by Mia Posada  
(Millbrook/Lerner, 2013)

From her first June day out of the egg, this godwit eats and grows, getting ready for her non-stop migration. Soft natural collages. (6-10)

### **Looking Closely Along the Shore**

#### **Looking Closely Through the Forest**

written and photographed by Frank Serafini  
(Kids Can, 2008)

Exquisite photography brings to life the smallest wonders of two natural habitats. (3-6)

### **Looking Closely Around the Pond**

written and photographed by Frank Serafini  
(Kids Can, 2010)

Unusual photographs invite imaginative examination of a pond's plants and animals. Includes short poems and explanations. (4-6)

### **Making Cents: The Nuts and Bolts of Money and a Whole Lot More!**

by Elizabeth Keeler Robinson, illustrated by Bob McMahon  
(Tricycle, 2008)

In this creative introduction to United States currency, kids work hard to earn enough money to build a clubhouse. (6-10)

### **\*Mammoths on the Move**

by Lisa Wheeler, illustrated by Kurt Cyrus  
(Harcourt, 2006)

About woolly mammoths who lived fourteen thousand years ago. Rhyming facts and dramatic illustrations. (3-6)

### **Marshes and Swamps**

by Gail Gibbons  
(Holiday House, 1999)

Colorful, detailed pictures and text describe wetlands and the teeming life within. (5-7)

# Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)

## Books for Young Children

A selected list from *The Bank Street Children's Book Committee's Best Books of the Year*

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### **Math for All Seasons: Mind-Stretching Math Riddles**

by Greg Tang, illustrated by Harry Briggs  
(Scholastic, 2002)

Clever rhymes encourage readers to learn counting by grouping numbers. Crisp illustrations. (5-8)

### **Meet the Meerkat**

by Darrin Lunde, illustrated by Patricia J. Wynne  
(Charlesbridge, 2007)

Basic information about this less well-known animal for the youngest audience. Expressive watercolor illustrations. (5-7)

### **Millions to Measure**

by David M. Schwartz, illustrated by Steven Kellogg  
(HarperCollins, 2006)

Measurement through the years. Well explained with whimsical illustrations to enhance the telling. (6-10)

### **The Mission of Addition**

by Brian P. Cleary, illustrated by Brian Gable  
(Millbrook, 2005)

Math terms defined in humorous poems and illustrations. (6-8)

### **Mission to Mars**

by Franklyn M. Branley, illustrated by True Kelley  
(HarperCollins, 2002)

What the first space explorers to our neighboring planet can expect to find. (5-8)

### **\*A Moldy Mystery**

by Michelle Knudsen, illustrated by Barry Gott  
(Kane Press, 2006)

When he throws out his brother's science experiment, Jeff learns all about molds. (6-8)

### **Monkey Colors**

by Darrin Lunde, illustrated by Patricia J. Wynne  
(Charlesbridge, 2012)

Meet mandrills, macaques, and more. Realistic watercolor-and-ink illustrations. (5-7)

### **Moon Bear**

by Brenda Z. Guiberson, illustrated by Ed Young  
(Henry Holt/Macmillan, 2010)

A poetic look at the life of the endangered moon bear is illuminated by rich cut-paper collages. (5-8)

### **\*Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11**

by Brian Floca  
(Richard Jackson/Atheneum/S&S, 2009)

Experience the excitement and wonder of the first time people landed on the moon, and learn what it took to get them there -- and back. Expressive, detailed illustrations. (6-9)

### **Mountains**

by Cathryn Sill, illustrated by John Sill  
(Peachtree, 2009)

Spare text and detailed colorful illustrations introduce young people to the plant and animal life of different mountain habitats. (6-8)

### **Mountains and Our Moving Earth: With Easy-to-Make Geography Projects**

by Pam Robson, illustrated by Tony Kenyon  
(Copper Beech, 2001)

Good introduction to complex earth science phenomena. Hands-on projects. (6-10)

### **Mummies**

by Elizabeth Carney  
(National Geographic, 2009)

The art of preserving the dead in different cultures is simply explained and illustrated with useful photographs. (7-9)

### **My, Oh My--a Butterfly!: All About Butterflies**

by Tish Rabe, illustrated by Aristides Ruiz and Joe Mathieu  
(Random House, 2007)

The life cycle done in Dr. Seuss style. Glossary and suggestions for further reading. (4-7)

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### **National Geographic Little Kids First Big Book of Space**

by Catherine D. Hughes, illustrated by David A.

Aguilar

(National Geographic, 2012)

A captivating introduction to Earth and its immediate spatial environs, our solar system, the universe, and stars, and an exploration of space accompanied by photographs. (6-10)

### **\*Nic Bishop Frogs**

written and photographed by Nic Bishop

(Scholastic, 2008)

A description of the many varieties of this amphibian is accompanied by brilliant, color photographs. (6-10) [see also other titles by this author]

### **No Monkeys, No Chocolate**

by Melissa Stewart, and Allen Young, illustrated by Nicole Wong

(Charlesbridge, 2013)

Where does chocolate come from? A description backwards from candy bar to seed---with the comments of two humorous bookworms. Clear text, detailed illustrations. (7-10)

### **A No-Sneeze Pet (Pet Friends Forever series)**

by Diana G. Gallgher, illustrated by Adriana Isabel Juárez Puglisi

(Picture Window/Capstone, 2013)

Though Emma wants a dog, because her mother has allergies, she and her friends look at other pets.

Humorous illustrations. Glossary and pet care suggestions. (5-8)

### **Ocean Seasons**

by Ron Hirschi, illustrated by Kirsten Carlson

(Sylvan Dell, 2007)

Vivid and realistic illustrations beautifully capture the life cycle of creatures in the Pacific Ocean. (3-6)

### **\*Ocean Sunlight: How Tiny Plants Feed the Seas**

by Molly Bang and Penny Chisholm, illustrated by Molly Bang

(Blue Sky/Scholastic, 2012)

Enticing illustrations and simple text explain how the sun supports life, even in the depths of the ocean. Extensive notes. (5-10)

### **\*One Giant Leap**

by Robert Burleigh, paintings by Mike Wimmer

(Philomel/Penguin, 2009)

Full-color oil paintings and a compelling text allow readers to experience the drama and beauty of the 1969 moon landing. (5-8)

### **\*One Gorilla: A Counting Book**

by Anthony Browne

(Candlewick, 2013)

Bold colors and expressive faces portray primates in this surprising counting book. (4-7)

### **\*One Is a Snail, Ten Is a Crab: A Counting by Feet Book**

by April Pulley Sayre and Jeff Sayre, illustrated by Randy Cecil

(Candlewick, 2010)

Number combinations from one to 100, using feet--starring snail! Humorous illustrations. (5-8)

### **\*One Tiny Turtle**

by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Jane Chapman

(Candlewick, 2005)

The life cycle of one loggerhead. Poetic writing and glorious illustrations. (6-8)

### **Orangutans Are Ticklish: Fun Facts from an Animal Photographer**

by Jill Davis, photos by Steve Grubman

(Schwartz & Wade/Random House, 2010)

The habits of these animals are seen through a photographer's lens. (4-7)

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### **Oscar and the Bat: A Book about Sound**

by Geoff Waring

(Candlewick, 2008)

A cat and a bat explore the concept of sound.

Vibrant, digitally rendered illustrations. (6-8)

### **Our Stars**

by Anne Rockwell

(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2002)

A charming introduction to the nature of the sun, the moon, the planets, and the stars. With colorful, informative illustrations. (5-7)

### **\*Outside Your Window: A First Book of Nature**

by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Mark Hearld

(Candlewick, 2012)

Some children look but don't really SEE! With its colorful mixed-media illustrations and the author's vivid observations (in poetry and prose), this book will inspire children's curiosity. (4-8)

### **\*Pandas**

by Anne Schreiber

(National Geographic, 2010)

Inviting photographs and simple text reveal how pandas eat, live, play, and develop from birth. (6-8)

### **Parrots Over Puerto Rico**

by Susan L. Roth, Cindy Trumbore, illustrated by

Susan L. Roth

(Lee & Low, 2013)

In a burst of brilliant colors, the parrots of Puerto Rico are presented in ingenious cut-paper and fabric collages. Clear, comprehensive text including the history of Puerto Rico. References. (7-9)

### **Penguins Swim But Don't Get Wet and Other**

#### **Amazing Facts about Polar Animals**

by Melvin and Gilda Berger, illustrated by Rémy

Simard

(Scholastic, 2004)

Fascinating information about the two coldest places on earth, Antarctica and the Arctic. (6-9)

### **Pika: Life in the Rocks**

by Tannis Bill, photos by Jim Jacobson

(Boyd's Mills, 2010)

A clear, fact-filled account of how this hamster-size mammal survives is accompanied by engaging color photographs. (5-8)

### **The Planets in Our Solar System**

by Franklyn M. Branley, illustrated by Kevin O'Malley  
(Harper, 1998)

New illustrations revitalize this clear explanation of the solar system. Includes simple activities. (6-9)

### **Plant Secrets**

by Emily Goodman, illustrated by Phyllis Limbacher  
Tildes

(Charlesbridge, 2009)

Discover how the seed becomes a plant, flower, and then a fruit. Vivid, detailed illustrations. (5-8)

### **Please Don't Wake the Animals: A Book about Sleep**

by Mary Batten, illustrated by Higgins Bond

(Peachtree, 2008)

Fascinating facts about the different sleep patterns of a wide variety of species are accompanied by realistic acrylic illustrations. (6-10)

### **Polar Bear Horizon**

by Janet Halfmann, illustrated by Adrian Chesterman  
(Soundprints, 2006)

The life of a mother bear and her two cubs.

Realistic, endearing illustrations. (4-7)

### **\*Pop!: A Book about Bubbles**

by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley, photos by Margaret  
Miller

(HarperCollins, 2001)

How soap bubbles are made, why they are round, and why they go pop. (4-7)

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### **Prickly Sea Stars**

by Natalie Lunis  
(Bearport, 2008)

Meet the sea star from its numerous eye spots to its environmental impact. (4-7)

### **\*Puffling Patrol**

by Ted and Betsy Lewin  
(Lee & Low, 2012)

On an island off Iceland, children rescue baby puffins trying to reach the sea. Watercolors and field sketches. (5-8)

### **\*Python**

by Christopher Cheng, illustrated by Mark Jackson  
(Candlewick, 2013)

Large mixed-media illustrations show Python warming up, molting, hunting, and reproducing. Additional information in captions and at the end of the book. (6-9)

### **Red Eyes or Blue Feathers: A Book about Animal Colors**

by Patricia M. Stockland, illustrated by Todd Ouren  
(Picture Window, 2005)

How colors hide, protect and help an animal to survive. (4-7)

### **Reptiles**

by Belinda Weber  
(Kingfisher/Macmillan, 2006)

A clear descriptive text for young scientists. Includes projects and definitions. (5-9)

### **Rocks! Rocks! Rocks!**

by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace  
(Marshall Cavendish, 2009)

A young bear and his mother enjoy an informative rock walk. A great first book for budding geologists with engaging multi-media illustrations. (4-6)

### **A Safe Home for Manatees**

by Priscilla Belz Jenkins, illustrated by Martin Classen  
(HarperCollins, 1997)

The threat of extinction looms as development threatens this marine mammal's habitat. (5-8)

### **Scien-Trickery: Riddles in Science**

by J. Patrick Lewis, illustrated by Frank Remkiewicz  
(Harcourt/HMH, 2004)

Poetic riddles on science topics including the ocean, germs, electricity and more. (6-10)

### **Science Factory: Chemicals & Reactions: Easy-to-Make Science Experiments**

by Jon Richards, photos by Roger Vlitos  
(Copper Beech, 2000)

The basic aspects of everyday chemistry. A clear, concise guide for safe science experiments. (7-9)

### **Sea Horse: The Shyest Fish in the Sea**

by Chris Butterworth, illustrated by John Lawrence  
(Candlewick, 2006)

All types and colors of these strange, mysterious fish. Enchanting illustrations. (5-8)

### **A Second Is A Hiccup: A Child's Book of Time**

by Hazel Hutchins, illustrated by Kady MacDonald Denton  
(Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, 2007)

Time explained in terms of children's familiar activities. Watercolor-and-ink illustrations. (4-7)

### **See What a Seal Can Do**

by Chris Butterworth, illustrated by Kate Nelms  
(Candlewick, 2013)

Discover the surprisingly active life of a gray seal as it dives deep into the sea in search of food. Lovely, realistic mixed-media illustrations. (5-8)

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### **A Seed Is Sleepy**

by Dianna Hutts Aston, illustrated by Sylvia Long  
(Chronicle, 2007)

A guide to seed and plant facts presented through simple but detailed text and large ink-and-watercolor illustrations. (5-7)

### **Seeds! Seeds! Seeds!**

by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace  
(Marshall Cavendish, 2004)

Weeks of fun that a grandfather's gift of seeds inspires. Solid information. (5-7)

### **Selvakumar Knew Better**

by Virginia Kroll, illustrated by Xiaojun Li  
(Shen's Books, 2006)

As the tsunami of 2004 struck his Indian village, seven-year-old Dinakaran hid until his dog pulled him to safety. Pen-and-wash illustrations. Based on a true story. (4-8)

### **Simple Machines**

by Deborah Hodge, photos by Ray Boudreau  
(Kids Can, 1998)

Terrific first book of easy science experiments. Clear layout, hours of science fun. (5-10)

### **Sisters & Brothers: Sibling Relationships in the Animal World**

by Steve Jenkins, and Robin Page, illustrated by Steve Jenkins  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2008)

From helping to competing, siblings of the animal world display a diversity of styles. (5-9)

### **Skunks**

by Adrienne Mason, illustrated by Nancy Gray Ogle  
(Kids Can, 2006)

Kinds of skunks, their habitat and relationship with people. Glossary and index. Clearly illustrated. (6-8)

### **\*Slippery, Slimy Baby Frogs**

by Sandra Markle  
(Walker, 2006)

From slimy eggs to tadpoles to baby frog. Fascinating text and photographs. (6-9)

### **Snow School**

by Sandra Markle, illustrated by Alan Marks  
(Charlesbridge, 2013)

A snow leopard teaches her cubs to survive in the harsh Pakistan Kush Mountains. Dramatic watercolors. (6-9)

### **Sort It Out!**

by Barbara Mariconda, illustrated by Sherry Rogers  
(Sylvan Dell, 2008)

Pack Rat discovers the many ways of sorting his found objects, but is surprised when some of them disappear. Endearing illustrations. (5-7)

### **Sparrows**

by Hans Post, and Kees Heij, illustrated by Irene Goede  
(Lemniscaat, 2008)

Realistic illustrations bring to life the world of the oft-ignored house sparrow. (4-8)

### **Spiders**

by Nic Bishop  
(Scholastic, 2007)

Extraordinary close-up photographs and a wealth of information enhance this interesting book. (5-8)

### **\*Spiders and Their Webs**

by Darlyne A. Murawski  
(National Geographic, 2004)

The habitat and habits of various kinds of spiders. Excellent photos, graphics and glossary. (6-9)

### **Splish! Splash!: Animal Baths**

by April Pulley Sayre  
(Millbrook/Lerner, 2000)

How a variety of animals keep clean. Captivating photos. (4-7)

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### **Spring Blossoms**

by Carole Gerber, illustrated by Leslie Evans  
(Charlesbridge, 2013)

Two children stroll through a pack of flowering trees. Includes additional information on the life cycle of trees. Linoleum block print, watercolor, collage and digital illustrations. (4-8)

### **Storms**

by Miriam Busch Goin  
(National Geographic, 2009)

Comprehensive coverage for beginning readers describes all kinds of storms. Includes vocabulary and some riddles. (5-7)

### **\*Stripes of All Types**

by Susan Stockdale  
(Peachtree, 2013)

Learn why okapis, turkeys, cactus bees, and many other animals have stripes. Clear, simple text and clean, vivid acrylic illustrations. (5-7)

### **The Sun Our Nearest Star**

by Franklyn M. Branley, illustrated by Edward Miller  
(HarperCollins, 2002)

Excellent introduction to our most important source of light and energy. (4-7)

### **Teddy Bear Counting**

by Barbara Barbieri McGrath, illustrated by Tim Nihoff  
(Charlesbridge, 2010)

Counting bears, rhyme, and bright colored digital illustrations explain simple math concepts. (5-7)

### **\*Termites on a Stick: A Chimp Learns to Use a Tool**

by Michele Coxon  
(Star Bright, 2008)

A mother teaches her child a basic survival skill, that of food gathering. Finely detailed illustrations along with additional information. (4-8)

### **This Is the Rain**

by Lola M. Schaefer, illustrated by Jane Wattenberg  
(Greenwillow/HarperCollins, 2001)

A cumulative rhyme delightfully coupled with pictures describes the water cycle for young children, (5-7)

### **Tiger's Story**

by Harriet Blackford, illustrated by Manya Stojic  
(Boxer Books, 2007)

Impressionistic illustrations chronicle the animal's life from cubdom to independence in the forests of India. (4-6)

### **Timeless Thomas: How Thomas Edison Changed Our Lives**

by Gene Barretta (Christy Ottaviano/Henry Holt  
BFYR/Macmillan, 2012)

Without Edison, who gave us the telegraph, the light bulb, cement, alkaline batteries, and much more, we would be in the dark. Watercolor illustrations. (6-8)

### **Train**

by Elisha Cooper  
(Orchard/Scholastic, 2013)

Follow commuter trains, freight trains, high-speed trains, and more on their journeys. Gentle, detailed watercolor and pencil illustrations. (5-7)

### **\*Twilight Hunt: A Seek-and-Find Book**

by Narelle Oliver  
(Star Bright, 2007)

Linocut illustrations demonstrate the importance of animal camouflage for survival in nature as a screech owl searches for supper. (5-8)

### **\*Volcano Rising**

by Elizabeth Rusch, illustrated by Susan Swan  
(Charlesbridge, 2013)

Vivid multimedia illustrations highlight how eight volcanoes grow and shape their landscapes. Glossary, bibliography. (7-10)



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### **Vulture View**

by April Pulley Sayre, illustrated by Steve Jenkins  
(Henry Holt/Macmillan, 2007)  
Rhyming text and cut-paper collages convey a great deal of information about these birds. (6-8)

### **Wetlands Soggy Habitat**

by Laura Purdie Salas, illustrated by Jeff Yesh  
(Picture Window, 2007)  
This journey takes us into the delicate and unique environment where some land meets the sea. (6-9)

### **\*What Bluebirds Do**

by Pamela F. Kirby  
(Boyd's Mills, 2009)  
Stunning photographs follow a bluebird family as the parents build a nest, feed their offspring, and lead them on their first flights. (6-9)

### **\*What Do You Do with a Tail Like This?**

by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2008)  
Cut-paper illustrations and simple text explore unique sensory abilities of various animals. (6-9)

### **What Is a Gas?**

### **What Is a Liquid?**

### **What Is a Solid?**

by Jennifer Boothroyd  
(Lerner, 2007 New Edition)  
The different properties of matter are introduced with vibrant photographs, concise descriptions and sentences geared to beginning readers. (5-7)

### **What's in the Garden?**

by Marianne Berkes, illustrated by Cris Arbo  
(Dawn Publications, 2013)  
Can you guess what each thing growing in the garden is? Turn each page to see if you are right and find a delicious, easy recipe. Illustrated with realistic paintings. (6-9)

### **What Is Science?**

by Rebecca Kai Dotlich, illustrated by Sachiko Yoshikawa  
(Henry Holt/Macmillan, 2006)  
The world of asking questions and exploring possible answers. (3-6)

### **What's Up, What's Down?**

by Lola M. Schaefer, illustrated by Barbara Bash  
(Greenwillow/HarperCollins, 2002)  
The earth's natural wonders celebrated in a clever, instructive and entertaining format. (4-7)

### **\*Where In the Wild?: Camouflaged Creatures Concealed... and Revealed**

by David M. Schwartz and Yael Schy, photos by Dwight Kuhn  
(Tricycle, 2007)  
Creatures, both on the move and hidden, are revealed by lifting flaps. (5-10)

### **Who Likes the Sun?**

by Etta Kaner, illustrated by Marie Lafrance  
(Kids Can, 2007)  
Everyday thoughts are revealed under flaps that provide detailed information about scientific processes. Simple acrylic illustrations. (5-7)

### **Why Does It Rain?**

by Judith Jango-Cohen, illustrated by Tess Feltes  
(Millbrook/Lerner, 2006)  
From earth's first rainfall to today's freshwater shortage. (5-8)

### **Why Frogs Are Wet**

by Judy Hawes, illustrated by Mary Ann Fraser  
(HarperCollins, 2000)  
A wonderful introduction to frogs. (5-8)

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#### **A Wombat's World**

by Caroline Arnold

(Picture Window, 2008)

Simple text and intricate cut-paper illustrations capture the life of this interesting Australian marsupial. (5-7)

#### **Your Skin Holds You In**

by Becky Baines

(National Geographic, 2008)

The various functions of this bodily organ that stretches, repairs itself and prevents disease are described. References included. (4-7)

#### **Yucky Worms**

by Vivian French, illustrated by Jessica Ahlberg

(Candlewick, 2010)

Soft gouache illustrations bring Grandma's garden and the underground world of earthworms to life. (4-7)