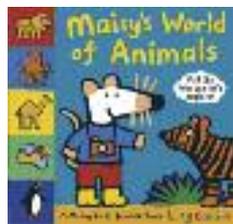


Maisy's World of Animals

Written and illustrated by Lucy Cousins
Walker £8.99 ISBN: 978-1406348200



Maisy books are always bright and cheerful. In this one Maisy learns about animals around the world, from polar bears at the North Pole, to penguins at

the South Pole. There is a tab to pull on every page, each giving at least two movements and there is a whale of a surprise in the middle of the book. The tabs are hard to pull at first but became easier with use. My three year old granddaughter loved Maisy and wouldn't be parted from her.

(2+)

Pat Jenkins

My Little Book of Space

Written by Peter Grego
QED £7.99 ISBN: 978-1781715550

The Big Bang and the formation of the universe, telescopes, satellites and space exploration are all included in this first book about space.



There are descriptions of the sun, the planets, constellations and asteroids. This is a splendid book for a small child. It is full of excellent illustrations and the text is simple, but clear and interesting. Reading and discussing this book with a four year old, I found that I was learning as well.

(3+)

Pat Jenkins

Spot the Snail in the Garden

Written by Stella Maidment
Illustrated by Joelle Dreidemy
QED £4.99 ISBN: 978-1781716564



A bright and colourful book showing gardens packed with wildlife. We are asked to spot, or count, the creatures and to find the pink snail hiding on every page. (I found this very difficult.)

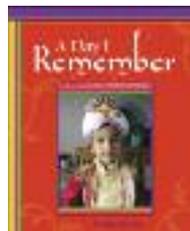
It is not exactly an authentic nature book, well how many bees in helicopters have you seen? However, there are facts about creatures throughout the book and suggestions for activities. It is all great fun and will certainly keep the family occupied.

(3+)

Pat Jenkins

A Day I Remember — An Indian wedding

Written by Prodecepta Das
Frances Lincoln £7.99 ISBN: 978-1847804464



Swayam's uncle is getting married, and Swayam is chosen to play an important role in the celebrations. He is thrilled with his beautiful clothes and the excitement of the fireworks, the special

food and the music. This is an interesting description of a Hindu wedding seen through the eyes of a small boy. The excellent photographs show the colourful clothes, flowers and patterns capturing the lively atmosphere of an important family occasion.

(5+)

Pat Jenkins

The Big Countdown: 70 Thousand Million, Million, Million Stars in Space:

Written by Paul Rockett
Illustrated by Mark Ruffie
Franklin Watts £12.99
ISBN: 978-1445126715



There are plenty of excellent science books out there competing for room on the shelves but this ingenious series looks at important topics taking numbers as a theme. From the very big, like the fact that there are seventy million, million, million stars in space, to the realisation that the earth takes one day to orbit the sun, this title speeds us on a journey through the universe, putting numbers in perspective. It is a useful way of getting children to think about size, which after all can only really be grasped by comparison. Vibrant colours, lots of diagrams and pictures cleverly laid out with accompanying explanations, make this an attractive classroom resource for young minds keen on learning more about the size of the universe they inhabit. Other titles in the series deal with the Rainforest, the Animal Kingdom and Planet Earth.

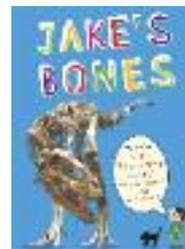
(6-9)

Richard Monte

Jake's Bones

Written by Jake McGowan-Lowe
Ticktock £7.99 ISBN: 978-1783250257

Some children are complete experts in a given subject. Jake is a young expert in bones and gets information over in a way that is highly informed and friendly. By the time you reach



the end of the book you will know what bones are and what they do. Some animals are usefully picked out, giving details about a leopard's teeth, the way in which birds' bones are adapted for flight and how cats' bones

can explain why they are able to squeeze through tiny spaces. From fish to dinosaurs, it is hard to stop reading, and Jake offers help to others who might also want to become a 'bone detective': how to equip yourself, how to form a collection and the seven "golden rules" to keep the collector out of trouble. A great read, a good glossary, a useful index and pointers to other learning experiences.

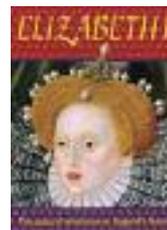
(8+)

Pat Thomson

Elizabeth I: The outcast who became England's Queen

Written by Simon Adams
QED (R) £6.99 ISBN: 978-1781715116

The third edition of a manageable book for older primary and younger secondary children. The facts of her early life are set out with interesting emphasis on the dangers of being a Tudor princess.



There is a brief explanation of the rise of the followers of the Catholic and Protestant faiths and how it intensified when Mary came to the throne. Elizabeth's life as Queen is described politically, socially and, in small details, personally. Principally, the book explains well the stability of government at home, the success abroad and the shrewdness of the Queen's management of religion and the succession, all tempered to an intelligent child's understanding. The illustrations are well chosen and well produced. A useful glossary, bibliography, websites and index are provided.

(10+)

Pat Thomson

Operation Ouch! Your Brilliant Body

Written by Dr Chris van Tulleken and Dr Xand van Tulleken
Little Brown (eB) £8.99 ISBN: 978-0349001807

Chris and Xand van Tulleken are identical twins. Both trained as doctors and have been on expeditions as far away as Belize, Brazil and Greenland. This book accompanies their BBC television series for children, which sets out to explain the biology of the human body in a fun



and quirky way. The doctors discuss each part of our anatomy, starting with eyes and ending with toes. There are amazing facts, weird experiments and just to please young fans, snippets of gross information, like the fact that, "About 50% of

people have tiny creatures living on their eyelashes." More adult audiences might find the presentation slightly irritating, but the corny jokes and deadpan humour will no doubt amuse most children. Packed with fascinating insights into the functioning of our bodies, this book would make a great introduction to Key Stage 2 science.

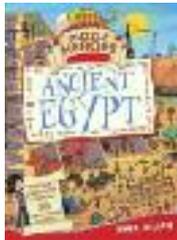
(8-10) *Richard Monte*

Ancient Egypt

Written by Anna Nilsen Illustrated by David Lopez
Franklin Watts Puzzle Heroes £7.99
ISBN: 978-1445119106

If you are facing a long journey, this puzzle book should work well. Ten double spreads set in Ancient Egypt are presented and each is full of puzzles. Most ask the reader to find and count items but there is also a maze and a page for identifying gods and goddesses. To find the answers the reader must look closely at each page and they are packed with information. Children tend to be fascinated by and often knowledgeable about Ancient Egypt and they will be intrigued by these colourful depictions of life at that time whether on the Nile, in the Valley of the Kings or trapped in a tomb. They will no doubt especially enjoy the spread on the afterlife. All the major topics for this age range seem to be covered and this represents a good mixture of information and fun. Mercifully, the answers are at the back.

(8-11) *Pat Thomson*



The Story of Buildings

Written by Patrick Dillon Illustrated by Stephen Biesty
Walker Books £16.99 ISBN: 978-1406335903



Buildings make up the fabric of civilisation. Throughout history humankind has moved from caves and straw huts, to the complexities of Gothic cathedrals and skyscrapers. Patrick

Dillon brings his story together in one elegant book, mapping out this fascinating passage in clear stages, while Stephen Biesty illustrates the text with fully labelled sketches of the

architectural masterpieces which literally reached for the skies. Young readers will love the fold-out pages which open up pyramids, churches, cathedrals and palaces, giving a unique glimpse of cross sections and laying bare rooms and chambers. Complete with a timeline and index, this handsome volume is sure to enthral anyone with an interest in architecture and architectural history.

(8-12) *Richard Monte*

Street Children

Written by Anthony Robinson Illustrated by June Allan
Frances Lincoln £12.99 ISBN: 978-1847804341

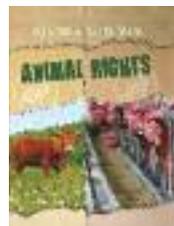
The children in this book tell their stories simply, which only emphasizes the longer, more complex stories behind their words. Zimbabwe, Guatemala, Mozambique; the countries differ but all have common themes.



What does a child do when parents and homes are lost? Often they set to work, earning a few pennies. They talk positively of the other street children they join. But, behind their resilience, even young readers will understand the loss and fear. This is both a tribute to those children and the charities who try to help and a window into that world for we who read the book in happier circumstances. It should provoke much discussion, perhaps even action. The book is well illustrated with drawings and photographs and credit must go to the author who has distilled what must have been a harrowing experience into something younger readers can cope with but which does not hide the facts about life on the streets. A final page gives statistics. Our schools need this book.

(9-12) *Pat Thomson*

Animal Rights: Both Sides of the Story



Written by Patience Coster
Franklin Watts £8.99
ISBN: 978-1445109916

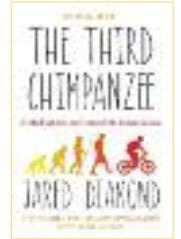
The debate about animal rights has been raging for centuries and this book, part of a new series subtitled, 'Both Sides of the Story', aims to bring together arguments for and against the case that animals should be treated with just as much respect as human beings. Historical background to the debate is explored from ancient battles like that between Pythagoras, who thought it was wrong to kill animals for food because they could reason, sense and feel, just as humans do and Aristotle, who believed in a great chain of beings with humans at the top, animals in the middle and plants at the bottom. More recent ideas include

Descartes' belief that animals were automata or robots without feeling. Modern theories about factory farming, genetic engineering, animal culling, hunting and the rights and wrongs of animals in entertainment are all discussed. Other titles in this excellent series include: the death penalty, euthanasia and the ethics of war. All important topics touched on in secondary school.

(12-14) *Richard Monte*

The Third Chimpanzee

Written by Jared Diamond
Adapted by Rebecca Stefoff
Oneworld (eB) £12.99
ISBN: 978-1780746043



First published for an adult audience in 1991, Jared Diamond's classic analysis of the human condition has been adapted for young readers complete with illustrations. The premise of the book, that we share 98% of our DNA with chimpanzees, is a startling one, especially when we consider that human beings have mastered reading, writing, talking and more dubious pastimes like bomb-making, while our mute and more peaceful relatives have hardly 'progressed' from their natural state. Much of this book makes painful reading, especially when we consider how many times the ingenuity of our species has gone astray, culminating in horrific genocides, not only of our own kind but also of the plants and animals which live with us. Diamond's message to the next generation is ultimately an optimistic one, to "make better decisions than their parents and get us out of the mess we're in." This is an important book and a valuable resource for students of the natural sciences.

(14-16) *Richard Monte*

Animalium



Written by Jenny Broom
Illustrated by Katie Scott
BPP/Bonnier £20
ISBN: 978-1783700608

If your family are natural history enthusiasts, this will please all of you. The large format suits the

impressive illustrations and the text is professional without being daunting. It is set out like a museum with 'galleries': invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Each gallery is then further divided into different groups, and includes a note on habitat. In the last pages, there is an index, we are introduced to the Curators and told where to find more information. This is rather a grand production, to read if you can, but equally good to look at.

(Family Book) *Pat Thomson*