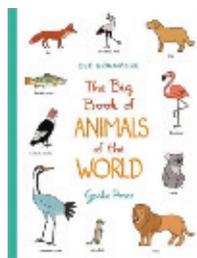


For all the family

The Big Book of Animals of the World



Written and illustrated by Ole Könnecke
Gecko £12.99 ISBN: 978-1776570126

Introducing young children to interesting and exciting first books is vital when promoting a future love of reading and this large format board book does the job brilliantly. It is a compendium of animals from around the world. Big double-page spreads of quirky artwork, depicting wild spaces such as oceans or forests, and locations from China to South America, are perfect for teaching new words and allowing a toddler or pre-school child to spot particular creatures in the busy pages. Each spread in this big book focuses on a continent and features animals unique to that part of the world. Little humanoid mice explorers scattered around each spread add to the charm of this book, which will be asked for again and again. (3+)

Paul Dowswell

Hide and Seek

Written and illustrated by Charlene Man
Laurence King £7.95 ISBN: 978-1780675909

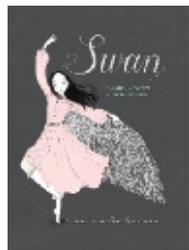
Subtitled, *An Around-the-World Animal Search*, this attractive and colourful book shows groups of animals in their natural habitat on each double-page spread, but within each of these scenes there is another animal hiding; an animal that is a long way from home. This could be used as merely a book of 'find the odd one out' puzzles, but that would be a shame. It is a perfect book for sharing with very small book lovers as it can use play to introduce the idea that all animals live in an environment that suits their needs and lifestyle and so, for example, you would not find a panda in Antarctica. Some of the wrongly placed animals are very hard to spot so this could keep small children and their parents busy for quite a long time. This is a fun way to start learning about animal habitats and the world in which we live. (4+)



Jan Lennon

Swan: The Life and Dance of Anna Pavlova

Written by Laurel Snyder
Illustrated by Julie Morstad
Chronicle £11.99 ISBN: 978-1452118901



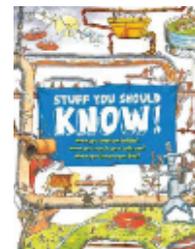
This American import is a heartfelt depiction of the life of the gifted Russian ballerina, Anna Pavlova, who graced the stage in the years before the Russian Revolution. She is the most famous prima ballerina of all time. Gentle, lyrical artwork, which captures the movement of the dance, and a beautifully written minimal text take you through Anna's talented performance and make this a magical book for any young girl who dreams of becoming a ballerina. "She steps onto the stage alone... and sprouts white wings, a swan. She weaves the notes, the very air, into a story. Atmospheric and beautiful. The Author's Note, a two-page spread at the back of the book, give a detailed account of Anna Pavlova's extraordinary life and career. (5+)

Paul Dowswell

Stuff You Should Know!

Written by John Fardon and Rob Beattie
Illustrated by Steve Fricker
QED £9.99 ISBN: 978-1784932992

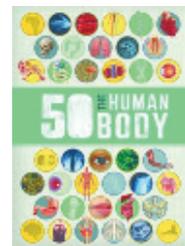
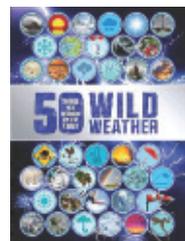
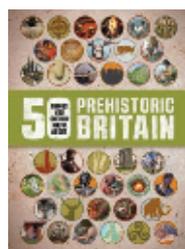
If your children have ever wondered how a toaster, to name but one item, works, then this is the book for you. For a curious child who is always asking how and why do things work, the answers are all here. Twenty-seven everyday objects, together with the connected services such as the telephone or electricity supplies, are all described carefully. Each subject is explained with detailed drawings showing the entire process, accompanied by explanations of each part of the process. The book is well laid out with a different subject on each double-page spread, plus special fold-out pages, a contents page, an index and a glossary. It is a real eye-opener, full of interesting information! (7+)



Patricia Thompson

50 Things You Should Know About: Prehistoric Britain

Written by Clare Hibbert
QED £8.99 ISBN: 978-1784933050



Key Stage 2 children are required to learn about Britain in prehistoric times, so this colourful, attractive and very informative book should find its way into lots of primary school libraries. The scope of the book is huge and so provides a good basic introduction to Stone Age Britain, before moving on to the Bronze Age and the Iron Age and ending with the Roman invasion of our islands. Each page is crammed with information covering a wide range of topics - farming, the use of tools, development of mining, early religious beliefs, and social organisation. The distant past is vividly brought to life by photographs of rediscovered artefacts and the prehistoric sites that can be visited today, alongside artist's impressions of everyday life. Readers will surely be fascinated to learn about Otzi the Iceman and the Amesbury Archer as well as the ancient village of Skara Brae in the Orkneys. These are the details that help pupils relate to the lives of our ancestors and will hopefully encourage them to learn more. The book concludes with a very necessary glossary and a good index.

Look out for three other titles in the same 50 *Things You Should Know About* series, *Wild Weather*, (ISBN: 978-1784933043) in which Anna Claybourne sets out, in the same 80 pages, fascinating facts, dramatic photos and intriguing diagrams about the one facet of our environment that man has no control over whatever, and also, *The Human Body*, (ISBN: 978-1784931346) Angela Royston's perfect introduction to the workings of our amazing bodies, which is packed with facts, diagrams, info-graphics and photos, and, *Space* (ISBN: 978-1784934729), in which Raman Prinja reveals just a few of the secrets of the universe and our attempts to understand it. A fascinating series and a valuable resource. (8+)

Jan Lennon

The Awesome Body Book

Written by Adam Frost

Bloomsbury £6.99 ISBN: 978-1408862353

Here is the perfect gift for children who have reached that phase of life where the complexity of human bodies, particularly all things to do with fluids, exits and excretions, becomes a source of fascination. How much food does a human eat in a lifetime, and how much poo is produced as a result? How do animals perceive colour? How does your heart work? All this and much, much more is explained in a clear, straightforward way with mischievous humour and a joyful celebration of the human body. The book is crammed with clear, colourful illustrations and provides a compendium of interesting information. Be warned, those who are a bit squeamish, the detailed descriptions and illustrations may make you squirm. This is a book full of interesting facts and figures that young readers will want to dip into and share, especially at meal times. (7+)



Yvonne Coppard

Timeline

Written and illustrated by Peter Goes

Gecko £16.99 ISBN: 978-1776570690



This stunning visual history of the world is more than just a straightforward historical narrative of human development. Beginning at the Big Bang, it charts the expansion of the universe, the emergence of the milky way and the solar system and proceeds towards the evolution of life on

earth. The largest part of the book is given over to human history, from the rise of the first people to the start of the twenty-first century. The rise and fall of empires is carefully sketched in illustrations which almost look like woodcuts and the drawings are annotated with pithy captions describing the main historical events. This is the history of our planet on a grand scale – the book itself is twice the size of most hardbacks. A great resource for classrooms and libraries. (8+)

Richard Monte

That's Deadly

Compiled by Crispin Boyer

National Geographic Kids £8.99 ISBN: 978-1426320798

Subtitled *Fatal Facts That Will Test Your Fearless Factor* and designed to resemble a National Geographic magazine, this title is packed full with the sort of information children love – the deadliest animals, natural disasters, and transport catastrophes such as the sinking of the Titanic and destruction of the airship, Hindenburg. There are some unexpected sections too, such as the most dangerous toys, and America's most dangerous jobs. If there is anything in the world that will put your life in jeopardy it is probably accurately described in this information title. With beautiful photographs, humorous text, and fun and funky design, think of it as the almanac of danger. The busy, colourful layouts and dense fact-packed text make this a book that will provide many hours of captivating reading and it's sure to be enjoyed by curious children confident enough to negotiate the busy spreads. (9+)



Paul Dowswell

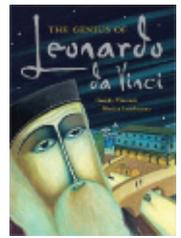
The Genius of Leonardo da Vinci

Written by Guido Visconti Illustrated by Bimbo Landmann

Barefoot £6.99 ISBN: 978-1782852773

Giacomo is Leonardo's young assistant and he gives us a glimpse into the life and work of the 15th century genius. He watches his master as he paints, he listens as Leonardo instructs his students and he asks questions.

Giacomo is actually a rather naughty young lad but he is well placed to see and record the many facets of this great man, who had a tremendous love of knowledge and learning, who was a scientist and an inventor and who was one of the world's greatest artists. The text includes extracts from both Leonardo's own writings and his own sketches of plants, animals, buildings and inventions taken from his manuscripts, all of which are fascinating and which give the book great authority. Bimbo Landmann's wonderful, whole page, highly-stylised illustrations are the book's crowning glory. They have a medieval feel, yet are thoroughly modern, and the colour scheme of browns and oranges invokes the warmth of Italy. The amount of text and the subject matter mean that this is not a picture book for the very young but the story is entertaining, as well as informative, and is the perfect way to introduce younger readers to the life and many talents of this great historical figure. (9+)



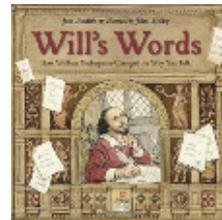
Jan Lennon

Will's Words

Written by Jane Sutcliffe

Illustrated by John Shelley

Charlesbridge £10.99 ISBN: 978-1580896382



Where would we be without Shakespeare's effect on the English language, *for goodness' sake* (Henry VIII)? Whether it's about getting your *money's worth* (Love's Labour's Lost)

or finding your *heart's content* (Henry VI), Jane Sutcliffe uncovers a treasure trove of words for which, to this very day, we are indebted to Shakespeare. It is enough to *make your hair stand on end* (Hamlet). Sutcliffe explores Shakespeare's times and plays through the links with the language we still use. Scenes of Elizabethan life are explored in painstaking and lavish detail by illustrator John Shelley, including spectacular spreads of the Globe Theatre, creating a perfect way to get children into Shakespeare's words and world before introducing them to the plays. Anyone who does not *budge an inch* (Taming of the Shrew) of *excitement* (Hamlet) at this magnificent book is suffering from the *green-eyed monster* (Othello). Subtitled *How William Shakespeare Changed the Way You Talk*; this fascinating reading is ideal for the whole family. (10+)

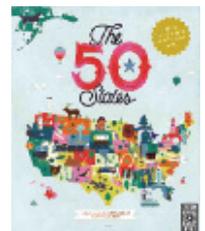
Benjamin Scott

The 50 States

Written by Gabrielle Balkan Illustrated by Sol Linero

Wide Eyed £20.00 ISBN: 978-1847807113

Explore the USA with fifty fact-filled maps. There is a truly astonishing amount of information contained in this large format book. Each of the fifty states has its own double-page map, and the states are arranged in alphabetical order. This is, however, so much more than just an atlas because, for each state, we get a description, key moments in its history and whole lists of famous, infamous and less-famous-but-still-interesting sons and daughters. We learn the state capital, the nickname, the largest cities, state emblems and how the state got its name. At the end of the book there is a pictorial list of the presidents and, at the very end, the end papers show the 50 individual state flags. Although the pages are crowded with fact boxes, diagrams, lists and illustrations the information is still easy to find and it is also wonderfully easy to be side-tracked as you spot something else of interest. There is a very comprehensive index. Although this book probably doesn't fit with any specific curriculum requirement it would be a perfect book for a project about the USA and any child with an interest in America could lose themselves for hours in these pages. (10+)



Jan Lennon