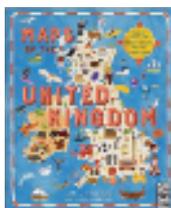


For all the family



### Maps of the United Kingdom

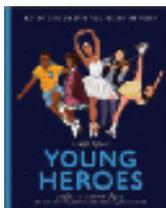
Written by Rachel Dixon Illustrated by Livi Gosling  
Wide Eyed £17.99 ISBN: 978-1786030252

As invited by the blurb, the reader can take a tour of the United Kingdom through the maps in this atlas. There is so much to discover, from history to areas of outstanding natural beauty, to famous people and interesting places to visit, the quirky, the strange and the spectacular. Each double-page spread covers a county or small group of neighbouring counties in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Panels show the location on a small map of Britain and give an introduction to the county. Seven famous people linked to the area are featured, along with a wealth of interesting information. The five biggest cities or towns are highlighted in coloured type, with fascinating facts linked to other places placed approximately to the site. As the publisher's note on the frontispiece clarifies, the maps are not drawn to scale but intended to tell the story of our nation. If you are setting off on a journey you will need to use a road atlas! This is a stunning depiction of the United Kingdom, exciting curiosity in readers from 8 to 80, with pages to pore over and much to stimulate further discovery. A book very much to be welcomed, as, I think, the first on the subject and a must for every home bookshelf and school library. (5+)

Jayne Gould

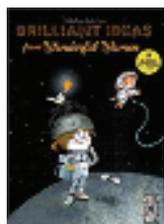
### Young Heroes

Written by Lula Bridgeport Illustrated by Federica Frenna,  
Isabel Munoz and Julianna Swaney  
Stripes £12.99 ISBN: 978-1847159557



This original information book highlights inspirational children from around the world who rose to become the best in their field by interest, imagination and, very often, sheer hard work. Among these are STEM prodigies, entertainers like Taylor Swift and Daniel Radcliffe and sportspeople like Pelé, a poor boy whose first football was a sock stuffed with paper or a grapefruit. There are ten categories to explore to discover how each succeeded, then later, How to be a Hero Every Day. This suggests acts of quiet heroism in the way you treat people, help them and respect them, not praised enough in our busy, ambitious world. Flat, stylised but attractive and engaging illustrations break up the text and give a clear idea of each person, like gymnast Nadia Comăneci: 'Hard work has made it easy. That is my secret. That is why I win.' This theme runs through the lives explored here, a helpful reminder that wishing and dreaming won't make it happen: you are the author of your own destiny. A book to explore, enjoy, discuss and treasure, a real asset to any class or school library. (7+)

Tina Massey



### Brilliant ideas from Wonderful Women

Written by Aitziber Lopez Illustrated by Luciano Lozano  
Wide Eyed £11.99 ISBN: 978-1786037046

Who knew that the first Domestic Surveillance System was invented by Marie Von Brittan Brown in 1966? I certainly didn't, and the nuggets of wisdom about these wonderful inventions, that we are so familiar with, are nuggets that I couldn't wait to share with everybody else. A book full of mainly American female inventors with very bold and strong illustrations. The double page allocated to each inventor is laid out in the same way throughout the book with information boxes and fonts designed to link the information. The

extra bits of information, almost as an aside, are my favourite parts and these are pointed to by a fountain pen nib creating a lovely, personal diary entry. (7+)

Sue Bussey

### Who Are You Calling Weird?: A Celebration of Weird and Wonderful Animals

Written by Marilyn Singer Illustrated by Paul Daviz  
words and pictures £12.99 ISBN: 978-0760363386



Here is a book that celebrates weird and wonderful animals from all round the world. The full-page colour illustrations are eye-catching, and the conversational text describes the physical features or animal behaviour that makes the creature unique. The range of creatures is extraordinary and fascinating from the Pacific Barreleye and the Star-nosed Mole to the Hairy Frog and the Hoatzin. Children are bound to be intrigued by the strangeness and variety of the creatures, and how they have adapted to suit their environments. The last entry is the human. This makes us think about our distinctive qualities and the final paragraph reminds us that we have a responsibility to use our brains to save the environment, reduce pollution and protect animals. Highly recommended. (8+)

Brenda Marshall

### Famous Family Trees



Written by Kari Hauge Illustrated by Vivien Mildenburger  
Lincoln £12.99 ISBN: 978-1786032973

Genealogical investigation has become very popular in recent years, with people tracing their family trees and now using DNA to discover ancestry. This book explores the family trees of twenty-five famous people from history, showing the web of family that helped make them the person they became. They range from rulers to writers, inventors and activists, who lived from 100BC to 2013 across the world. It is a rather eclectic mix, including Cleopatra, the de Medici family, Ned Kelly and Henry Ford. An explanation of how to read a family tree prefaces the genealogical accounts, which are in chronological order. The connections between some families or the influences they had are highlighted, for example those between Shakespeare and Elizabeth I, and Gandhi and Nelson Mandela. Information about the main person featured takes up one side of each spread, with their family tree drawn on the other side. These have impressionistic portraits of other members with expanded captions. The design means that close reading is needed for some parts of the book, which should appeal to readers with a fascination for history. (8+)

Jayne Gould

### The Good Guys: 50 Heroes Who Changed the World with Kindness

Written by Rob Kemp Illustrated by Paul Blow  
Wren and Rook £12.99 ISBN: 978-1526361448

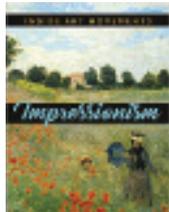


In this collection of page-long biographies, Rob Kemp introduces 50 men who have helped change the world through acts of kindness, big and small. Whilst many of those included are well-known for being powerful, rich, super-smart or sporty, the focus of this book is to show that being kind is cool and, in doing so, Kemp and Blow have created a gorgeous, inspiring book that shows that anyone can make a difference. The biographies within are a lovely mix of well-known celebrities and relatively unknown

people and the bold portraits the accompany each piece of text transform this book into a real work of art. (8+)

Rebecca Watt

## Inside Art Movements: Impressionism



Written by Susie Brooks  
Franklin Watts £13.99 ISBN: 978-1526304957

*Inside Art Movements* is a new series of books introducing children to the world of art. It provides a guide to some of the most significant art movements, and explores their origins, evolution, and legacy. The Impressionism guide opens with an introduction to the movement that originated in Paris in the late 1860s.

We learn how a group of artists living and working there wanted their art to reflect the fast-changing world in which they lived. They began to paint in a way no-one had ever seen before, using bold unblended brushstrokes, taking inspiration from modern life. And so, impressionism was born. As the book progresses, we are treated to many glorious paintings by artists such as Monet and Degas, and also discover those lesser-known such as Corot and Pissarro. We learn how the impressionist style evolved as new artists joined the movement; sometimes creating rifts within the movement, but also creating inspiration worldwide. The book also covers developments in the art world in general such as the development of screw top paint tubes which made artists' lives much easier. This fascinating book concludes with a glossary of art terms, a timeline and sources to find out more. (9+)

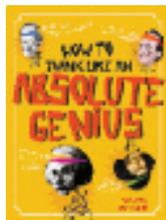
Jane Hall

## How to Think Like an Absolute Genius

Written by Philippe Brasseur Illustrated by Philippe Brasseur and Virginie Berthemetv  
QED £10.99 ISBN: 978-0711239845

This book is a great read for all children and adults alike! Through four sections – Be Curious, Be Imaginative, Be Determined and Take It Further – it showcases 26 of the world's greatest creative minds and shares how they cultivated their own particular creativity. In step-by-step exercises, the reader is invited to think like John Lennon or Thomas Edison. Each creator shares one element of their creativity – such as perseverance, looking at things differently and asking oneself questions. Brimming with examples and suggestions and made visually exciting through colour and black and white illustrations, this feels like a very important book for everyone to read. (9+)

Julia Wills



## Forest Craft

Written by Richard Irvine  
GMC £16.99 ISBN: 978-1784945008

Richard Irvine shares invaluable knowledge and experience of the outdoors and his 'Forest Schools' initiatives in this informative and instructional user-friendly publication. There are comprehensive sections on tools: laws, safety and tool care; cutting

techniques; identifying trees and timber and then a whole catalogue of Richard Irvine's 'projects' and wood carving ideas. All are visually and systematically explained with additional and interesting information where relevant e.g. the collective noun for 'foxes' and facts about traditions and customs around the world. With great artwork by Sarah Skeate, Rebecca Mothersole, Claire Owen and Ann Biggs and plentiful photographs by Richard Irvine and Rebecca Mothersole, this is a child-friendly publication which is aimed at Forest School Practitioners, play workers and trainers as

well as absolutely anyone of any age with an interest in the outdoors and the resourcefulness nature offers all around us. A superb book in a brilliant format, worth every penny of its price. (9+)

Gill Roberts

## What is Race?

Written by Claire Heuchan and Nikesh Shukla  
Wayland Books £13.99 ISBN: 978-1526303981

Equally at home on a family, school or library bookshelf, this is one of a series that tackles some of life's big questions. This book explores what racism is: the historical events that gave rise to it and the damage it does to us all as a society, whatever our colour. Contributors with diverse ethnic backgrounds and well-known faces explain directly what racism means to them. The choice of contributors and the full colour pages and photos give this book street cred, easy to engage with and dip into and asking pertinent questions that will make readers think about their own beliefs and attitudes. (10+)



Yvonne Coppard



## Trans Global: Transgender then, now and around the world

Written by Honor Head  
Franklin Watts £13.99 ISBN: 978-1445160481

Regular readers of the popular press may think that transgenderism is a fashionable first world fad, but this book gathers together evidence from around the world proving that transgender people have been with us, contributing to the life and culture of their communities, for centuries. We learn about the ancient hijra or 'third gender' communities in India and compare their lives to that of a MTF transgender student in India today. We look at other examples of countries where transgender people have traditionally been accepted and valued. Another section spotlights some well-known transgender individuals, like 19th century surgeon James Barry, writer Radclyffe Hall and tennis player Renée Richards, and throughout the book the experiences and challenges of non-binary men and women around the world today are highlighted. There are words and phrases that will be unfamiliar to some readers, but there is an excellent glossary and also a useful list of websites, books and helplines where further information or help can be found. This book may well provide reassurance to a young trans person or may simply prove to be a fascinating insight into different societies for the general reader. Either way this book is timely and valuable. (12+)

Jan Lennon

## Sportopedia

Written by Adam Skinner Illustrated by Mark Long  
Wide Eyed Editions £14.99 ISBN: 978-1786030849

Ever wondered how the scores are allocated in the Formula 1 World Championships or how American football was even invented? The *Sportopedia* is a superb introduction to a range of sports, pulling out the history and popularity of each game alongside key vocabulary, rules and facts. Separated into eight sections, sports are arranged depending on how they're played, whether they use balls or rackets, are athletic, gymnastic or combat, or involve water, motors or targets. The three types of Olympic games are covered separately as well. Long's bold, bright illustrations pick key moments to capture the dynamism and drama of each game, with plenty of space for the text to flow around it. In total over fifty sports are explored. This is an essential guide to the major games played internationally, and good preparation for next year's Olympic Games in Tokyo, if you don't know why kayaking is different from canoeing or which sport has positions called goaltenders and defencemen.



Benjamin Scott