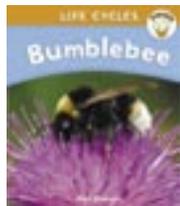


Information for all ages.



Bumblebee

Written by Ruth Thomson
Wayland *Life Cycles* £10.99
ISBN: 978-0750257855

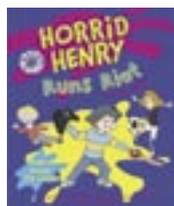
Bees are important so the earlier we learn about them the better. With a few lines of text on each page and good, close-up photographs of bees and their activities, the book explains the life cycle of a bee from grub to adult. There is then a single page summary in words and photographs and, for fun, a simple bee mobile to make. The last page is a proper glossary and index. This works well as a first information book for the younger reader or listener.

(3-6)

Pat Thomson

Horrid Henry Runs Riot

Written by Francesca Simon
Illustrated by Tony Ross
Orion £4.99
ISBN: 978-1842557273



These are just right for the back of the car and those dreaded "what shall we do now?" moments. Any Horrid Henry fan will appreciate these three books, crammed with puzzles of all kinds, matching pictures, crosswords, sudokus, word searches, mazes and plenty more. Henry's family and friends are all taking part and it helps to know them in advance. The puzzles range from the easy to the quite tricky but, luckily, the answers are included. See also *Horrid Henry's Holiday Havoc* and *Horrid Henry's Classroom Chaos*.

(5+)

Pat Jenkins



First Polish Words

Illustrated by David Melling
Oxford £5.99
ISBN: 978-0199117154

A clever series of books to help with the introduction of a simple 400 word vocabulary

by illustrating communal and familiar situations and suggesting fun activities to share with others. The colourful drawings attract the reader into each scene whilst at the sides of the pages are relevant individual objects labelled in the new language with an English translation in smaller type underneath. This must give confidence to the newcomer who can identify relevant items by using their mother tongue whilst also becoming more confident with seeing words in the English language. A dual language text and dictionary index is in each book and with such vibrant pictures and clever format, I'm sure that this series of books should prove a great benefit in the school, nursery

or home environment. Series languages include: *Polish, Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Italian, French, German and Spanish.*

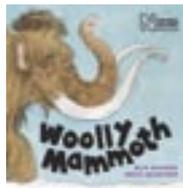
(5+)

Anne Munro

Woolly Mammoth

Written and illustrated by Mick Manning and Brita Granström
Frances Lincoln £11.99 ISBN: 978-1845078607

I was surprised to learn that woolly mammoths disappeared from Britain a mere 14,000 years ago and only became extinct about 4,000 years ago. Practically yesterday! These and other "mammoth facts" make this a very useful book, full of interesting information. Our woolly mammoth tells us about his life, in rhyme and with delightful softly-coloured pictures of people and mammoths.



A peaceful vegetarian, he could get nasty if threatened by big carnivores but was often helpless against humans, who hunted him for his hide and tusks as well as his flesh. We now know him from cave paintings and remains found frozen in Siberia, sometimes with his skin and fur still attached.

(5-8)

Pat Jenkins



Made By Me

Written by Jane Bull
Dorling Kindersley £7.99
ISBN: 978-1405337243

Described as a "stitch-by-stitch guide to knitting, sewing and embroidery" this is a book clearly designed

for girly girls. I have rarely seen one with so much pink in it. Sew yourself a cherry bakewell cake, a jam tart, knit a woolly hat with a pom-pom, a purse (all in pink naturally). Make a felt pocket locket to hold your keys or a cross stitch butterfly. I like the awake and asleep doll and her clothes, with all the patterns included. This is a pretty and colourful book and many little girls would love to have it. The knitting, sewing and decorating instructions are pictured and described clearly and in detail so would be easy to follow with perhaps a little help.

(6+)

Pat Jenkins



More Funky Junk

Written by Gary Kings and Richard Ginger
Illustrated by Barry Green.
Top That £4.99 ISBN: 978-1846666834

Can you make a box fish with snappy jaws, a robot suit you can wear or a pizza base plane? No? Well, if you had this book you could and more besides. And all of them from junk. Don't let the family throw away boxes, yoghurt pots, string, bottles, corrugated card or indeed anything at all. Collect it and make a plane, or a puppet or alien skittles. The methods of manufacture are clearly illustrated and explained, though younger children might need some help. And when you have finished having fun with it, you can recycle the junk.

(6+)

Pat Jenkins



Hope Powell

Written by Roy Apps
Watts *Dream to Win* £4.99
ISBN: 978-0749682354

A compact series of books which re-tell the career histories of people who have achieved the highest level of success

in their chosen sport against all the odds. The simple line drawings complement the easy to read text. The subject of this book, Hope Powell, wanted to play football at a time when women's football was virtually unknown. Because Hope was so naturally talented, the boys in the school team encouraged her to play for them but when the Women's Football Association (WFA) found out about it, Hope was not allowed to take part in any competitions. By chance she learnt about a women's team which trained at the Millwall Club. Eventually she was picked to play in a match and her mother encouraged her to continue with her training after seeing her play. Hope was to excel at this sport and represented her country sixty-six times before her retirement in 1998. She was the first woman to achieve the UEFA pro-licence coaching qualification in 2003. She is a role model for other girls wishing to achieve in this sport today.

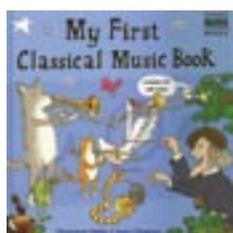
(6+)

Anne Munro

My First Classical Music Book

Written by Genevieve Helsby
Illustrated by Jason Chapman
Naxos £7.99 ISBN: 978-1843791188

A great book that provides lots of interaction between the reader, the text and the accompanying CD. The young reader learns about the world of music, where it can be heard and how it can make



you feel. Numerous composers from the seventeenth century to the present time are introduced and you learn a little about their lives and how they used specific instruments in the

orchestra to bring their ideas to fruition. Colourful cartoon type drawings add a vibrant and amusing impetus to the well spaced text which is succinct and appropriate for early readers. A drawing of a 'music bird' sometimes poses questions or asks you to listen to something specific on the superb CD. With over an hour of music in many styles this is a positive way to introduce a perhaps previously unknown genre of music – mind you, with excerpts from a *Harry Potter* film, *Peter and the Wolf*, ballet pieces and rousing marches, and other pieces – who could fail to be kept interested? A great value for money package, and you could use the book or CD alone after the first reading. A good purchase for oneself or to share with a younger family member or friend.

(6+) *Anne Munro*

Who Am I?

Written by Anthony Adolph
Quercus £14.99 ISBN: 978-1847245090

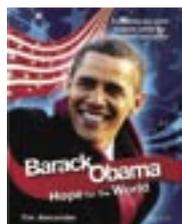
Anyone involved in genealogy would say that you can't start too young. It is best to begin while the older members of the family are still around to be interviewed. If I had had this book twenty-five years ago perhaps I wouldn't now be in a constant state of sorrow over the questions I didn't ask. All the basic elements of family history research, such as surnames, genetics, birth, marriage and death certificates and census and parish records are here and explained in a child-friendly way. Children are encouraged to trace their own family history by talking to relatives and by looking at photographs, documents and heirlooms. There is an emphasis on activities, making a family tree, a map of a family place or, rather nice this I think, growing a real tree from a cutting or seed from Grandma's garden. The book aims to teach children that even if they are not, like Prince William, descended from Dracula's uncle, they have interesting ancestors.

(7-10) *Pat Jenkins*

Barack Obama – Hope for the world

Written by Tim Alexander
Orion £6.99 ISBN: 978-1409113140

The newly elected, charismatic 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama, continues to



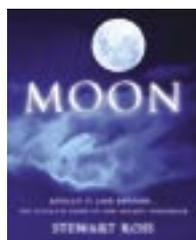
fascinate the world but how did he rise up to reach his position of power? Who were the people who inspired him through his early years? Why was he brought up on two continents, and what was he like as a child? How did he meet his wife? Does

he like music and sport? All these questions and more are answered in this eye-catching biography packed with facts and photographs. On the way to discovering more about the personal life of the President you can learn about the history of America and the political and historical influences that shaped it. Only time will tell whether Obama is going to be a positive figure for change but this book shows a man with passions, who loves his family and his country, and who seems committed to improving the life of his people and the world.

(7+) *Anne Munro*

Moon

Written by Stewart Ross
Oxford £14.99
ISBN: 978-0199116911



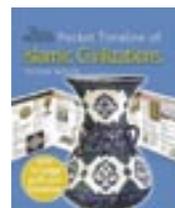
Before this anniversary year of the first manned landing on the moon passes, you may wish to look at this fascinating and unusual book. It combines science, technology and the arts in a way which will be relevant to a wide age range. The landing was a most remarkable feat but the author also recognises that humans have been obsessed with the moon since ancient times. One part of the book deals with the moon itself, technical information about the space race, the political imperative, the programme which led up to Apollo 11 and the conclusion of the Apollo Programme. Interspersed with these sections, however, are others which look at how the Ancient World explained the moon and how the move towards modern science can be traced through Greek, Islamic and European scholarship. There are beautiful examples of how the moon has been represented in world art, music and literature. We even have reference to moonstruck films, including horror films. With such a spread, each section is necessarily compressed but this is compensated for by the jolt it gives to the imagination. A book which stimulates sharing and discussion.

(Family book) *Pat Thomson*

Pocket Timeline of Islamic Civilisations

Written by Nicholas Badcott
British Museum £7.99 ISBN: 978-0714131337

Publications from this source are always authoritative and embellished with the unique photographs we expect from the British Museum. The result here is an attractive and manageable digest of key periods and events in the Islamic



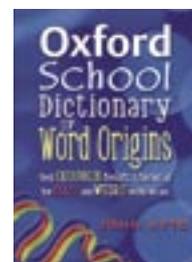
world, from the sixth to the eighteenth centuries. Against the background of the development of the ruling families, we touch on politics, religion, art, architecture and technical progress. The book starts

with the Prophet Muhammad and ends with the Mughals and covers a vast geographical area. The book includes a detachable timeline and a useful guide to other books and websites. As a handbook of Islamic art, this is a delight but, if putting the Islamic world into a proper historical context makes easy stereotyping more difficult, this book also has another important function.

(12+) *Pat Thomson*

Oxford School Dictionary of Word Origins

Compiled by John Ayto
Oxford £10.99
ISBN: 978-0199112210



School dictionaries usually provide meanings and correct spellings but this one does something different: it concentrates on a word's origin. The main section is arranged alphabetically, each word being given an origin and a date – except when it states frankly "we do not know the origin." They mostly do. Sometimes the word is straightforward: "gazelle comes from the French *gazelle*, from the Arabic *ghazal*." Sometimes the word is a whole history, like the word mall. It is traced from the Latin *malleus* (hammer), via Italy to the croquet-like game *pallmall*, which was first played in England where Pall Mall is now. When the area was built over, The Mall remained as a name for a walkway, which leads to the modern meaning of "a shopping centre". Apart from this core, there are fascinating extra sections. Not only do we get the origins of the days of the weeks and the months, but also of numbers. Acquired words are listed under their country of origin: bamboo from Malay, mammoth from Russian, chilli from Nahuatl, the language of the Aztecs. The section on food shows how varied our food has become in later years and pasta has its own mini-section. The new words from the last fifty years run from Barbie to wag – though maybe that is not such a huge jump. Acronyms, prefixes and suffixes are expected content; back-formation (emote from emotion), loan translation (superman from Übermensch), conversion (wolf: to eat greedily) and blends (Oxbridge) are less usually listed in children's dictionaries but offer wide-ranging insights. At the beginning you will find a list of the world's language families and do not neglect the introduction. It is all worth reading and you had better do so because the children you give it to will be coming back saying, "Did you know ...?"

(10+) *Pat Thomson*