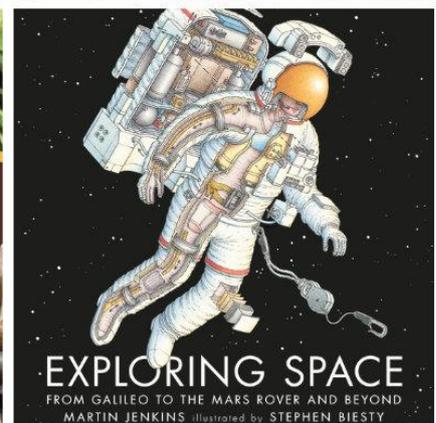
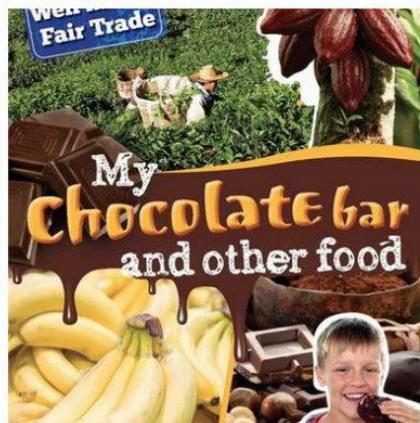
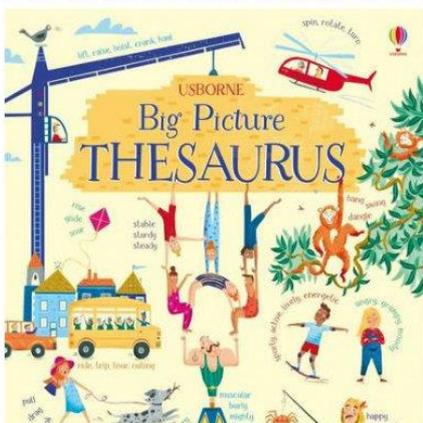
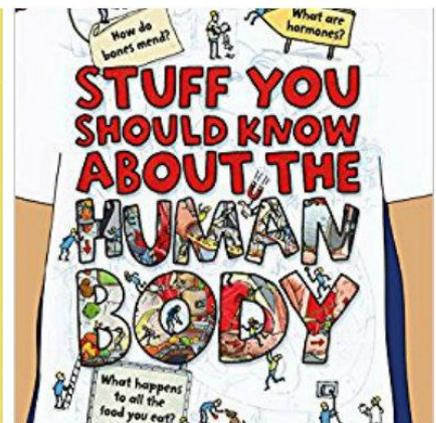
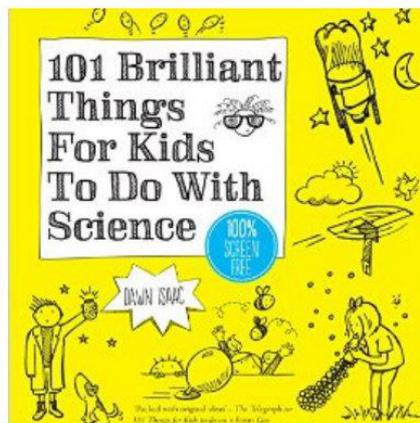
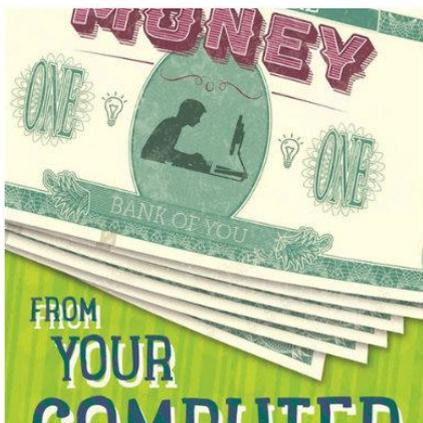


Chatterbooks Activity Pack

Facts & Information



Reading and activity ideas for your Chatterbooks group



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

**CHATTER
BOOKS**

**THE
READING
AGENCY**

Facts & Information

This Chatterbooks activity pack gives you a treasure chest of wonderful non-fiction titles, plus lots of ideas for activities and discussion with your Chatterbooks groups. Enjoy these bright and vibrant books, full of fascinating information – and celebrate this year’s [National Non-Fiction November!](#)

This pack is brought to you by **The Reading Agency**.

[Chatterbooks](#) is a reading group programme for children aged 4 to 12 years. It is coordinated by The Reading Agency and its patron is author Dame Jacqueline Wilson. Chatterbooks groups run in libraries and schools, supporting and inspiring children’s literacy development by encouraging them to have a really good time reading and talking about books.

The Reading Agency is an independent charity working to inspire more people to read more through programmes for adults, young people and Children – including the Summer Reading Challenge, and Chatterbooks. See www.readingagency.org.uk

Contents

3	Things to talk about
4	Warm up activities
6	Longer activities
9	The books
18	Answers

Things to talk about

How do you like to get your information?

Have a look at a collection of different kinds of non-fiction books – there are many formats to choose from! Talk about which books people like best when reading about their favourite topics, or when finding out facts and information for homework.

Formats include

- Picture books
- Lots of text
- Lots of pictures
- Photos and/or illustrations
- Cartoons and comic strips
- Books with a 2-page spread for each aspect of the book's subject
- Lots of information snippets, highlighted or framed in boxes
- Devices such as: 'Did you know?' 'True or False' 'Fascinating Facts'
- Quizzes
- Charts and diagrams
- Information told through stories
- What else?!

Warm up activities

Wordsearch

The **human body** is the entire structure of a **human** being. Here are some different parts of the human body. Look for them in the squares: across, down, up, and from right to left. Do you know where all these parts are?

KNEECAP CALF KIDNEY SHIN
VEIN TEMPLE SHOULDER PUPIL
NOSTRIL KNUCKLE PALM LUNG

T	R	K	E	S	Z	R	E	D	L	U	O	H	S	O	C
Y	P	V	N	V	N	Q	B	C	X	A	S	F	Z	V	Q
E	C	N	E	E	C	S	Q	W	P	B	Z	J	X	K	H
B	M	A	B	X	E	P	X	J	X	Z	V	G	W	X	I
S	F	T	F	L	A	C	Z	P	F	Q	J	F	B	G	S
W	X	U	X	L	L	X	A	F	V	Z	X	V	X	J	T
P	J	R	M	W	O	J	F	P	G	Q	F	J	T	P	O
X	F	E	Q	X	P	Z	P	J	E	W	Z	V	E	I	N
S	X	P	K	J	A	X	B	I	Y	G	R	A	M	H	O
P	Q	S	V	F	E	G	X	E	G	P	X	J	P	G	S
U	W	L	V	X	D	K	N	U	C	K	L	E	L	K	T
P	V	A	Z	D	I	D	O	R	A	U	R	S	E	J	R
I	P	M	S	H	I	N	Z	Q	K	X	G	Q	X	G	I
L	E	I	K	K	Z	F	J	G	H	N	Z	W	J	V	L
Z	Q	N	W	F	X	Q	P	J	U	X	P	J	Q	Z	F
X	F	A	Q	X	Z	J	Y	L	O	B	N	A	M	U	H

Wonderful Non-Fiction! Amazing Facts!

Have fun with these fascinating facts! Which are true and which are false?

Divide your group into two teams. Read aloud these facts and with each fact ask people to call out whether they think it is true or false. Keep a note of each team's answers. At the end read out which is true or false – the winning team is the one which has identified the most facts correctly as true or false. Talk some more about the amazingly true ones!

Variations

- Give each team a printed sheet with the list of facts and ask them to discuss and decide about each fact, marking it T or F. Then go through the answers together to find the winning team.
- Get teams to create their own Amazing Facts list with a mix of true and invented facts – and then challenge each other!

FACT	<i>TRUE or FALSE?</i>
1. If you fell into a black hole, you'd stretch out like spaghetti	
2. An average yawn lasts about thirty seconds.	
3. Your brain is made completely of water.	
4. An oyster can take five years just to make one pearl.	
5. Monkeys can go bald in old age, just like humans can.	
6. Less than 3 rocks from Mars have landed on Earth.	
7. Every day is about 55 billionths of a second longer than the day before it.	
8. Dragonflies can only see behind them.	
9. Opposite sides of dice always add up to seven	
10. When you see lightning, it is traveling at about 227 million mph.	
11. Crocodiles often eat rocks.	
12. Pigs can get sunburned	
13. Frogs drink through their noses.	
14. A tiger's skin is striped like its fur.	
15. There are about a quadrillion ants on Earth.	
16. A large python can swallow a horse whole.	

Longer activities

Be a presenter!

Imagine you are asked to give a TV presentation about a book which has been written about your favourite subject!

Ask each person in your group to choose a subject they are especially interested in and find a book about their subject. Next, prepare a short presentation, saying something about the subject and then talk about the book, saying why it is a good book (or not!) about the subject.

It would be great to film or record everyone's presentations and then have a special show, or share with other Chatterbooks groups!

Here's a suggested outline people could use for planning their presentation:

PRESENTATION PLAN
✓ Opening – something interesting about your subject to get people listening
✓ Up to 3 things about your subject
✓ Why you like your subject!
✓ Show the book you have chosen and briefly say what's in it and how it gets information across
✓ Why you think it's a good book (or, why you don't recommend it!)

The Banana Game

Can you find some books about fair trade? Talk about what fair trade is and then try this game. It's adapted from a game initially published by Christian Aid and Banana Link.

Aim

To introduce the banana chain (what happens to a banana before it reaches the consumer) and to discuss the reality of 'who gets what' from the sale of bananas.

Divide the group into five or five groups of two or three, depending on your number and name each group:

1. Banana Worker
2. Plantation Owner
3. Shipper
4. Importer and ripener
5. Shop or supermarket

Hold up a banana. Explain that it costs 30p in the shop/supermarket.

Ask each group to decide how much of the 30p they should have. They will need to consider what costs they might have and what job they do in the chain. Allow five minutes for discussion, then get each group to present its case. If the total comes to over 30p then they will need to re-negotiate.

Then reveal the actual situation for most bananas bought in the supermarket. (It's easier to have these costs written up in advance, either on individual cards or one sheet.)

Banana worker 1p

Plantation owner 5p

Shipper 4p

Shop or supermarket 13p

Importer and ripener 7p

Total 30p

Now have a discussion

Do you think this is a fair situation?

Why is the 30p shared out as it is?

Who has power and why?

What could be done to improve the situation?

What role can we play as the people who buy the bananas?

Would you be prepared to pay more for your bananas if you knew workers and farmers got a price that would enable them to meet their basic needs?

You can find out more about fairtrade at www.fairtrade.org.uk

Calling all Kidpreneurs!

An entrepreneur is someone who starts their own business, especially when this involves seeing a new opportunity.

These activities get kids to explore their entrepreneurial side.

Create a Business Plan

If you could create your own business, what would it be? Would you like to sell a product or provide a service? What will your company be called? Design your own business plan using the headings in the example below. Draw pictures and add style to your business plan to make it look appealing.

My Business Plan

What we do: Stroking and cuddling dogs and cats

Selling points: We love animals

Customers: People with dogs and cats (no lizards or birds please!)

Price: £1 per pet

Design your own Business Cards

Now it's time to spread the word about your business. You'll need business cards but what will they look like? What would they say? Using text and images, design your own business cards. You could do this using card or on the computer.

Top Trumps

Look at some non-fiction books and decide on a theme. You could choose sea creatures or vehicles, insects or planets. Make your own top trumps for your chosen topic. For example if you choose vehicles you could use the following stats:

Top speed
Max power
Length
Weight
Price
0-60
Cool rating

For more activity ideas have a look at these Chatterbooks activity packs:

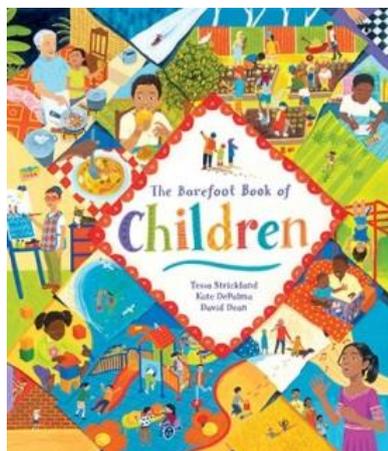
[Wonderful Non-Fiction](#)

[Info Challenge! Chatterbooks activity pack](#)

[Inventions and discoveries Chatterbooks activity pack](#)

Facts & Information – The books

Enjoy this great selection of information books on all kinds of subjects.



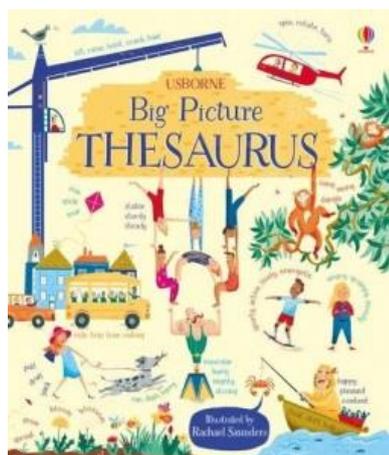
***The Barefoot Book of Children* Tessa Strickland, Kate DePalma & David Dean Barefoot Books 978-17852964**

The Barefoot Book of Children depicts kids of a wide range of shapes, sizes, races, abilities and lifestyles from countries and cultures all over the world. From enjoying special days to trying on silly hats, this picture book celebrates the big ideas and everyday moments that all children share.

Tessa Strickland co-founded Barefoot Books in 1992, opened a US office in 1998 and has published internationally since that time. Writing as Stella Blackstone, she has written over thirty picture books, which have sold many millions of copies and been translated into over 25 languages.

Kate DePalma is an author and Senior Editor at Barefoot Books. She has an M.A. in Classics from the University of Texas and has taught courses and workshops in writing and publishing at Emerson College.

David Dean graduated from Manchester Metropolitan University in 1999 with a BA (Hons) in Illustration and an MA in Communication Design, and has been working as an illustrator ever since under the representation of The Organisation. His work includes illustrating all four of Lauren St John's 'White Giraffe' novels

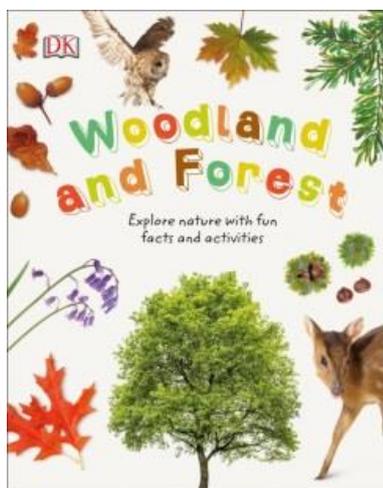


***Big Picture Thesaurus* Rosie Hore & Rachael Saunders
Usborne 978-1409598749**

Arranged thematically, this illustrated thesaurus has over 2,000 amazing, useful and unusual words to inspire children writing stories. Topics include Getting around, How are you feeling? Heroes and villains and lots more, with lists of synonyms, opposites and tips on describing things. Includes simple word games and links to useful websites.

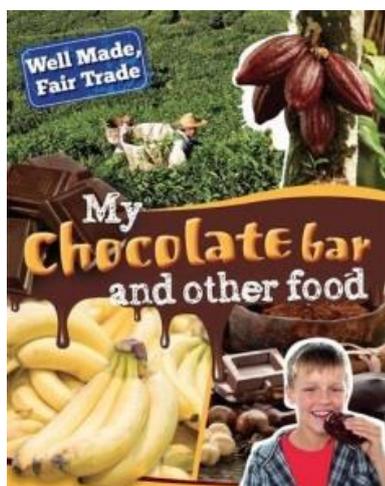
Rachael Saunders is an illustrator based in Hampshire, UK. With a strong interest in the rich printed aesthetic of 1960's children's books, her work explores colour,

shape and texture in a vibrant and humorous manner. Since graduating from Falmouth University in 2014, she has worked with a wide range of international clients including The Wall Street Journal, Radley, Walker Books, Nosy Crow, Usborne and Anderson Press.



Woodland and Forest DK 978-0241282526

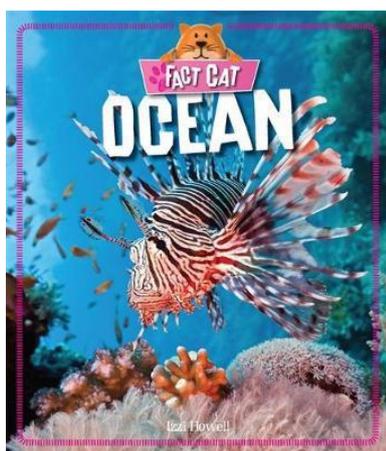
From cold coniferous forests to dry deciduous woodland, and tropical rainforests, children can discover everything about trees and who lives in them. With exciting activities, like bark rubbing, and plenty of fun facts, *Nature Explorers Woodland and Forest* is a book for children curious about forests and woodlands.



My Chocolate Bar and Other Food Helen Greathead Franklin Watts 978-1445132778

Well Made, Fair Trade: My Chocolate Bar & Other Food explores the problems faced by the people who produce the world's food. It shows how fair trade projects help them to improve their working conditions and get a fair price for their produce.

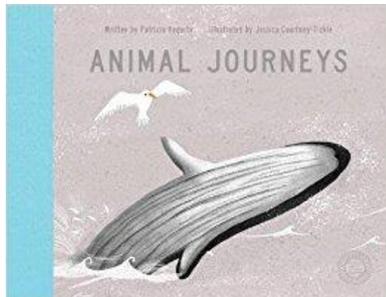
Helen Greathead is a highly experienced creator, editor, project manager and writer of successful non-fiction titles and series. She spent 14 years at Scholastic Children's Books where she commissioned series, including Horrible Histories. She began a freelance career in 2003.



Ocean (Fact Cat: Habitats) Izzi Howell Wayland 978-0750294676

Read all about oceans, where in the world you can find them, what animals and plants live there and how these are dependent on each other. Learn about food chains, pollution and what we can do to protect this important habitat.

Izzi Howell is the author and editor of many children's books. She loves to write about how science and technology affect our everyday lives, from the code in a mobile phone app to the forces that hold buildings in the air.

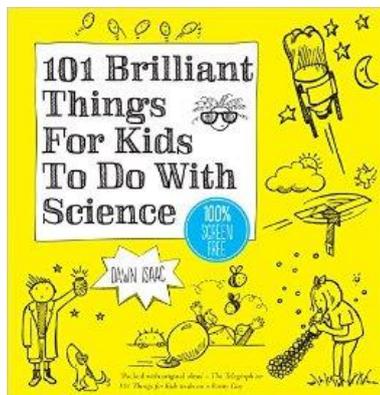


Animal Journeys Patricia Hegarty & Jessica Courtney-Tickle 360 Degrees 978-1848575264

Use this book to find out about some extraordinary animal odysseys, from mass migrations to flying fish, from pollination to echolocation. Discover how animals adapt to their environments to help them thrive and survive in this journal of amazing animal journeys.

Patricia Hegarty began working in children's publishing more years ago than she cares to remember and is now Editorial Director at Caterpillar Books. As an editor she has worked on titles ranging from atlases to animal pop-ups, craft kits to crazy mazes and sticker books to secret diaries.

Jessica Courtney-Tickle is part illustrator, part story-maker based in Cambridgeshire, UK. She graduated from Kingston University in July 2014 where she studied Illustration and Animation and found a specialism in children's picture books. She loves working with colour, texture and lots and lots of characters.

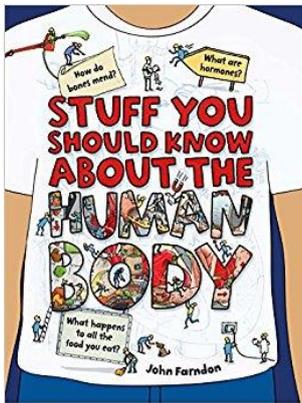


101 Brilliant Things for Kids to do with Science Dawn Isaac Kyle Books 978-0857833839

Whether your child is crazy about chemistry or bananas about biology (or, let's face it, just likes making a mess), this book is choc-a-block full of experiments and projects that will get kids really excited about science - and all without going anywhere near a TV, tablet or computer screen. Whether they want to Launch a Rocket, Create a Giant Egg, Blow a Bubble Snake or Build a Balloon Powered Racing

Car, there's a whole wealth of fun suggestions to keep kids amused - and you never know, they might even learn something along the way.

Dawn Isaac is an award-winning garden designer, blogger and the mother of three children. Dawn writes on garden design for the Guardian, The Telegraph, Good Housekeeping and The Garden, and has run Family Garden Design courses in association with Mumsnet Academy. She is the author of 101 Things For Kids To Do Outside and 101 Things for Kids to do on a Rainy Day, also published by Kyle Books.

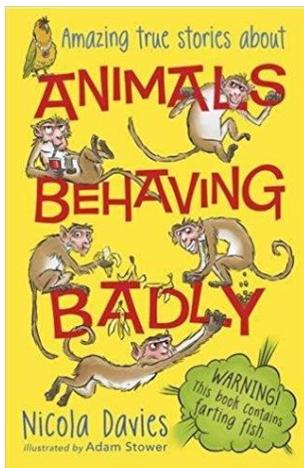


***Stuff You Should Know About the Human Body* John Farndon & Tim Hutchinson QED 978-1784937300**

In this fascinating introduction to the human body, large, colourful diagrams are brought to life by tiny people running around performing the actions that are explained in the text. The 80-page extent allows for an in-depth look at many of the body's processes, and the double gatefolds provide a generous area in which to show the full body systems such as the circulatory, nerve, skeletal and immune systems.

John Farndon is an internationally renowned author of exciting and accessible science books for children and adults. His books have been shortlisted for numerous awards and have sold millions of copies worldwide

Tim Hutchinson has been working as an illustrator for the last 20 years publishing over 40 publications in their various forms. Before he began working as an illustrator, he was a fine artist. He lives in Forest Gate with his wife and the dogs, Rory and Ralph. Oh and the cat....

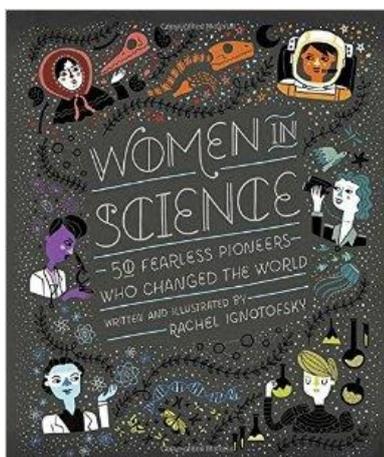


***Animals Behaving Badly* Nicola Davies & Adam Stower Walker 978-1406366051**

From award-winning children's author and biologist Nicola Davies, this is a collection of funny, fascinating and true stories about animals "behaving badly" - which is to say, getting the better of us human beings! We start with the wolverine in Canada, who will trash your home and everything in it, and then meet the kea in New Zealand - park your car in kea country, and you'll find out the hard way that these clever birds have sharp beaks and a love of mischief. Next we visit India and learn about macaque monkeys, who have shoplifting, highway robbery and baby-snatching on their impressive rap sheet, before jetting off to the US. In Florida we find drumfish, whose strange humming calls will keep you up all night long, and in Alaska Sitka whales, who gang up to steal thousands of dollars' worth of cod from under the noses of fishermen.

Nicola Davies is a zoologist and award-winning writer. Her books for children include the best-selling *A First Book of Nature*, illustrated by Mark Hearld, *Tiny: The Invisible World of Microbes*, which won the 2015 American Association for the Advancement of Science's prize for excellence in science (picture book category), *Lots: The Diversity of Life on Earth*, *King of the Sky*, *Just Ducks*, shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway Medal, *Extreme Animals* and *The Promise*. Nicola lives in Crickhowell, Wales.

Adam Stower is an established children's book illustrator who also writes his own stories. He illustrates fiction titles, picture books and magazine covers. Adam is well known for his strong cover artwork and charming black and white inside illustrations. Adam works with publishers in the UK and the US and his picture books have been translated into many languages around the world.



***Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World* Rachel Ignotofsky Wren & Rook 978-1526360519**

Women in Science highlights the contributions of fifty notable women to the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, from both the ancient and modern worlds. The book also contains fascinating infographics and an illustrated scientific glossary.

The extraordinary women profiled include well-known figures like the physicist and chemist Marie Curie, as well as lesser-known pioneers such as Katherine Johnson, the African-American mathematician who calculated the trajectory of the Apollo 11 mission to the moon.

Women in Science celebrates the achievements of the intrepid women who have paved the way for the next generation of female engineers, biologists, mathematicians, doctors, astronauts, physicists and beyond ...

Rachel Ignotofsky is a New York Times Best Selling author and illustrator, based in Kansas City, USA. She graduated from Tyler School of Art's Graphic Design in 2011.

Now Rachel works for herself and spends all day and night drawing, writing and learning as much as she can. Rachel is a published author with 10 Speed Press and is always thinking up new books and illustrations.

Her work is inspired by history and science. She believes that illustration is a powerful tool that can make learning exciting.



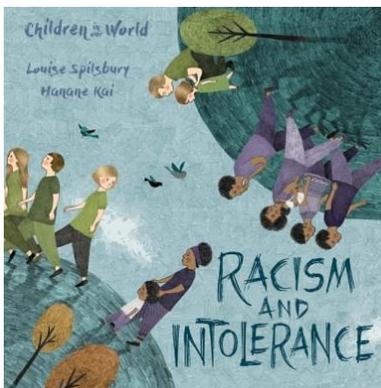
***Endangered Animals* Anita Ganeri Wayland 9781526301895**

Time is running out to see some of the rarest animals on Earth.

Our world is full of amazing animals, but some of them might not be around for much longer. This book takes an in-depth look at some of the most endangered animals on Earth. Find out why they are in danger, what we would lose if they were to disappear completely and what, if anything, is being done to save them.

This engaging series looks at the devastating impact pollution, global warming, habitat loss and deforestation are having on our planet. Explore why time is running out to see some of Earth's most endangered people, places, plants and animals. Covering the UK geography curriculum and aimed at students aged 9 and up *Last Chance to See* is a must for young conservationists.

Anita Ganeri is an award-winning author of children's information books. She has been a writer for 20 years, after working in-house for Usborne Publishing and Walker Books. She specialises in the natural world, religion and mythology but is always looking for new challenges. Among her many titles are the best-selling 'Horrible Geography' series for Scholastic Children's Books which won the Blue Peter Book Award for the Best Book with Facts in 2009 and the Tivy Education Medal from the Royal Scottish Geographical Society for an outstanding contribution to geographical education. Anita lives in northern England with her husband, children, dogs and cat. She enjoys reading, walking the Moors, playing tennis and dreaming of winning Wimbledon.



***Racism and Intolerance* Louise Spilsbury & Hanane Kai
Wayland 9781526300522**

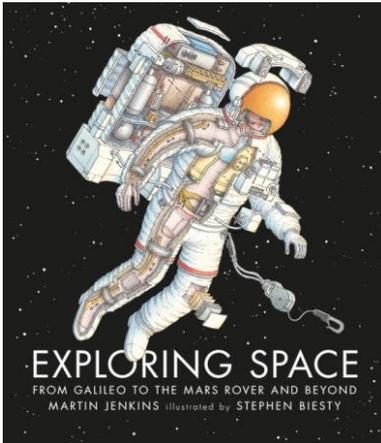
The *Children in Our World* non-fiction picture book series helps children make sense of the larger issues and crises that dominate the news in a sensitive and appropriate manner. With relatable comparisons, carefully researched text and striking illustrations, children can begin to understand what racism and intolerance are, how they affect children, adults and daily life, and how readers can help.

Where issues aren't appropriate to describe in words, award-winning illustrator, Hanane Kai, uses striking and sensitive illustrations help children visualise they ways in which racism and intolerance affect people all around the world with images that are suited to their age and disposition.

Louise Spilsbury is a prolific children's book author. She has written titles on almost every subject, from science and geography through to world affairs, social issues, art, history, and literacy. Louise is married to the author Richard Spilsbury and has two children. She lives and works in Devon.

Hanane Kai is obsessed with colours, textures and lighting, and what she loves doing the most is creating worlds where the tactile melts with the digital. Her favorite colour is turquoise, and Hanane loves tea, cooking, and gardening - she dreams of a turquoise plant.

Based in Lebanon, Hanane first ventured off as a Graphic Designer (with a BA degree from NDU), then pursued her passion for illustration, photography and miniature set design. She expresses herself through the visuals she creates, and hopes with every illustration to touch her audience, leaving them with a certain feeling or message. In 2016, *Tongue Twisters* written by Fatima Sharafeddine and illustrated by Hanane Kai, won the prestigious Bologna Ragazzi New Horizons award, which celebrates publishing excellence of children's publishing in developing markets.



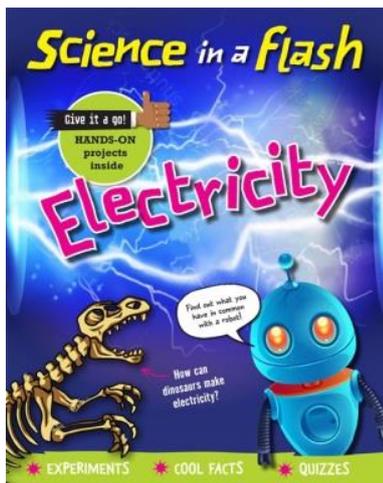
***Exploring Space* Martin Jenkins & Stephen Biesty
Walker 9781406360080**

The extraordinary story of space exploration, from Galileo's telescope to the launch of the International Space Station - and beyond! Martin Jenkins' accessible and wide-ranging narrative covers early astronomy, the history of flight, the Space Race, the day-to-day of astronauts in the International Space Station and the possibility of extraterrestrial life, and considers where future missions might take us. Stephen Biesty's magnificent cross-section illustrations lay bare the intricate workings of space probes and shuttles, the Mars Curiosity Rover, spacesuits and Soyuz rockets.

Back matter includes a comprehensive timeline and glossary of terms. With hours' worth of detail to pore over, this is the perfect gift for all space enthusiasts, young or old.

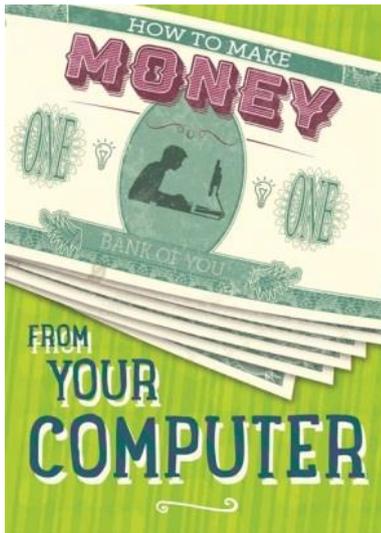
Martin Jenkins is a conservation biologist and has written several nonfiction books for children, including *APE*, *GRANDMA ELEPHANT'S IN CHARGE*, *THE EMPEROR'S EGG*, and *CHAMELEONS ARE COOL*. He lives in Cambridge, England.

Stephen Biesty has worked as a freelance illustrator since 1985 creating a wide variety of information books for both adults and children. He studied illustration at Brighton Polytechnic gaining a BA, and then went on to do an MA at City of Birmingham Polytechnic where he specialised in historical and architectural cutaways. He lives in a small Somerset village with his wife and son.



***Electricity (Science in a Flash)*
Georgia Amson-Bradshaw Franklin Watts 978-
1445152707**

What's the buzz about electricity? All bright sparks need to read this book to discover the shocking facts about electricity, as well as all about batteries, circuits and conductors.



***From Your Computer* Rita Storey Franklin Watts
978144515218**

Do you have a fantastic business idea but don't know where to start? Or perhaps you love your computer and want to make some money from something you enjoy doing. This book is a fantastic guide containing all the tips and tricks you need to your computer into a profitable enterprise and become a young entrepreneur (a Kidpreneur!). Sample areas covered include: blogs, vlogs, youtube, monetising your content, video gaming and online surveys.

There is a strong emphasis on how to keep safe and what dangers to be aware of, for example in dealing with people in your money-making enterprise.

Rita Storey started in children's books as a graphic designer but now works in various different roles, including author. She has a wealth of experience in children's non-fiction. As well as designing books, Rita has written titles on dancing, sport, and other non-fiction subjects. She lives and works in Devon.

Answers

Wordsearch answer

T	R	K	E	S	Z	R	E	D	L	U	O	H	S	O	C
Y	P	V	N	V	N	Q	B	C	X	A	S	F	Z	V	Q
E	C	N	E	E	C	S	Q	W	P	B	Z	J	X	K	H
B	M	A	B	X	E	P	X	J	X	Z	V	G	W	X	I
S	F	T	F	L	A	C	Z	P	F	Q	J	F	B	G	S
W	X	U	X	L	L	X	A	F	V	Z	X	V	X	J	T
P	J	R	M	W	O	J	F	P	G	Q	F	J	T	P	O
X	F	E	Q	X	P	Z	P	J	E	W	Z	V	E	I	N
S	X	P	K	J	A	X	B	I	Y	G	R	A	M	H	O
P	Q	S	V	F	E	G	X	E	G	P	X	J	P	G	S
U	W	L	V	X	D	K	N	U	C	K	L	E	L	K	T
P	V	A	Z	D	I	D	O	R	A	U	R	S	E	J	R
I	P	M	S	H	I	N	Z	Q	K	X	G	Q	X	G	I
L	E	I	K	K	Z	F	J	G	H	N	Z	W	J	V	L
Z	Q	N	W	F	X	Q	P	J	U	X	P	J	Q	Z	F
X	F	A	Q	X	Z	J	Y	L	O	B	N	A	M	U	H

Amazing facts!

FACT	TRUE or FALSE?
1. If you fell into a black hole, you'd stretch out like spaghetti	TRUE
2. An average yawn lasts about thirty seconds.	FALSE - An average yawn only lasts about six seconds.
3. Your brain is made completely of water.	FALSE - Your brain is actually about three quarters water.
4. An oyster can take five years just to make one pearl.	TRUE
5. Monkeys can go bald in old age, just like humans can.	TRUE
6. Less than 3 rocks from Mars have landed on Earth.	FALSE – At least 12 rocks from Mars have landed on Earth.
7. Every day is about 55 billionths of a second longer than the day before it.	TRUE

8. Dragonflies can only see behind them.	FALSE - Dragonflies can see in all directions at once.
9. Opposite sides of dice always add up to seven	<i>TRUE</i>
10. When you see lightning, it is traveling at about 227 million mph.	<i>TRUE</i>
11. Crocodiles often eat rocks.	<i>TRUE</i>
12. Pigs can get sunburned	<i>TRUE</i>
13. Frogs drink through their noses.	<i>FALSE</i> – Frogs actually drink through their skin.
14. A tiger's skin is striped like its fur.	<i>TRUE</i>
15. There are about a quadrillion ants on Earth.	<i>TRUE</i>
16. A large python can swallow a horse whole.	FALSE - A large python can only swallow a goat whole