



## Plants and Animals Lessons

### Websites

#### [Sea Otter and Sea Urchin](#)

This video shows a sea otter diving to the sea floor, grabbing a sea urchin, and then surfacing to eat it.

(<http://www.arkive.org/sea-otter/enhydra-lutris/video-ne08a.html>)

#### [Sea Urchin Barren](#)

This time lapse footage shows what can happen to a kelp forest when there aren't enough sea otters to control the sea urchin population.

([http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/life/Strongylocentrotus\\_purpuratus#p0038tcc](http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/life/Strongylocentrotus_purpuratus#p0038tcc))



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### Books

#### **About \_\_\_\_\_: A Guide for Children\***

Nature Series By Carolyn Sills (2000+/- PeachTree Pub Ltd)

(About Mammals; About Amphibians, About Insects; etc)

This series is a wonderful way to teach children about nature and the world around them. The illustrations are superb, and the text is simple enough for toddlers without being dull.

(Mammals, Birds, Fish, Amphibians, Reptiles, Insects, Arachnids, Crustaceans, Mollusks, Marsupials)

#### **All About Owls (All About Series)\***

By Jim Arnosky (2008, Scholastic Non-Fiction)

Interesting text and wonderful illustrations that provide a thorough and colorful introduction into the world of Owls.

#### **Animals at Home**

By David Lock. (2007, DK Publishing)

This easy-reading book includes beautiful photos and cut-away views of the inside of a termite mound, wasp nest, and mole burrow.

#### **Animal Homes (Science Kids series)**

By Angela Wilkes. (2003, Kingfisher)

Photographs and facts about a variety of animal homes. Projects at the end of the book include making a hamster playpen.

#### **Animal Homes (True Books: Animals)**

By Ann O. Squire. (2001, Children's Press)

This book uses a paragraph format and photos to introduce animal homes. It includes a section about "Unwelcome Guests," such as cockroaches and squirrels, that live in people's houses.



**Animal Homes (An Usborne Lift-the-Flap Book)**

By Debbie Martin; designed By Jane RigBy; illustrated By Alan Baker. (1999, Usborne Publishing, Ltd.)

Beautiful illustrations, easy text, and plenty of lift-the-flap pictures lead young readers through a variety of general information about animal homes such as a dormouse nest, polar bear den, and chimpanzee tree house.

**Burrows, Nests & Lairs: Animal Architects**

By Alda Spade; illustrated By Filippo Cappelini and Maria Mantevani. (2007, Lark Books)

Beautifully illustrated and loaded with information, this book gives details about several animals that build specialized homes—for example the common tailorbird that sews leaves together to make a nesting site.

**Beaks!**

By Sneed B. Collard (2002, Charlesbridge Publishing)

This book features vivid illustrations and clear, easy to follow text depicting the habits of birds and the utility of their beaks.

**Black Bear Cub (Smithsonian Wild Heritage Collection)**

By Alan Lind (1995, Soundprints)

Black bear cubs emerge from their den into a springtime wonderland of flowers. Their mother teaches them how to survive in the forest.

**Chameleon, Chameleon**

By Joy Cowley (2005, Harper Collins)

Madagascar panther chameleons are used to illustrate the story of a chameleon as it searches for food and a new home.

**Cleaning Up Litter (Help the Environment)**

By Charlotte Guillain

This is a series designed to make children aware of the effect they have on the environment. Photographs provide visual reinforcement of learning.



### **Golden Guides**

By Various Authors This series includes beginners guides to natural history for all ages.

#### **A House Spider's Life (Nature Up Close)**

By John Himmelman (2000, Childrens Press)

This book follows the life of a house spider from egg to adult and chronicles its interactions with the humans living in the house.

#### **I See a Kookaburra!: Discovering Animal Habitats Around the World (Bccb Blue Ribbon Nonfiction Book Award)**

By Steve Jenkins and Robin Page (2005, HMH Books for Young Readers)

This book has interactive illustrations that allows readers to search for an oystercatcher, an elephant shrew, and a fierce snapping turtle in the places where they live. Readers learn how these animals and many others grow and thrive in very different environments. Filled with vibrant colors and palpable textures, the illustrations are breathtaking and give a real sense of the vitality, diversity, and beauty of nature. A first-rate foray into ecology that will encourage readers to explore the world around them.

#### **Owls (Kids Can Press Wildlife Series)\***

By Adrienne Mason

This book looks at two groups - typical owls and barn owls - and explains where they live, what they eat, and how young owls learn.

#### **Ocean Life From A to Z**

By Cynthia Stierle (2007, Reader's Digest)

Each entry from A to Z focuses on the ocean animals that begin with that letter.

Has DVD

#### **Rabbits, Squirrels, and Chipmunks (Take-Along Guide)\***

By Mel Boring (1996, NorthWord Press)

This book has colorful pictures, short explanations of each animal, their habitats, eating habits, and popular anecdotes.



**Plants and the Environment (First Step Nonfiction)**

By Jennifer Boothroyd (2007, Lerner Publishing Group)

This guide introduces the ways plants interact with people and animals.

**Reusing and Recycling (Help the Environment)**

By Charlotte Guillain (2008, Heinemann)

This book is part of a series designed to make children aware of the effect they have on the environment. Photographs provide visual reinforcement of learning and provides examples based on children's real life experiences.

**Spider's Lunch (All Aboard Science Reader Station Stop 1)**

By Joanna Cole (1995, Penguin Young Readers)

An introduction to the arachnid world, this book explains how a hungry spider must get food By building a web and then patiently waiting to catch something.

**Time to Eat**

By Steve Jenkins and Robin Page (2011, HMHBooks for Young Readers)

This small book presents an exciting introduction to what animals eat and how they collect, store and digest their food.

**Under One Rock: Bugs, Slugs, and Other Ughs (Sharing Nature with Children Book)**

By Anthony D. Fredericks (2001, Dawn Pubns)

A child lifts up a rock and discovers all sorts of creatures underneath.

**What's It Like to Be a Fish? (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science 1)**

By Wendy Pfeffer (1996, Turtleback Books)

This is a great story book to read to children to describe the characteristics of a fish and their basic needs for survival. It also provides information about what needs to be done if keeping a goldfish as a class pet.

**Who Eats What? Food Chains and Food Webs (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science, Stage 2)**

By Patricia Lauber (1994, Harper Collins)

Clear text and simple ink and watercolor drawings illustrate the concepts of food chains and food webs on land and underwater. Children get a sense of who eats what.



### **Wiggling Worms at Work (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science 2)**

By Wendy Pfeffer (2003, HarperCollins)

Well organized text explains how worms improve the quality of soil and describes the basics about a worms body, how it moves, what it eats and how it reproduces.

### **What Lives in a Shell? (Let's-Read-and-Find... Science 1)**

By Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld and Helen K. Davie (1994, Harper Collins)

The diversity of shelters in the animal world-bird nests, ant tunnels, and the cave of a bear-is contrasted with the nature and function of the self-contained housing of snails, turtles, and some crustaceans and mollusks. The softly toned watercolor illustrations amplify the text and show children in different settings observing various shelled creatures.

### **Wonderful Worms**

By Linda Glaser

Cross-section illustrations of worms' underground environment help show the vital role that earthworms play in the planet's ecosystem.

### **Kids Can Press WILDLIFE SERIES**

(Easy to read text and detailed illustrations meet research needs of young children. Focuses on where they live, how they raise their young, find food, communicate, protect themselves and much more) (Bats, Bears, Beavers, Deer, Eagles, Otters, Owls, Salmon, Skunks, Snakes, Wild Cats, Wild Dogs)

### **All About Series**

This series is a wonderful way to teach children about nature and the world around them. The illustrations are superb, and the text is simple enough for toddlers without being dull.

(Mammals, Birds, Fish, Amphibians, Reptiles, Insects, Arachnids, Crustaceans, Mollusks, Marsupials)



### **Take Along Guides**

Books that invite young naturalists to spot, identify and learn fun facts about wildlife. Safety tips and educational activities are suggested. Color illustrations enrich the presentations.

Series topics: (Caterpillars, Bugs and Butterflies; Rabbits, Squirrels and Chipmonks; Snakes, Salamanders and Lizards; Frogs, Toads and Turtles)

### **ECOSYSTEMS**

#### **On One Flower: Butterflies, Ticks and a Few More Icks**

By Anthony D. Fredericks Rhyming text follows two boys in a field as they discover a thriving ecosystem on a single goldenrod flower.

Fiction, Ages 4-8

#### **The Tortilla Factory**

By Gary Paulsen Paintings and prose show how corn grows, is harvested, ground into flour, sent to the tortilla factory, and is eaten By those who will be planting the corn.

Non-Fiction, Ages 4-8

#### **Wolf Island**

By Celia Godkin Based on an actual event, this book chronicles what might happen when the highest link in a food chain is removed.

Fiction, Ages 4-8

### **WEATHER**

#### **A Drop Around the World Paperback**

By Barbara McKinney (Author) , Michael S. Maydak (Illustrator)