

Books for Grades K-5 (Still Under Construction)

These selections have been recommended for their visual and verbal complexity, their unique approach to a subject, and/or the depth and intrigue of information.

Not Your Usual Alphabet Books

A is for Art: An Abstract Alphabet by Stephen T. Johnson
A to Z, Do You Ever Feel Like Me by Bonnie Hausman
A Was Once an Apple Pie by Suse MacDonald
ABC3D by M. Bataille
The Absolutely Awful Alphabet by Mordicai Gerstein
Alphabet City by Stephen T. Johnson
The Alphabet from A to Y with Bonus Letter Z by Steve Martin
ANTics by Cathi Helpworth
The Butterfly Alphabet Book by Brian Cassie and Jerry Pallotta
Compost Stew: An A to Z Recipe for the Earth by Mary McKenna Siddals
Curious George's ABCs by H.A. Rey
The Disappearing Alphabet by Richard Wilbur
Eight Hands Around: A Patchwork Alphabet by Ann Whitford Paul
Ellsworth's Extraordinary Electric Ears and Other Amazing Alphabet Anecdotes by Valorie Fisher
Gone Wild: An Endangered Animal Alphabet by David McLimans
The Hidden Alphabet by Laura Vaccaro Seeger
LMNO Peas by Keith Baker
Q is for Duck: An Alphabet Guessing Game by Mary Elting and Michael Folsom
Read Anything Good Lately? by Susan Allen and Jane Lindaman
Shiver Me Letters: A Pirate ABC by June Sobel
T is for Turkey (much historical information about Thanksgiving) by Tanya Stone
Tomorrow's Alphabet by George Shannon
The Z was Zapped by Chris Van Allsburg

Arts

Any by Ann Jonas
How Artists See... series by Colleen Carroll
America (east, west, south, Midwest)
Animals (mammal, fish, bird, reptile)
Artists (actor, dancer, musician, painter)
Cities (streets, buildings, shops, transportation)
Elements (earth, air, fire, water)
Families (mother, father, sister, brother)
Feelings (joy, sadness, fear, love)
Heroes (myth, history, war, everyday)
People (girl, boy, man, woman)
Play (sports, games, toys, imagination)
Weather (sun, wind, snow, rain)
Work (farm, factory, office, home)
Curtain Up! A Book for Young Performers by Dirk McLean
Roberto, the Insect Architect; Romeow and Drooliet, and When Pigasso Met Mootisse by Nina Laden (full of puns)
You Can't Take a Balloon to the Metropolitan Museum (others in a series) by Jacqueline Weitzman

Creative Imagination/Analogies

If by Susan Perry
June 29, 1999 by David Wiesner
The Red Book by Barbara Lehman

Cultures

How We Came to the Fifth World (Aztec) by Harriet Rohmer
In the Beginning: Creation Stories from Around the World by Virginia Hamilton
The Origin of Life on Earth: An African Creation Myth by David A. Anderson
Sun Mother Wakes the World: An Australian Creation Story by Diane Wolkstein

Geography

Rivers Around the World Series from Crabtree Publishing (Amazon, Ganges, Mississippi, Nile, Rhine, St. Lawrence, Tigris and Euphrates, Yangtze)

History--General

Works by J. Patrick Lewis
The Arrival by Shaun Tan
Home by Jeannie Baker
The House on Maple Street by Bonnie Pryor
On This Spot: An Expedition Back through Time by Susan E. Goodman
Parallel Universe by Nicola Baxter
Window by Jeannie Baker

History—United States

At Ellis Island: A History in Many Voices by Louise Peacock
Journey to Ellis Island: How My Father Came to America by Carol Bierman
Liberty Rising: The Story of the Statue of Liberty by Pegi Deitz Shea
Mayflower 1620: A New Look at a Pilgrim Voyage by Peter Arenstam
The Pilgrims of Plimoth by Marcia Sewall
1621: A New Look at Thanksgiving by Catherine O'Neill Grace and Margaret M. Bruchac
The Story of the Statue of Liberty by Betsy and Giulio Maestro
Three Young Pilgrims by Cheryl Harness
Valley Forge by Richard Ammon
Valley Forge by Libby Hughes
West Point by Libby Hughes
What Presidents Are Made Of by Hanoch Piven
A Young Patriot: The American Revolution as Experienced by One Boy by Jim Murphy
Adventures in Colonial America series by James E. Knight
 Blue Feather's Vision: The Dawn of Colonial America
 Boston Tea Party: Rebellion in the Colonies
 The Farm: Life in Colonial Pennsylvania
 Jamestown: Colonial America
 Journey to Monticello: Traveling in Colonial Times
 Sailing to America: Colonists at Sea
 Salem Days: Life in a Colonial Seaport
 Seventh & Walnut: life in Colonial Philadelphia
 The Village: Life in Colonial Times
 The Winter at Valley Forge: Survival and Victory
Adventures in Frontier America series by Catherine E. Chambers
 California Gold Rush: Search for Treasure
 Daniel Boone and the Wilderness Road
 Flatboats on the Ohio: Westward Bound
 Frontier Dream: Life on the Great Plains
 Frontier Farmer: Kansas Adventure
 Frontier Village
 Indiana Days: Life in a Frontier Town
 Log Cabin Home
 Texas Roundup: Life on the Range
 Wagons West: Off to Oregon
 _____ 's Day series by Kate Waters

Samuel Eaton's Day: A Day in the Life of a Pilgrim Boy
Sarah Morton's Day: A Day in the Life of a Pilgrim Girl
Tapenum's Day: A Wampanoag Indian Boy in Pilgrim Times

Dear America series

Historic Communities series by Bobbie Kalman

A Child's Day	Children's Clothing of the 1800s
Classroom Games	Colonial Crafts
Colonial Home	Colonial Life
A Colonial Town: Williamsburg	Customs and Traditions
Games from Long Ago	The General Store
Fort Life	The Gristmill
Home Crafts	In the Barn
The Kitchen	Life on a Plantation
Old Time Toys	A One-Room School
Pioneer Projects	Pioneer Recipes
Schoolyard Games	Settler Sayings
Spanish Missions	Tools and Gadgets
Travel in the Early Days	Victorian Christmas
The Victorian Home	Visiting a Village
18 th Century Clothing	19 th Century Clothing
19 th Century Girls and Women	

If You Lived With series by Ann McGovern

The Cherokees
The Hopi Indians
The Indians of the Northwest Coast
The Iroquois
The Sioux

If You... series (various authors)

Grew Up with Abraham Lincoln
Grew Up with George Washington
Lived in Colonial Times
Lived in the Time of the American Revolution
Lived in the Time of the Civil War
Lived in the Time of the Great San Francisco Earthquake
Lived in the Time of Martin Luther King
Lived in the Time of Squanto
Lived in the Time When There Was Slavery in America
Lived in the Time When Women Won Their Rights
Lived in Williamsburg in Colonial Days
Lived 100 Years Ago
Your Name Was Changed at Ellis Island
Sailed on the Mayflower in 1620
Traveled on the Underground Railroad
Traveled West in a Covered Wagon
Were a Pioneer on the Prairie
Were at the First Thanksgiving
Were There When They Signed the Constitution
Were There When They Wrote the Constitution

My Name is America series

History--World

The Greatest Skating Race by Louise Borden

The Lotus Seed by Tatsuro Kiuchi

Mirror by Jeannie Baker (opposite pages compare culture in the United States and Morocco)

Mummies and Their Mysteries by Charlotte Wilcox

Nasreen's Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan by Jeanette Winter

The Secret Cave: Discovering Lascaux by Emily Arnold McCully
To Be a Princess: The Fascinating Lives of Real Princesses by Hugh Brewster and Laurie Coulter
If You... series various authors
 Lived in the Days of Knights
 Lived in the Days of Mammoth Hunters

Language Arts and Word Play

A Chocolate Moose for Dinner by Fred Gwynne
A Crossing of Zebras: Animal Packs in Poetry by Marjorie Maddox
Double Trouble in Walla Walla by Andrew Clements
Fold Me a Poem by Kristine O'Connell George
The Girl's Like Spaghetti: Why You Can't Manage Without Apostrophes! by Lynne Truss
Jolly Postman (series about letters) by Janet Ahlberg
The King Who Rained by Fred Gwynne
Leap into Poetry by Avis Harley
A Little Pigeon Toad by Fred Gwynne
Mirror-Mirror by Marilyn Singer (fairy tale poems written forward and backward)
Miss Alaineus: A Vocabulary Disaster by Debra Frasier
My Momma Likes to Say by Denise Brennan-Nelson
My Teacher Likes to Say by Denise Brennan-Nelson
The Pig in the Spigot by Richard Wilbur
See the Yak Yak by Charles Ghigna
Sheep in a Shop by Nancy Shaw
Some Smug Slug by P. D. Edwards
There's a Frog in My Throat: 44 Animal Sayings a Little Bird Told Me by Loreen Leedy and Pat Street
Things that are the Most in the World (superlatives) by Judi Barrett
Twenty-odd Ducks: Why Every Punctuation Mark Counts! by Lynne Truss
The Weighty Word Book by Paul M. Levitt, Douglas A. Burger, and Elissa S. Guralnick
Weighty Words, Too by Paul M. Levitt, Elissa S. Guralnick, and Douglas A. Burger
Why the Banana Split by Rick Walton
Written Anything Good Lately? By Susan Allen
You Read to Me, I'll Read to You (series) by Mary Ann Hoberman
If You Were a ... (Word Fun series, various authors)

Adjective	Adverb	Alliteration
Antonym	Apostrophe	Capital
Comma	Compound Word	Conjunction
Contraction	Exclamation Point	Homonym or Homophone
Interjection	Noun	Onomatopoeia
Palindrome	Period	Plural
Prefix	Preposition	Pronoun
Question Mark	Quotation Marks	Suffix
Synonym	Verb	

Math

A-B-A-B-A-a Book of Pattern Play by Brian Cleary
The Adventures of Penrose the Mathematical Cat by Theoni Pappas
All about Coins
By Cheryl Martin Anno's Mysterious Multiplying Jar by Masaichiro and Mitsumasa Anno
Can You Count to a Googol? By Robert E. Wells
Fraction Action by Loreen Leedy
G is for Googol by David Schwartz
The Grapes of Math by Greg Tang
The History of Counting by Denise Schmandt-Besserat
How Big? From Flying Frog Publishers
How Big Is It? A Book All about Bigness (measurement) by Ben Hillman
How Do You Know What Time It Is? by Robert E. Wells

How Much is a Million? By David Schwartz
If Dogs were Dinosaurs by David Schwartz
Is a Blue Whale the Biggest Thing There Is? By Robert E. Wells
Math Talk: Mathematical Ideas in Poems for Two Voices by Theoni Pappas
Mapping Penny's World by Loreen Leedy
Mathemackles by Betsy Franco
Measuring Penny by Loreen Leedy
Millions to Measure by David Schwartz
Rabbits, Rabbits Everywhere: A Fibonacci Tale by Ann McCallum
What's Smaller than a Pygmy Shrew by Robert Wells
Wild Fibonacci: Nature's Secret Code Revealed by Joy N. Hulme
You Can Count on Monsters: The First 100 Numbers and Characters by Richard Schwartz

Math-Shapes and Patterns

Cubes, Cones, Cylinders, and Spheres by Tana Hoban
Pattern Bugs (and Pattern Fish) by Trudy Harris
Shapes, Shapes, Shapes by Tana Hoban
A Star in My Orange: Looking for Nature's Shapes by Dana Meachen Rau
When a Line Bends, a Shape Begins by Rhonda Gowler Greene

Math Puzzles and Units

Beyond Base Ten: A Mathematics Unit for High-Ability Learners in Grades 3-6 from the College of William and Mary's Center for Gifted Education
Logic Links (various levels) from Mindware
Math Analogies (various levels) from Critical Thinking
Math Analogies for K-2nd Students and *Math Analogies for 3rd-5th Students* by Kristi Youmans
M3 series from Kendall Hunt
Perplexors (various levels) from Mindware
Spatial Reasoning: A Mathematics Unit for High-Ability Learners in Grades 2-4 from the College of William and Mary's Center for Gifted Education
Venn Perplexors (various levels) from Mindware

Science

All Eyewitness books

Let's Read and Find Out series from HarperCollins

General

An Egg is Quiet by Diana Aston
Animal Groups: How Animals Live Together by Etta Kaner
Archibald Frisby, Who Was as Crazy for Science as any Kid Could Be by Michael Chesworth
Are You a Grasshopper? By Judy Allen and Tudor Humphries
Einstein Anderson series by S. D. Schindler
Exploratopia: More than 400 Kid-Friendly Experiments and Explorations for Curious Minds by Pat Murphy
The Head Bone's Connected to the Neck Bones: The Weird, Wacky, and Wonderful X-Ray by Carla McClafferty
How Do You Lift a Lion? By Robert E. Wells
If You Hopped Like a Frog by David M. Schwartz
Life in the Boreal Forest by Brenda Z. Guiberson
Look What I Did with a Leaf (crafts) by Morteza E. Sohi
Pale Male: Citizen Hawk of New York City by Janet Schulman
Q is for Quark: A Science Alphabet Book by David Schwartz
Stars Beneath Your Bed: The Surprising Story of Dust by April Pulley Sayre
The Truth about Animal Senses by Bernard Stonehouse and Esther Bertram
What's Faster than a Speeding Cheetah? By Robert E. Wells
What's Older Than a Giant Tortoise? By Robert E. Wells
What's Smaller Than a Pygmy Shrew by Robert E. Wells

Why Do Elephants Need the Sun? by Robert E. Wells

Animals

Face to Face with Animals series from the National Geographic Society

Animal Groups: How Animals Live Together by Etta Kaner

Are You a Grasshopper? By Judy Allen and Tudor Humphries

An Egg is Quiet by Dianna Aston

Forest Bright, Forest Night by Jennifer Ward

The Hive Detectives: Chronicle of a Honey Bee Catastrophe by Loree Griffin Burns

How Many Pandas? By Sandra Markle

Ice Bears by Brenda Z. Guiberson

If You Hopped Like a Frog by David M. Schwartz

Mammoths and Mastodons: Titans of the Ice Age by Cheryl Bardoe

Sisters and Brothers: Sibling Relationships in the Animal World by Steve Jenkins

The Truth about Animal Senses by Bernard Stonehouse and Esther Bertram

The Water Hole (hidden images of animals that visit a water hole) by Graeme Base

What Bluebirds Do by Pamela F. Kirby

When the Wolves Returned: Restoring Nature's Balance in Yellowstone by Dorothy Patent

Where in the Wild? Camouflaged Creatures Concealed and Revealed by David Schwartz

Yucky Worms by Vivian French

Zoobooks magazine

Astronomy

Eight Great Planets! A Song About the Planets by Laura Purdie Salas

My Light by Molly Bang

Periodic Table: Elements with Style by Adrian Dingle

Postcards from Pluto by Loreen Leedy

The Swamps of Sleethe by Jack Prelutsky

What's So Special About Planet Earth? By Robert E. Wells

Environment and Plants

Adventures of an Aluminum Can BY Alison Inches

Adventures of a Plastic Bottle by Alison Inches

Bag in the Wind (environment and recycling) by Ted Kooser

A Big Tree by Bruce Hiscock

Common Ground: The Water, Earth, and Air We Share by Molly Bang

Compost Stew: An A to Z Recipe for the Earth by Mary McKenna Siddals

The Curious Garden by Peter Brown

Desert Giant: The World of the Saguaro Cactus by Barbara Bush

The Ever-Living Tree: The Life and Times of a Coast Redwood by Linda Vieira

Garden of the Spirit Bear: Life in the Great Northern Rainforest by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent

The Gift of the Tree by Alvin Tresselt

Here Comes the Garbage Barge by Jonah Winter

Just Grace Goes Green by Charise Mericle Harper

Living Sunlight: How Plants Bring the Earth to Life by Molly Bang and Penny Chisholm

A Log's Life by Wendy Pfeffer

The Lorax by Dr. Seuss

Not Your Typical Book about the Environment by Elin Kelsey

One Small Place in a Tree by Barbara Brenner

One Small Square of Woods by Donald M. Silver

A Place for Butterflies by Melissa Stewart

Redwoods by Jason Chin

Stuff! Reduce, Reuse, Recycle by Steven Kroll

The Tree in the Ancient Forest (food chain) by Carol Reed Jones

Trout are Made of Trees (food chain) by April Pulley Sayre

Rocks

Canyon by Eileen Cameron

Everybody Needs a Rock by Byrd Baylor

Grand Canyon: A Trail through Time by Linda Vieira

If You Find a Rock by Peggy Christian
Iktomi and the Boulder by Paul Goble
Mountain Dance by Thomas Locker
On My Beach There Are Many Pebbles by Leo Lionni
The Big Rock (history of a boulder) by Bruce Hiscock
The Gift of the Inuksuk by Michael Ulmer
Reading the Earth: Landforms in the Making by Jerome Wyckoff
Rocks, Hard, Soft, Smooth and Rough (variety) by Natalie Rosinsky
Stone Wall Secrets by Kristine and Robert Thorson (also has teacher's guide)
Windows into the Earth: The Geologic Story of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks by Robert Smith and Lee Siegel

Soils

A Handful of Dirt by Raymond Bial
Life in a Bucket of Soil by Alvin Silverstein
The Living Earth by E. Schmid
Soil! Get the Inside Scoop by David Lindbo

Space

One Giant Leap by Robert Burleigh

Water

Beachcombin: Exploring the Seashore by Jim Arnosky
Cloud Dance by Thomas Locker
A Cool Drink of Water (worldwide) by Barbara Kerley
A Drop Around the World by Barbara Shaw McKinney
Did a Dinosaur Drink This Water? By Robert E. Wells
Elephants Swim (how various animals deal with water) by Linda Capus Riley
Hello Ocean by Pam Munoz Ryan
Listen to the Rain by Bill Martin, Jr.
The Negro Speaks of Rivers by Langston Hughes, illustrated by E. B. Lewis
One Small Place by the Sea by Barbara Brenner
Our World of Water: Children and Water around the World by Beatrice Hollyer
Out of the Ocean by Debra Frazier
River Bed: Sleeping in the World's Rivers and Water Beds: Sleeping in the Ocean by Gail Karkowski
River of Dreams: The Story of the Hudson River by Hudson Talbot
A River Ran Wild by Lynne Cherry
Rivers Around the World series from Crabtree Publishing
The Seashore Book by Charlotte Zolotow
Splash (counting animals in a pond) by Ann Jonas
Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion by Loree Griffin Burns
Water Beds: Sleeping in the Ocean by Gail Langer Karwoski
Water Dance by Thomas Locker
Where the River Begins by Thomas Locker

Weather

Curse of Akkad: Climate Upheavals that Rocked Human History by Peter Christie
How We Know What We Know about Our Changing Climate: Scientists & Kids Explore Global Warming by Lynne Cherry
Hurricane by David Wiesner

Green Earth Discovery Library

Clean and Green Energy
Filling the Earth with Trash
Growing Up Green
My Green Lunch
Recycling Earth's Resources
Trees: Earth's Lungs

Scientists in the Field Series

Diving to a Deep-Sea Volcano

Emi and the Rhino Scientist

Extreme Scientists: Exploring Nature's Mysteries from Perilous Places

Gorilla Doctors: Saving Endangered Great Apes

Hidden Worlds: Looking Through a Scientist's Microscope

Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World's Strangest Parrot

Looking for Life in the Universe: The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence

Mysterious Universe: Supernovae, Dark Energy, and Black Holes

Prairie Builders: Reconstructing America's Lost Grasslands

Project Seahorse

Project Ultraswan

Saving the Ghost of the Mountain: An Expedition Among Snow Leopards in Mongolia

Science Warriors: The Battle Against Invasive Species

Secrets of Sound: Studying the Calls and Songs of Whales, Elephants, and Birds

The Bat Scientists

The Bug Scientist

The Frog Scientist

The Hive Detectives: Chronicle of a Honey Bee Catastrophe

The Quest for the Tree Kangaroo: An Expedition to the Cloud Forest of New Guinea

The Snake Scientist

The Tarantula Scientist

Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion

Whaling Season: A Year in the Life of an Arctic Whale Scientist

Visual Puzzles (some of these have been made into jigsaw puzzles)

Can You See What I See? series by Walter Wick

Blocks

Cool Collections

Dinosaurs

Dream Machines

The Night Before Christmas

On a Scary Night

On the Road

Once Upon a Time

Seymour and the Juice Box Boat

Seymour Makes a Friend

Treasure Ship

Trucks and Cars

Can You See What I See? Scholastic Reader Level 1 series

Animals

Christmas

Games

Nature

100 Fun Finds

Toys

Flotsam by David Wiesner

I Spy series by Walter Wick and Jean Marzollo

A to Z

Challenger (Gold, Super, Extreme, Year-Round, and Ultimate)

Christmas

Fantasy

Fun House

Mystery

Picture Riddles

School Days

Spooky Night
Treasure Hunt
I Spy Scholastic Reader Level 1 series
A Balloon
A Butterfly
A Candy Cane
A Christmas Tree
A Dinosaur's Eye
Funny Teeth
Lightning in the Sky
I Love You
A Penguin
Santa Claus
A Scary Monster
A School Bus
A Skeleton
Look-Alikes series by Joan Steiner
Around the World
Christmas
Look-Alikes: Discover a Land Where Things Are Not as They Appear
Look-Alikes: The More You Look, the More You See
Look-Alikes, Jr.
Look-Alikes, Jr.: The More You Look, the More You See
Super Look-Alikes
The Red Book by Barbara Lehman
Zoom and Re-Zoom by Istvan Banyai

The 10 Most... (series from Scholastic Books)

Amazing Adaptations in Nature
Amazing Animal Heroes
Amazing Animated Movies
Amazing Birds
Amazing Bridges
Amazing Migrations
Amazing Skyscrapers
Bizarre Animal Behaviors
Compelling News Images
Dangerous Geographic Locations
Daring Escapes
Decisive Battles
Decisive Battles on American Soil
Defining Moments of the Civil War Era
Destructive Ecosystem Invaders
Disastrous Accidents
Endangered Animals
Enduring Fashion Trends
Essential Chemical Messengers in the Body
Essential Natural Resources
Extraordinary Medical Conditions
Extreme Fighting Styles
Extreme Jobs
Extreme Sports
Extreme Vacations
Fascinating Cities
Fascinating Phenomena
Gripping 20th Century War Stories

Important Amendments to the United States Constitution
Incredible Landforms
Influential Hip Hop Artists
Ingenious Fictional Detectives
Innovative Bands
Inspiring Speeches in World History
Intense College Football Rivalries
Memorable Court Cases
Memorable Speeches in American History
Memorable TV Moments
Notable Elected Female Leaders
Outrageous Heists
Outrageous Hoaxes
Outrageous Outlaws
Outstanding American Symbols
Outstanding American Women
Phenomenal Athletes
Phenomenal Modern Buildings
Provocative 20th Century Artworks
Remarkable Entrepreneurs
Remarkable Writers
Revolting Parasites
Revolutionary Inventions
Revolutionary Military Inventions
Revolutionary Songs
Shocking Sports Scandals
Significant Documents in History
Significant Medical Breakthroughs
Successful Art Forgers
Terrifying Experiences
Tragic Romances
Uncontrollable Functions of the Body
Unforgettable NASCAR Moments
Unforgettable Shipwrecks
Valuable Elements
Wondrous Ancient Sites