

Informational Picture Books

Visit your library to look for these books.



Why use Informational Picture Books with young children?

- Research shows using informational pictures encourages a new vocabulary, preparing babies and toddlers for future literacy skills when they start school.
- Using Informational Picture Books or nonfiction during storytime tends to produce more interaction between the adult and the child.
- Children have the opportunity to learn about the real world and develop an understanding of their place in it.
- The text found in Informational Picture Books produces more questions and a greater range of vocabulary than narratives alone.
- By exploring the world through Informational Picture Books, children can extend critical thinking and become motivated to continue learning about subjects that are of interest.
- Children have increased motivation to read by reading or being read to on subjects that are of interest to them.

Books

Actual Size by Steve Jenkins | A fabulous look at the actual size, drawn to scale, of 18 different animals or insects. More information on each creature is contained in the end matter.

Air Is All Around You by Franklyn M. Branley | The concept of air and its importance in our world is presented along with easy-to-replicate activities. (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science series)

***Airport** by Byron Barton | This is the perfect book with simplistic text for a very young child who is going on a first plane ride.

Apples by Gail Gibbons | Everything you would want to know about this popular fruit: from the different varieties, how they grow, identification of parts, various uses, how to plant a tree, etc.

Babies Don't Eat Pizza: A Big Kids' Book About Baby Brothers and Baby Sisters by Dianne Danzig | As a pediatric nurse, the author has spoken to thousands of children about what to expect when a new brother or sister arrives. Humorous illustrations add to the reassuring text.

Backhoes by Linda D. Williams | Powerful full-page color photographs, with key parts of the vehicles labeled, are enhanced by the large format. The machines, their parts, and the work they do are described in an easy-to-read, large-print text. (Pebble Plus: Mighty Machine series)

***Big Wheels** by Anne Rockwell | Big-wheeled trucks such as bulldozers, dump trucks, cranes and wrecking balls are introduced to the youngest child.

Bread Comes to Life: A Garden of Wheat and a Loaf to Eat by George Levenson | This covers the planting of wheat seeds, to the harvesting, and the actual making of different kinds of bread, along with a simple recipe that a "four-year-old can make."

Bringing in the New Year by Grace Lin | Chinese New Year, also called Lunar New Year since other countries besides China observe it, is one of the most celebrated holidays in the world. Described here are the customs and traditions associated with it.

Bugs Are Insects by Anne Rockwell | This well-illustrated text explains and visually shows that all insects have six legs and three body parts. Other creatures that are not insects (i.e., spiders and daddy longlegs) are also depicted. (Let's-Read-And-Find-Out Science series)

The Busy Body Book: A Kid's Guide to Fitness by Lizzy Rockwell | Different parts of the body from the brain, muscles, lungs, heart, intestines and blood vessels are diagrammed and the importance of exercise for the body is described.

Butterfly Eyes and Other Secrets of the Meadow by Joyce Sidman | This collection of verse celebrates the ecosystem of a meadow with pairs of "poetry riddles."

Can You Count Ten Toes? Count to 10 in 10 Different Languages by Lezlie Evans | Children are asked to count ten different objects in ten different languages including Spanish, French, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Tagalog, Hebrew, etc.

The Cloud Book: Words and Pictures by Tomie de Paola | Introduces the ten most common types of clouds, the myths that have been inspired by their shapes, and what they can tell about coming weather changes.

The Construction Alphabet Book by Jerry Pallotta | Pallotta follows the alphabetical formula used in many of his other titles to showcase different types of construction equipment. Some of the machines are used in demolition, some for roads; others to clear land or erect buildings.

***Dinosaurs, Dinosaurs** by Bryon Barton | A very first dinosaur book for the youngest child, with the creatures described by size and physical features. End papers show names with a pronunciation guide.

An Egg Is Quiet by Diana Hutts Aston | Aston's simple, readable text celebrates eggs' marvelous diversity, commenting on size, shape, coloration, and where they might be found. Introduces readers to more than 60 types of eggs and an array of egg facts. *A Seed is Sleepy* is a companion book by the same author for the slightly older child.

Emily's Everyday Manners by Peggy Post | All manners in this book are based on the principles of respect, consideration and honesty. A first etiquette book.

Everybody Works by Shelley Rotner | A photographic look at the variety of jobs people do for their communities.

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***Fabulous Fishes** by Susan Stockdale | All the different sizes, shapes and colors of fish are described along with the amazing things they can do. End matter contains more information on each fish.

First the Egg by Laura Vaccaro Seeger | Die-cut pages show the transformations of various animals and objects such as a seed to a flower, paint to a picture, and a caterpillar to a butterfly.

Fly, Monarch! Fly! by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace | A rabbit family learns all about monarchs, milkweed, metamorphosis, and migration. Back pages include a monarch craft and how to plant a butterfly garden.

Freight Train by Donald Crews | Clear, bright illustrations show all the cars of a train moving through day and night, country and city.

From Seed to Pumpkin by Wendy Pfeffer | An explanation of how a tiny seed can grow into a pumpkin. Also included are how plants drink water, how to roast pumpkin seeds, and how a pumpkin is actually a fruit. (Let's-Read-And-Find-Out Science series)

Growing Frogs by Vivian French | A mother and child take frog spawn from a man-made pond and watch as the tadpoles develop, grow into frogs, and then they return the frogs to the pond. (Read, Listen & Wonder series)

Hello, Bumblebee Bat by Darrin Lunde | A series of questions and answers introduces children to the life and habitat of the exotic and endangered Bumblebee Bat.

Hot Diggity Dog: The History of the Hot Dog by Adrienne Sylver | An illustrated history of the fast-food favorite offers insight into the hot dog's multicultural heritage while sharing amusing "foodie" facts.

Houses and Homes by Ann Morris | Photographs depict all the different types of houses and homes throughout the world. The site for each home/house with a few other facts along with a map for locations are shown in the back pages.

How My Family Lives In America by Susan Kuklin | Sanu, who is African-American; Eric, who is Hispanic-American; and April, who is Asian-American, describe their life in America and share some of their families' cultural traditions.

How to Talk to Your Cat by Jean Craighead George | This well-known naturalist describes how cats "speak" through movements of their tails, ears, whiskers and the pupils of their eyes. A companion volume, *How to Talk to Your Dog*, is also available.

I Face the Wind by Vicki Cobb | Great hands-on simple activities help children understand the properties and characteristics of wind. Three other great titles are in this series. (series)

Knock, Knock! by Saxton Freymann et al. | Fourteen well-known children's artists illustrate some fun knock-knock jokes.

Lightship by Brian Floca | A description of lightships that once guided sailors through safe waters in areas where lighthouses could not be built.

***Little Green Frogs** by Frances Barry | A very unique book for the very youngest children where pages unfold one-by-one to reveal how frog spawn grows from egg to tadpole to frog.

Machines Go To Work by William Low | Machinery parades across colorful spreads in this interactive look at equipment. The inventory includes a helicopter, tugboat, cement mixer, and more. The words and the quality illustrations interact well to portray how each piece of equipment is used in a selected situation.

Mama: A True Story in Which a Baby Hippo Loses His Mama During a Tsunami, but Finds a New Home, and a New Mama by Jeanette Winter | A true story of a rescued baby hippo that was lost from its mother after a tsunami occurred near Indonesia in 2004, and how the hippo later bonded to a 130-year-old giant tortoise in a park.

Move by Robin Page and Steve Jenkins | An introduction to all the different ways animals move. Each double-page spread shows an action word in large print, and then depicts two animals moving in that manner.

My Five Senses by Aliki | This is a wonderful introduction for children to the five senses, and the ways we use our senses separately or together. (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science series)

Ocean Picture Pops by Roger Priddy | Photographs and eye-catching pop-up pictures of various animals that live in or near the ocean are depicted. (Picture Pops series)

Oh Say Can You Say What's the Weather Today?: All About Weather by Tish Rabe | A rhymed text introduces children to different weather conditions and weather instruments that are introduced by the Cat in the Hat and Thing One and Thing Two. (Cat in the Hat's Learning Library series)

On Earth by G. Brian Karas | The orbit, rotation, and tilt of planet Earth are discussed along with the earth's daily and yearly cycles.

One Child, One Seed: A South African Counting Book by Kathryn Cave | This counting book plus photo-essay follows Nothando as she plants a pumpkin seed, watches it grow, and harvests the fruit for cooking. Along the way, readers meet the girl's family and friends and learn about her daily activities and culture.

An Orange in January by Diana Hutts Aston | An orange begins its life as a blossom where bees feast on the nectar and reaches the end of its journey, bursting with the seasons inside it in the hands of a child.

Orangutans Are Ticklish: Fun Facts From an Animal Photographer by Jill Davis | If you see a hippo yawning, don't assume it's naptime. The animal might be preparing to attack. This is just one of the informational nuggets found throughout this colorful and entertaining look at a variety of creatures.

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Oscar and the Bird: A Book About Electricity by Geoff Waring | Oscar the kitten gets help from Bird with his questions about electricity such as how it is made and stored, how gadgets use electricity to operate, and safety issues related to electricity. (Start With Science series)

Our Abe Lincoln by Jim Aylesworth | Biographical facts about one of our most famous presidents is presented in a text that can be sung to the tune of “The Old Grey Mare.”

Our Children Can Soar: A Celebration of Rosa, Barack, and the Pioneers of Change by Michelle Cook | Eleven key African-American leaders, past and present, are introduced along with striking artwork contributed by thirteen well-known illustrators of children’s books.

Red-Eyed Tree Frog by Joy Cowley | This frog, found in the rain forest of Central America, spends the night searching for food while also being careful not to become dinner for some other animals.

***Roadwork** by Sally Sutton | A wonderful rhyming text with many action verbs describes all the roadwork machines busily creating a new road.

Rocks! Rocks! Rocks! by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace | Mama Bear takes her son, Buddy, to the Rock Trail at the Nature Center where they explore various types of rocks, and he learns how they are formed and the causes of erosion. Rock activities are included.

***Sea Animals** by Amy Ericksen | A board book for very young children with basic facts about whales, sharks, sea otters, dolphins, sea turtles and elephant seals.

A Second Is a Hiccup by Hazel Hutchins | A simple explanation of units of time including a second, a minute, an hour, a day, a month and a year.

Seeds by Ken Robbins | Enlarged color photos help children explore different types of seeds found in plants, fruits, trees and flowers such as milkweed, wheat berries, peas, plums, cherries, pumpkins, watermelon, dandelions, maple trees, and impatiens.

Seeing Stars by Dandi Daley Mackall | Heavy, glossy pages introduce young children to the North Star and ten familiar constellations that you can find in the sky at night.

Seymour Simon’s Book of Trains by Seymour Simon | Crisp photographs and descriptions provide an exploration of different types of trains and the variety of freight cars.

Stars Beneath Your Bed: The Surprising Story of Dust by April Pulley Sayre | Everything that a young child would want to know about the subject of dust is covered here – from what it is, how it travels, and how it can stick around for a long time.

Ten Things I Can Do to Help My World by Melanie Walsh | The author provides ten fun and easy eco-tips that will help preserve our earth – from not wasting water to recycling. (The book was made from 100% recycled material.)

This Plane by Paul Collicutt | Planes in all forms, from paper to supersonic transports, are the focus of this colorful book. Brief text adds to the paintings about a popular topic for young transportation fans.

Time for Kids: Bears by Nicole Iorio | One of a series of books by *Time* magazine on subjects of interest to preschoolers or beginning readers, this one provides facts on eight different types of bears, from where they live to what they eat. (Time for Kids series)

***Tools** by Taro Miura | A simple guide to over 60 different tools used by carpenters, tailors, mechanics, doctors, electricians, gardeners, chefs, watchmakers, barbers and painters.

Trout Are Made of Trees by April Pulley Sayre | “Trout are made of trees” is at the heart of this explanation of the life cycle of a trout. Young readers follow autumn leaves as they fall from a tree into the water, are softened by algae and eaten by other creatures, which are then consumed by the trout.

***Trucks** by Bryon Barton | Barton’s bright colorful board books on trucks, trains, boats and planes will fascinate young toddlers.

The Vegetables We Eat by Gail Gibbons | Gibbons has written and illustrated over 100 nonfiction books on almost every subject imaginable. Facts about the eight different groups of vegetables are presented here and there is even information on planting your own garden.

We Belong Together: A Book About Adoption and Families by Todd Parr | Parr’s distinctive bright primary-colored kid-friendly illustrations enhance a story about families adopting children.

What Bluebirds Do by Pamela F. Kirby | Brilliantly sharp, close-up photos portray one season in the life of a pair of Eastern bluebirds and their babies. Kirby identifies other bluebirds found in North America as well as the three species of bluebirds found in the U.S.

***What Do Wheels Do All Day?** by April Jones Prince | A brief rhyming text talks about all the common uses of wheels found in recreation and transportation.

What Do You Do with a Tail Like This? by Steve Jenkins & Robin Page | The book poses questions, allowing for interactive guessing, on all the things animals can do with their tails, feet, ears, eyes, noses and mouths.

What Magnets Can Do by Allan Fowler | Basic science concepts are explained with clear photographs and minimal text. (Rookie Read-About Science series)

What’s Up, What’s Down? by Lola Schaefer | To begin reading this book, one must turn it lengthwise, and start reading from the bottom, following the arrows, to the top. Halfway through, the book is turned around and one reads the text from top to bottom. The words and illustrations explain the organization of nature in our world to young children.

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You Can't Buy a Dinosaur with a Dime: Problem-Solving in Dollars and Cents by Harriet Ziefert | This simple introduction to adding and subtracting small amounts of money will delight and inform young readers. The rhyming story covers the math as well as the concepts of earning, saving, and spending.

You Have Healthy Bones! by Susan Derkazarian | Photographs and informative text explain the purpose of bones and how to keep them healthy. (Rookie Read-About Health series)

Yum! ;MmMm! ¡Qué Rico!: America's Sproutings by Pat Mora | From blueberries to vanilla, indigenous foods of the Americas are celebrated in this collection of haiku, which also includes information about each food's origins.

Illustration by Lindsay Barrett George

*Denotes books for the very young child.

Please visit your local library to read or check-out these books. Please note that many of the authors (and series) listed above have other titles on different subjects that are also appropriate for young children.

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