

Outstanding Science Books for Students K–12: 2013 (Books published in 2012) Summarized from NSTA website

Animal Grossapedia. Melissa Stewart. Scholastic. *Just gross enough that children will read it, with a good variety of examples and nice focus on vocabulary.*

ABC ZooBorns! Andrew Bleiman and Chris Eastland. Simon & Schuster/Beach Lane Books. *Younger readers will love this book; lovely language and photos in an alphabet theme.*

About Habitats: Oceans. Cathryn Sill. Peachtree Publishers. □ *Double level book with unusual format; a simple story line and beautiful artwork. Great addition to this popular series.*

Alex the Parrot: No Ordinary Bird. Stephanie Spinner. Random House/Knopf. □ *Good literature bringing attention to the intelligence of animals and treatment of pets, and the story line emphasizes the ongoing nature of this research on animal behavior.*

Barnum's Bones. Tracey Fern. Macmillan Children's Book Group/Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers. □ *Nice story of discovery, which illustrates that such projects take time, and the value of collection and observation.*

Birds of a Feather. Bernadette Gervais and Francesco Pittau. Chronicle Books. □ *Fun and interactive; tactile format allows a list of facts to become interesting.*

Black Gold. Albert Marrin. Random House/Knopf. □ *Easy to understand presentation of hard concepts; makes Earth science content understandable.*

Body Actions. Shelley Rotner. Holiday House. □ *A great introduction to body systems for children; easy to understand at that grade level.*

Citizen Scientists. Loree Griffin Burns. Macmillan Children's Book Group/Henry Holt Books for Young Readers. □ *Great stories about young investigators and place-based science; inspirational.*

D is for Desert. Barbara Gowan. Sleeping Bear Press. □ *Dual-level book, with rhyming couplets to read aloud. Many possibilities to link to social studies.*

Desert Baths. Darcy Pattison. Sylvan Dell Publishing. □ *Great compare-and-contrast text of animals performing common tasks.*

Dolphin Baby. Nicola Davies. Candlewick Press. □ *With very simple vocabulary, smooth flowing text, and sound science facts, this book will engage early readers.*

Frogs! Laurence Pringle. Boyds Mills Press. □ *The interactive format makes the book stand out; nicely illustrated and includes interesting ways humans have interacted with frogs and their unique adaptations.*

Get the Scoop on Animal Poop! Dawn Cusick. Charlesbridge/Imagine Publishing. □ *A totally new approach to food chains! Who thought poop could be outstanding? Just gross enough to fascinate.*

Giant Squid. Mary M. Cerullo and Clyde F.E. Roper. Capstone Press. □ *A great companion book for a zoology class, with example of inquiry, historical perspective nicely intertwined with very nice text features.*

Gopher to the Rescue. Terry Catasús Jennings. Sylvan Dell Publishing. □ *A good story that gives an unusual perspective on a current topic, showing succession after a volcano eruption on Mt. St. Helens.*

Hiss-s-s-s! Eric A. Kimmel. Holiday House. □ *This book illustrates the need for responsibility in caring for a difficult pet and cultural sensitivity.*

Ladybugs. Gail Gibbons. Holiday House. □ *A nice introduction with links to organic farming; good text elements like pronunciation guide and context clues for building reading skills.*

Leopard and Silkie. Brenda Peterson. Macmillan Children's Book Group/Henry Holt Books for Young Readers. □ *Sweet and simple version of an important story; relates being a citizen scientist to real ecological issues.*

Life in the Ocean. Claire A. Nivola. Macmillan Children's Book Group/Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers. □ *Sylvia Earle sets an example for great ocean science; the book also contains many examples such as journaling.*

Moonbird. Phillip Hoose. Macmillan Children's Book Group/Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers. □ *The voice of the author gives this book a special appeal (gave one reviewer goose bumps!); the science (especially sidebars) and the insight into how research is done were great elements. Great STEM resource.*

My First Day. Steve Jenkins and Robin Page. Houghton Mifflin Books for Children/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. □ *Beautiful pictures make this book come to life for young readers; excellent information regarding early animal adaptation.*

Nature's Patchwork Quilt. Mary Miché. Dawn Publications. □ *The illustrations make this book on habitats stand out; great text for integrating language arts because of treatment of key words.*

Nic Bishop Snakes. Nic Bishop. Scholastic. □ *The photographer "blows the reader out of the water" with his photos; this will get every reader interested and enable inquiry.*

Open Wide! Catherine Ham. EarlyLight Books. □ *This book is a great one to share! What fun! It provides a unique perspective on animal adaptations.*

Out of This World. Amy E. Sklansky. Random House/Knopf. □ *Points that are fun and scientifically accurate; this book enables the listener or reader to find evidence in poetry. Outstanding.*

Seababy. Ellen Levine. Walker Books for Young Readers. □ *Good story of human support for an endangered species (sea otters) with limited interference in the habitat and a link to a live webcam.*

Seahorses. Jennifer Keats Curtis. Macmillan Children's Book Group/Henry Holt Books for Young Readers. □ *The uniqueness of the species will totally engage readers and the science will amaze.*

Seymour Simon's Extreme Earth Records. Seymour Simon. Chronicle Books. □ *This book looks at very interesting environments; accurate and beautiful illustrations for both Earth and environmental curricula.*

Sneed B. Collard III's Most Fun Book Ever About Lizards. Sneed B. Collard III. Charlesbridge. □ *This book approaches the topic with humor; engaging and scientific; outstanding photos and great text from an author who has captivated readers for years.*

Super Nature. DK Publishing. *A great classroom supplement with beautiful photos supported by facts.*

The Beetle Book. Steve Jenkins. Houghton Mifflin Books for Children/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. □ *Interesting illustrations bring this book of beetles to life, and turns this field guide into a favorite for young insect lovers.*

The Book of Blood. HP Newquist. Houghton Mifflin Books for Children/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. □ *This will appeal to a wide audience and does a good job of describing many anecdotes about blood--even why the myth of vampires persisted in history.*

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind. William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer. Penguin/Dial. □ *The engineering and technology in the book's story makes it a great STEM resource and an inspirational human story.*

The Mighty Mars Rovers. Elizabeth Rusch. Houghton Mifflin Books for Children/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. □ *A timely topic; photographs of a working lab help students avoid misconceptions.*

The Polar Bear Scientists. Peter Lourie. Houghton Mifflin Books for Children/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. □ *Another outstanding example in a diverse series about actual researchers; modern practices of science are illustrated as the book discusses climate change and habitat loss.*

Wild Horse Scientists. Kay Frydenborg. Houghton Mifflin Books for Children/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. □ *History of the wild horses on Assateague Island; researchers illustrate the methods used.*