



The Federation of Children's Book Groups

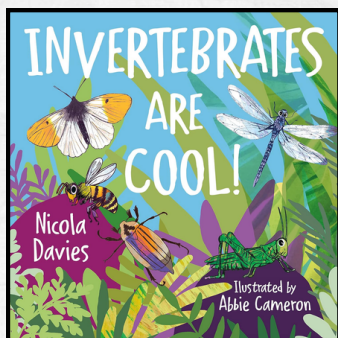


Reading is an Adventure

Our theme for National Non-Fiction November this year is 'Reading is an Adventure'. This booklist encourages children and teenagers to read a book that they can take on an adventure - where they can take what they learn from the books they read into the wider world. Go on an adventure with Bugs, Nature, Animals, People, Places, or even have an adventure at home!

Adventures with Bugs

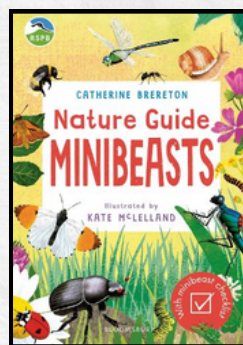
Invertebrates Are Cool! by Nicola Davies (author) and Abbie Cameron (illustrator)



Go on an adventure with invertebrates - learn about the tiny creatures of our world, including the ones at the bottom of the garden. Suitable for story time and for learning, this book will inspire a bug hunt (or two!)

Graffeg (2022)
Age 4+
ISBN 9781912213696

Nature Guide: Minibeasts by Catherine Brereton (author) and Kate McLelland (illustrator)



Explore over 190 fascinating minibeasts with this official RSPB pocket guide, featuring life-like illustrations by Kate McLelland, fun activities, and a handy spotter's checklist. Perfect for young wildlife enthusiasts on any outdoor adventure.

Bloomsbury Children's (2022)
Age 6+
ISBN: 9781526626431

Buzz: A child's guide to bugs and bees and how to spot them by Richard Jones (author), Sara Boccaccini Meadows (illustrator)



A fantastic book to learn about insects, butterflies and bees. With details on how they live, eat, why they look the way they do, even how they glow. Learn about how they see, talk, and help clean up nature. A lovely book!

Magic Cat (2026)
Age 7+
ISBN: 9781917366625

Bugs: Mad for Science by Tecnoscienza (editor), Agnese Baruzzi (illustrator)



Spark a love for science with the Mad for Science series, featuring 56 pages of games, activities, and easy household experiments. From exploring the ancient world of insects to discovering the building blocks of organic chemistry, it's the ultimate hands-on adventure.

White Star (2024)
Age 6+
ISBN: 9788854420748

Don't forget to enter our competition!

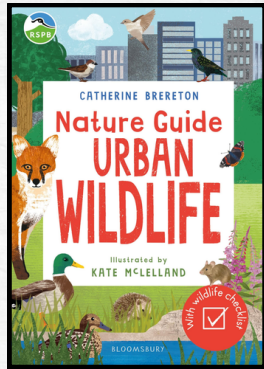
Record your adventure with your reading (read a non-fiction book and use what you've learnt!) - younger children; a diary entry or poster, or for older children a 2 minute (maximum) documentary style video. The book that inspired you MUST be shown in the piece that you create.

More information and submission forms on fcbg.org.uk/nfn/



Adventures with Animals

Nature Guide: Urban Wildlife by Catherine Brereton (author) and Kate McLelland (Illustrator)



Explore the wild side of the city with this RSPB pocket guide, with over 120 urban animals and plants to discover. Complete with spotter checklists, crafts, and fascinating facts, it is the ultimate companion for young city explorers and nature lovers.

Bloomsbury Children's (2026)
Age 6+
ISBN: 9781526692276

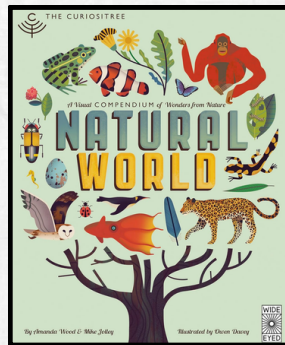
What Makes a Bird?: An Illustrated Guide to the Bird World by Nadeem Perera (author) and Montse Galbany (Illustrator)



Wonderful illustrations, this book tells young readers all they need to know about birds. Includes the science behind their bones to how you could connect with birds through birdwatching or conservation. This book is perfect for going outdoors and exploring nature.

Flying Eye Books (2026)
Age 6+
ISBN: 9781838742065

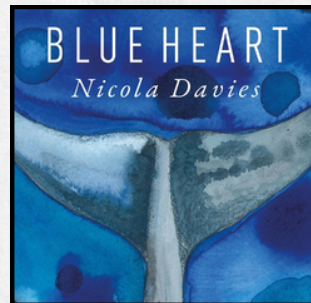
Curiositree: Natural World: A Visual Compendium of Wonders from Nature by AJ Wood, Mike Jolley and Owen Davey (Illustrator)



An incredibly curious book about animals and their habitats, looking at life cycles, ecosystems, and how animals have adapted - a brilliant way to develop your knowledge. Told through detailed illustrations and charts and with great links to curriculum. Highly recommend for schools (Primary and Secondary).

Wide Eye Editions (2026)
Age 11+
ISBN: 9781805702207

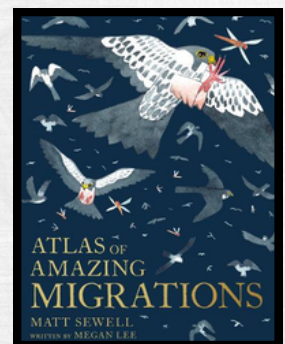
Blue Heart by Nicola Davies (author/illustrator)



A non-fiction book with a personal touch, Nicola Davies' writes of her experiences in researching whales - told through reflections, poetry and stunning illustrations. A shorter read for the age group, this would interest any young conservationist.

Graffeg (2024)
Age 11+
ISBN: 9781802587500

Atlas of Amazing Migrations by Matt Sewell (Illustrator), Megan Lee (Author)



With stunning watercolour illustrations by Matt Sewell and detailed information by Megan Lee, learn about journeys around the world and how they survive. Find out how they navigate - from whales to dragonflies. A unique book for animal lovers.

Pavilion (2021)
Interest Age 6+
(Text complexity Age 10+)
ISBN: 9781843654995

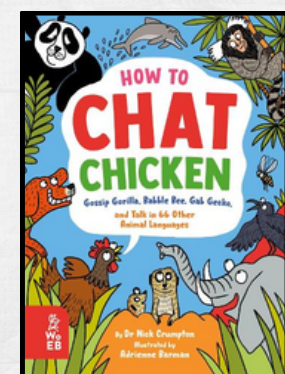
The Firefly's Light: The Secret Inventors of Our Natural World by Sarah Horne (author/illustrator)



The Firefly's Light is a vibrant book about biomimicry—how nature inspires human innovation. Through stunning illustrations and stories, it explores how scientists, engineers, and designers have mimicked animals and the natural world to inspire designs like velcro, LED lights and much more!

Scholastic (2023)
Age 6+
ISBN: 9780702315893

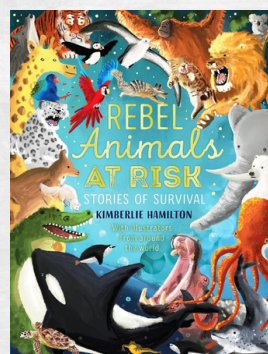
How to Chat Chicken, Gossip Gorilla, Babble Bee, by Nick Crumpton (author), Adrienne Barman (illustrator)



Learn about the sounds and the ways that animals communicate, using researched sound recordings and information from scientists in the field. Funny and fascinating, this animal book would be great fun to read together.

What on Earth Publishing (2023)
Interest Age 6+
ISBN: 9781804660423

Rebel Animals At Risk: Stories of Survival: by Kimberlie Hamilton (Author), Multiple Illustrators



Discover the stories and facts about endangered and at-risk animals from around the world. Learn about real animals, ones with amazing backgrounds (including a sign language speaking gorilla!). Can be enjoyed by younger and older children alike.

Scholastic (2021)
IAge 6+ (Text complexity 8+)
ISBN: 9780702300110



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Adventures in Nature

Plants, Trees, and Natural Landscapes

The Secrets of Trees by Massimo Domenico Novellino (Author), Ester Castelnuevo, Valentina Figus (Illustrators)



Discover the anatomy of trees with this detailed book. Learn how they communicate, adapt and survive. Detailed with scientific concepts, how leaves can be identified and what makes them unique, The Secrets of Trees has many facts for your own tree investigation.

Whitestar Kids (2024)
Age 6+
ISBN 9788854420465

We the Forest by Dr. Sai Pathmanathan (author), Sofia Iva (Illustrator)



A beautifully unique book combining sciences and arts. Detailing the research of Forestry England with each chapter focusing on different parts of the tree ecosystem, ending each with an artist or a project to inspire children to do the same.

Cultureshock with Forestry England (2024)
Age 6+
ISBN: 9781739330132

Under the Starlit Sky: Explore the Forest Layer By Layer by James Aldred (author), Good Wives and Warriors (illustrator)



Explore an oak tree from roots to canopy and learn about the ecosystem that one tree can create. With stunning illustrations, and a fold out map at the back of the book, this is sure to wow curious children. Be inspired to explore a tree local to you!

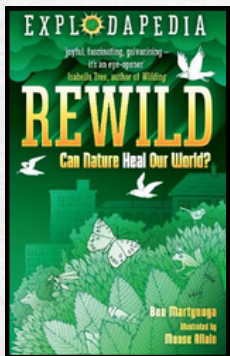
Big Picture Press (2025)
Age 6+
ISBN: 9781800787377

A Guide to Plants for Little Witchlings: 15 Spells, Charms and Crafts by Jennifer Lane (author), Adelina Lirius (illustrator)



An unusual book for the outdoors, this has lots of crafts with nature in mind. Children who like to play 'potions' would love this book. Detailing the different plants and their meanings and properties, this book can turn an outdoor adventure into a magical one. Learn how to make petal potions and the folklore behind flowers (with supervision, of course!)
Post Wave Publishing (2026)
Age 6+
ISBN: 9781836271130

Explodapedia: Rewild by Ben Martynoga, Moose Allen (Illustrator)



From climate-warrior whales to river-nurturing wolves, this book reveals the incredible creatures fighting to restore our ecosystems and empowers readers to reconnect with the wild world. Perfect to learn about ecology in more detail.

David Fickling Books (2024)
Age 11+
ISBN: 9781788452779

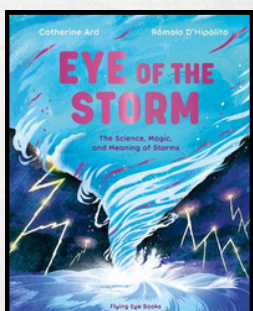
The Wild by Yuval Zommer (author/illustrator)



Through a story, learn about how The Wild was a giving and vibrant place, but when people started to take more, the Wild suffered. For the Wild to come back, someone must be brave and speak up. An empowering tale to inspire conservation in young people.

Oxford University Press (2023)
Age 4+
ISBN: 9780192782632

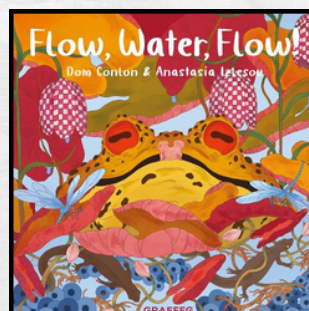
Eye of the Storm – Natural Phenomena Catherine Ard (author), Rômolo D'Hipólito (illustrator)



Journey into the science, history, and cultural impact of Earth's most powerful natural force from thunder and lightning to tropical cyclones and winter blizzards. A great way use science to understand nature.

Flying Eye Books (2026)
Age 7+
ISBN: 9781838743628

Flow, Water, Flow! by Dom Conlon and Anastasia Izlesou (Illustrator)



This is an interesting story-like information book where you don't realise that you are learning about waterways. It talks about the lifecycle of water, how it travels around the world and ecosystems. A lovely picture book to support outdoor learning.

Graffeg (2025)
Age 4+
ISBN: 9781802583335

Adventures with People

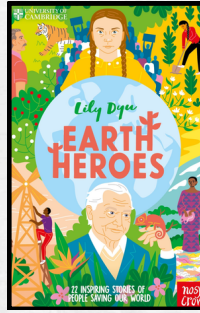
The Great Book of Legendary Witches and Wizards
by Tea Orsi (author) , Anna Láng (illustrator)



A colourful book about legendary witches and wizards - magical beings that you know, but also ones from other cultures that you might not. Told through short stories and facts, this would enchant young children to go on their own magical adventures!

Whitestar Kids (2024)
Age 7+
ISBN: 9788854420908

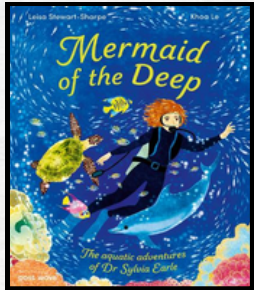
Earth Heroes: 22 Inspiring Stories of People Saving Our World by Lily Dyu, Jackie Lay (illustrator)



Be inspired by 22 remarkable changemakers from around the globe—including Greta Thunberg and David Attenborough. This powerful book proves that individual action can combat climate change, offering a beacon of hope and showing that no one is too small to make a difference.

Nosy Crow (2026)
Age 11+
ISBN: 9781788008594

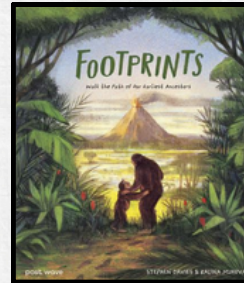
Mermaid of the Deep: The Aquatic Adventures of Dr Sylvia Earle by Leisa Stewart-Sharpe (author) , Khoa Le (illustrator)



An inspirational picture book about Dr Sylvia Earle - marine biologist, oceanographer, and explorer. Like a biography, this book goes through Dr Earle's journey to becoming the first human to walk, unteathered on the deep sea floor. Brilliant read to inspire the next generation of marine scientists.

Post Wave Publishing (2026)
Age 4+
ISBN: 9781836270553

Footprints: Walk the Path of Our Earliest Ancestors by Stephen Davies (author) , Kalina Muhova (illustrator)



Learn about human history with this narrative non-fiction book. Using the discoveries of Lucy's Skeleton and the Laetoli footprints, Davies blends scientific breakthroughs and storytelling, featuring British fossil hunter Mary Leakey.

Post Wave Publishing (2026)
Age 11+
ISBN: 9781836270829



'Be the change you wish to see in the world'

-Gandhi



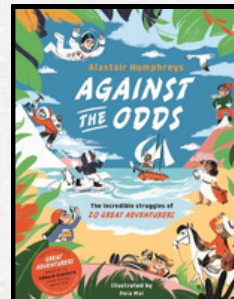
Superheroes: Inspiring Stories of Secret Strength by Sophia Thakur (author) , Denzell Dankwah (illustrator)



Discover how over fifty iconic British figures—from Dina Asher Smith to Riz Ahmed—turned their unique passions into superpowers in this inspiring collection. Ranging from entrepreneurs, fashion designers, musicians, chefs, artists and many more - this is sure to inspire you on your own future adventure.

Cornerstone (2021)
Age 7+ (text complexity 10+)
ISBN: 9781529118896

Against the Odds: The Incredible Struggles of 20 Great Adventurers by Alastair Humphreys (author) , Pola Mai (illustrator)



Hand-picked by adventurer Alastair Humphreys, this inspiring collection celebrates legendary explorers—from Zheng He to Jeanne Baret—who faced failure, discrimination, and disaster. Packed with incredible tales of resilience, courage, and hope against the odds, it's a powerful reminder that setbacks are just part of the adventure. Inspirational!

Templar Books (2023)
Age 7+ (text complexity 9+)
ISBN: 9781787410169

Make sure you check out our activities booklet for ideas to celebrate Non-Fiction November!
Find it on our website - fcbg.org.uk/nfn/



The Federation of Children's Book Groups

Adventures in Places

Exploring particular locations, museums or places

Young Explorers: Around London by Daniela Celli (author), Laura Re (illustrator)



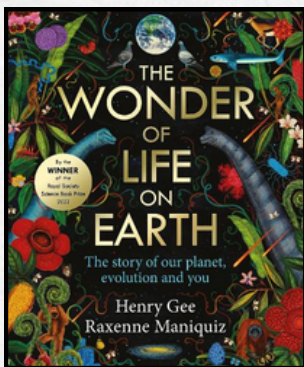
Perfect for taking your learning on an adventure, the Young Explorers series can help children explore capital cities. Follow the itinerary through London to the wonderful icons that the city has to offer - from museums to literary characters, a fun adventure awaits.

Whitestar Kids (2023)

Age 5+

ISBN: 9788854418653

The Wonder of Life on Earth: A beautifully illustrated story of our planet, evolution and you by Henry Gee (author) and Raxenne Maniquiz (Illustrator)



A great read before going to a science museum! This book covers evolution, how our planet came to be through supervolcanoes, asteroids, cells and plants, as well as the first creatures on our planet. Though it has some technical vocabulary, this could be enjoyed by keen young scientists.

Two Hoots Books (2026)

Age 11+

ISBN: 9781035024247

Martha Maps It Out by Leigh Hodgkinson (author/illustrator)



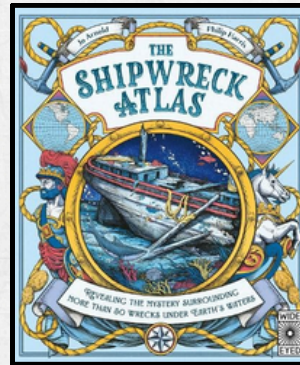
Explore the places you go every day - this is a joyful, imaginative picture book following map-loving Martha as she charts everything from space to her bedroom, inspiring young readers to explore the world with curiosity and creativity. This will encourage young children to really observe the places around them. Perfect for curious minds.

Oxford University Press (2022)

Age 4+

ISBN: 9780192777782

The Shipwreck Atlas by Jo Arnold (author), Philip Harris (illustrator)



Explore shipwreck locations across the world and learn about their discoveries, dramatic histories, and mysteries throughout the centuries. For history fans, this book would be of great interest. Perhaps visit the museums mentioned to see artefacts from shipwrecks!

Quarto Publishing (2026)

Age 7+

ISBN: 9781836002390

Cosmic Cruise: A Solar System Adventure by Owen Davey (author/illustrator)



For those that like going further in their adventures, Cosmic Cruise is perfect for a day trip to the Moon and docking at the International Space Station to exploring Jupiter, Saturn, and beyond, this book is the ultimate ticket for young space explorers!

Post Wave Publishing (2026)

Age 5+

ISBN: 9781836270652

Wilding: How to Bring Wildlife Back – an Illustrated Guide by Isabella Tree and Angela Harding (Illustrator)



An illustrated edition of 'Wilding', this book of the Knepp Estate wilding project is incredible and inspirational. Learn about the animals and creatures that the Knepp project reintroduced, the insects that returned, and how the plants and soil helped this all to happen. Wonderful read for 11 years onwards, including adults!

Macmillan's Children's Books (2024)

Age 11+

ISBN: 9781529092844



Note on Age suggestions - these are just suggestions, books rated for younger readers might be of interest to older readers, and vice versa!

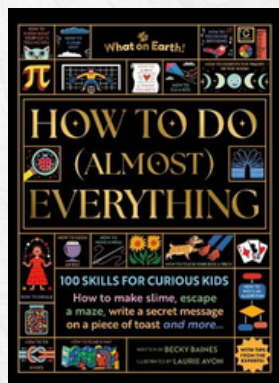




Adventures at Home



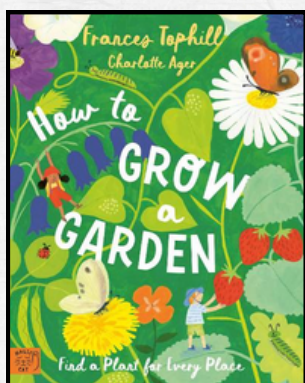
How to Do (Almost) Everything: 100 skills for curious kids by Becky Baines and Laurie Avon (Illustrator)



A fantastic home skills book for any child or teen. This book has fun on every page, with projects to do all year long! From stargazing, rock hunting, and camping skills, to solving puzzle cubes, mental health, and card tricks - this book has everything you could possibly want to learn how to do.

What on Earth Books (2026)
Age 11-16
ISBN: 9781804661741

How to Grow a Garden: Find a Plant for Every Place by Frances Tophill (author), Charlotte Ager (illustrator)



This book is perfect for learning at home. Read about the different types of gardens that you could grow, and find out what kind of garden you like to grow best. With lots of activities to do throughout the year, this is perfect for the young gardener.

Magic Cat Publishing (2025)
Age 7+
ISBN: 9781915569738

One for the grown-ups!

50 Fantastic Ideas for Mud Kitchens by Katie Taylor



Use nature to inspire creative play all year round with these budget friendly activities for a mud kitchen! From potion stations to frozen snow cakes, these step-by-step ideas boost motor skills, early maths, literacy, and communication—using mud, sand, ice, or water.

Bloomsbury Publishing (2026)
Age - For Adults (to help children)
ISBN: 9781801997966

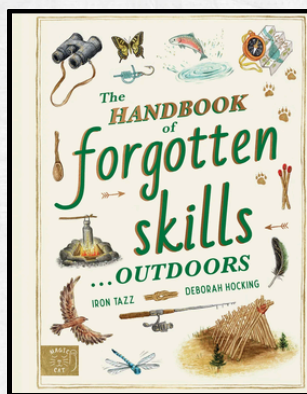
Magical Miniature Worlds: 18 Terrarium Projects for Kids to Make and Grow by Ben Newell



Add a touch of magic into your home with a magical terrarium! This is an excellent book to encourage a new skill and hobby. It has simple instructions and creative ideas for children to create their own magical world. Great for holiday activities or school projects!

Dorling Kindersley Ltd (2025)
Age 7+
ISBN: 9780241682692

The Handbook of Forgotten Skills...Outdoors by Iron Tazz (author), Deborah Hocking (Illustrator)



Want to know how to make your own shelter, how to find your way in the forest, navigate by stars or whittle wood? This is the handbook you need on your bookcase! The activities can be done in your garden for endless fun and adventure. Parental Supervision is a must for this book!

Magic Cat (2026)
Age 7+
ISBN: 9781917044806

'Books are the plane, and the train, and the road. They are the destination, and the journey. They are home.'
– Anna Quindlen



Federation of Children's Book Groups

The Federation strives to bring children and books together for enjoyment and fun.

For more information: info@fcbg.org.uk

www.fcbg.org.uk