

Physical Science: Inventive Exercises to Sharpen Skills and Raise Achievement.

Marjorie Frank and Imogene Forte. 1997. Incentive Publications, Inc., Nashville, TN. ISBN 0-86530-376-2, 64 pp., soft cover, \$10.95

Inventive Exercises to Sharpen Skills and Raise Achievement of Physical Science is a factual and interesting activity book appropriate for grades 6–8. It is a series of exercises for students to help to review and strengthen specific basic skills in physical science. The exercises are about atoms and compounds, forces and motions, light and color, electricity and magnets, mixtures and solutions, and many other great physical science activities. The book also includes an appendix of resources for students and teachers, along with a ready-to-use test for assessment.

This book is great for middle grade students. They will stay interested because each activity is different and fun. The language used is easy to understand. The activities require students to fill in blanks, match, and write summaries. The facts are very helpful to help them understand physical science. The diagrams, illustrations, and drawings are detailed and very easy to follow. This book is full of interesting and useful information to be used in a classroom. It provides great activities to reinforce and review the skills of different concepts with the students. I think this information would be a useful source for use in the science classroom.

--**Tricia Morgan**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Uncommon Traveler, Mary Kingsley in Africa. Don Brown. 2000. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, MA. ISBN 0-618-00273-1, 32 pp., hard cover, \$16.00.

Uncommon Traveler is an intriguing story, appropriate for grades 1–4. It is the story of Mary Kingsley's remarkable life. Her drab childhood led her to find comfort in books and fantasies. As an adult, she made an extraordinary journey through unexplored West Africa in 1893 and 1894.

Brown's use of lively, easily-understood language and splendid watercolor paintings wonderfully depicts the life of this very uncommon woman.

This book would be a great choice to read aloud to the class, while sharing the beautiful illustrations. It would also be a good addition to any classroom library for children to read and enjoy individually.

--**Vicki Linnell**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Six Snowy Sheep. Judith Ross Enderle and Stephanie Gordon Tessler. 1994. Penguin Books, New York, NY. ISBN 0-440-83726-X, 21 pp, soft cover, \$4.95

The children's book *Six Snowy Sheep* is a story of six sheep playing on a winter day. Throughout the book we are shown many winter activities involving the sheep. One of them slides down the hill into a snow bank and another skates on a frozen pond. Several of the others have fun skiing down hills and stomping in snow shoes, until they finally relax in front of a hot stove with steaming cocoa.

Although this book is somewhat cute and entertaining, it did not have any real educational value. The language is very elementary and the story seems to repeat itself on each page. The only way I would recommend it would be for use in a preschool

classroom learning about the seasons. Otherwise, this book does not contain any learning material.

--**Lindsay Lake**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

What Color Is Camouflage? Carolyn Otto. 1996. Harper Collins, Publishers, New York, NY. ISBN 0-06-027094-2, 32 pp., hard cover, \$14.95.

What Color Is Camouflage is a children's book that demonstrates in a natural setting what camouflage is and why some animals use it. It gives many different examples of animals who use camouflage and how they are using it. For instance, it discusses how the white-tailed jackrabbit alters its brown coat in the winter to a white coat to better hide in the snow.

I found this book to be highly interesting. It has a large collection of animals that use camouflage. It is filled with brilliant illustrations and each illustration is labeled to identify the animal present. I feel that children will not only enjoy reading this book, but also enjoy looking at the pictures and learning from it. I highly recommend it to teachers.

--**Penny Unruh**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Solids and Liquids. David Glover. 1993. Kingfisher Books, New York, NY. ISBN 1-85697-934-2, 32 pp., soft cover, \$5.95.

David Glover investigates the properties of solids and liquids in his non-fiction science activity book for kids, *Solids and Liquids*. The book is a gold mine of various activities exploring the properties of solids and liquids. Its colorful artwork and easy-to-read instructions are perfect for kids about fifth grade and up. The layout of the book is great for the young reader's short attention span.

The book's hands-on activities delve into such basic scientific concepts as rusting and rotting, recycling, fibers and textiles, and melting and mixing. The projects in the book encourage children to work with and learn about the properties of materials such as stone, wood, clay, metals, plastics, rubber, fabrics, and paper.

Along with easy-to-understand instructions for each activity, there are short introductory paragraphs for the students can read that give background information on the concepts explained and how the activity for that concept relates to real-life situations.

The book is well-illustrated for younger readers to enjoy, and has plenty of text to keep older readers busy. Also, the materials used in the activities are easy for kids to find at home or teachers to find at school.

I think this is an excellent introductory science book for kids. If I were a science teacher, I would most definitely want this as a part of my classroom library.

--**Michael Baker**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Searching for Velociraptor. Lowell Dingus and Mark A. Norell. 1996. Harper Collins Publishers, New York, NY. ISBN 0-06-025893-4, 31 pp., hard cover, \$15.95.

The book *Searching for Velociraptor* is about Norell and Dingus's search for fossils of the velociraptor. The book discusses finding and cleaning of the fossils, including details about the tools used and the velociraptors' place in the museum.

I felt it was a very good book. It was written in a manner that would be clear to many different reading levels, and the pictures were very eye catching. This would be a good book for anyone interested in velociraptors or fossils.

--**Steven Maltby**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Play All Day. Julie Paschkis. 1998. Little, Brown, & Company; Boston, MA. ISBN 0-316-69043-0, 28 pp., hard back, \$14.95.

Play All Day is a beautifully-illustrated book that takes a look at one child's day. It entwines the boy's reality with his imagination, showing how any day can be an adventure with the use of a little creativity. This story has the ability to open a child's eyes to a new way of looking at things.

This book is most appropriate for children ages five and under. The most outstanding aspect of *Play All Day* is its illustrations. Julie Paschkis' creative pictures and rhyming words are sure to keep any child's attention.

--**Megan Randel**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Lulu Crow's Garden. Lizi Boyd. 1998. Little, Brown, and Company, Hong Kong. ISBN 0-316-10419-1, 30 pp., hard cover, \$14.95.

Lulu Crow's Garden is about a crow who plants a garden. All of Lulu's animal friends visit her at this garden, and each has something unique about them. In the end they all sit down together for dinner.

This book is a rhyming book. It would be helpful to young readers because some of the words are predictable and there are quite a few sight words. However, as far as tying this into science or any other subject, it would be quite a stretch. The story doesn't get into how Lulu planted her garden or took care of it, or even what grew. If I absolutely had to use this book I would use it as an anticipatory set for observation. Perhaps the students could be asked to recall what it was that was unique about each animal. The pictures in this book were all very colorful and slightly abstract. I was not very impressed by the story itself or the writing. Overall, I would not recommend this to teachers as a learning tool.

--**Tiffany Taylor**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Dinosaurs: The Very Latest Information and Hands-on Activities from the Museum of the Rockies. Liza Charlesworth and Bonnie Sachatello-Sawyer. 1995. Scholastic, Inc., New York, NY. ISBN 0-590-49412-0, 112 pp., soft cover, \$12.95.

Dinosaurs is a book filled with information and fun activities. The book introduces the students to dinosaurs and prehistoric time, and gives the students a real picture of what dinosaurs were like instead of the horrifying dinosaurs of Jurassic Park. The book goes into great detail on how the dinosaurs lived, ate, and died. Each student is given the opportunity to meet "one on one" with each dinosaur. For example, each dinosaur is given with their own specific physical characteristics. Not only are the students having fun but they are learning at the same time.

I really enjoyed the book. It has many different kinds of activities that I feel that the students would enjoy. The activities were easy enough that the students would understand without difficulty what to do. The book also encourages the students to expand their knowledge and raises their interest in Dinosaurs.

--**Christie Talkington**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Stars and Planets Atlas. Ian Ridpath. 1997. Facts on File, Inc., New York, NY. ISBN 0-8160-3716-7, 80 pp., hard cover, \$18.95.

This book has an array of colorful pictures to show the amazing Universe. In the book, there are many facts about all aspects of the Universe we live in. The facts are not so complex that they are too hard to understand but detailed enough to get the point across. This book would be best for 5th through 8th grade. The pictures help explain the text and are part of an overall good teaching tool.

This book was very well-written and organized. I enjoyed reading it and would suggest it to any teacher who wants some useful information about the stars and planets. It could provide some fun activities in the classroom. I enjoy science and astronomy so this might be why I enjoyed this book. Nevertheless, it was a book I found to be more interesting than many others I have read in the past.

--**B. K. Bartelli**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Rabbit and Hare Divide an Apple. Harriet Ziefert. 1998. Viking, New York, NY. ISBN 0-670-87790-5, 30 pp., hard cover, \$13.99.

This book is about two friends who try to divide their food equally. First, they try to divide a mushroom but one half ends up being bigger than the other. They fight over who gets the bigger half, and then Raccoon comes over and eats both pieces. Next, Rabbit and Hare find an apple and try to divide it in equal halves. They cut one half bigger than the other. They then decide to cut both pieces in half and share them.

This was a cute book and I think kids would enjoy it. The science slant of the book is about problem solving. In order to solve their problems, Rabbit and Hare must share and that is something all kids can relate to. It also incorporates math by asking, how many halves can you have? It also asks about other things that you can divide.

--**Brad Goalden**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Phantom of the Prairie: Year of the Black-Footed Ferret. Jonathan London. 1998. Sierra Club Books for Children, San Francisco, CA. ISBN 0-87156-387-8, 32 pp., hard cover, \$16.95.

Phantom of the Prairie: Year of the Black-Footed Ferret by Jonathan London is a beautifully-illustrated and well-written educational children's book. It begins with four black-footed ferret kits quietly drinking their mother's milk and then progresses through their lives. As the kits grow older we are seeing the kind of lives that these ferrets lead. We are shown the careful hunt as they pursue their favorite meal, the prairie dog. At the same time we are reminded of the way nature works when a coyote hunts down one of the ferret's own litter. The book introduces its readers to the habitat of the black-footed

ferret and the way they adapt to their changing environment, along with a small peek into their mating habits.

This book would be a beneficial accompaniment to a unit either on endangered species or mammals. The author's note at the beginning is an especially educational part of the book and a good tool for the teacher to use in the lesson. I would suggest this story for use in educational situations as well as for entertainment purposes.

--**Shauna Freeman**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

A Dozen Dozens. Harriet Ziefert. 1998. Viking, New York, NY. ISBN 0-670-87789-1, 28 pp., hard cover, \$13.99.

"I love a yummy apple pie. My sister, Sue, likes peach. All together we have twelve or half a dozen each."

A Dozen Dozens, appropriate for ages 5–8, is a wonderfully fun way for children to be introduced to the concept of a dozen. As children work their way through this book, they will discover what dozens and half dozens are. Along with learning this new concept, this book reinforces counting and adding. The best part of this book comes at the end. There are numerous fun activities that children can do to practice dozens. This book makes a new learning experience enjoyable for the children.

--**Erin Easter**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Elevator Magic. Stuart J. Murphy. 1997. Harper Collins, Inc., New York, NY. ISBN 0-06-026774-7, 33 pp., hard cover, \$14.95.

This book was about a little boy named Ben who meets his mother at work and realizes that the elevator ride down is more than just a ride. Ben's subtraction skills come in handy for the ride. Ben and his mother started on the 10th floor and had to make a couple of stops before reaching the 1st floor. So, Ben took the number of the floor they were currently on and subtracted down to the floor where they needed to be. The different floors where they stopped had much excitement going on. For example, one of the floors they had stopped on was the "Hard Rock Candy Store" where a rock band played while you got your candy. I believe that Ben used his imagination for the different floors where they stopped because his mother didn't notice any of the exciting activities going on.

This is a fun little book to use for math. There are many ways to integrate this book into the theme of subtraction. I believe the students could make up their own buildings and different floors that would be unique to them. They would have to start at the top and work down for subtraction. I especially like the book because of the different race of people on the book. This helps the children of the different races realize that they are books out there with faces like theirs on it. This was a very good book and if I had give it a rating from 1–10, I would say 12.

--**Nneka Dodd**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Raven and River. Nancy White Carlstrom. 1997. Little, Brown, & Company. New York, NY. ISBN 0-316-12895-5, 32 pp., hard cover, \$15.95.

This book dynamically relates to the fauna of a winter landscape. Winter animals witness the sounds of the melting ice. Hibernating animals awake as the water begins to flow more audible and visibly. The animals live with the river from winter into spring. The river becomes a symbol of life and freedom.

This beautiful picture book presents some animals and a river in Alaska. The raven introduces the children to Alaskan nature through sights and sounds. More for aesthetics, the story provokes an interest in the relationship between the river and the animals. The book shows the ecosystem along a river.

--**John Apel**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Hill of Fire. Thomas P. Lewis. 1971. Harper Collins Publishers, New York, NY. ISBN 0-06-444040-0, 63 pp., soft cover, \$3.75.

Hill of Fire, by Thomas P. Lewis, is about a farmer who thinks that nothing ever happens in his little village. One day, the farmer goes out to his field to plow and a volcano sprouts up right where he is plowing. The volcano destroys the village and the people have to move and rebuild their homes. The volcano turns out to be a blessing in disguise. The volcano becomes a tourist attraction and the people of the village sell the tourists the crops they grow. This money helps the people of the village rebuild. The pictures in this book aren't very colorful, but they make it easy for the reader to visualize what is going on.

I think that this book is very well written, although I think that this book is too easy for a fourth grader to read. It would be a great book to challenge the mind of a second grader. I have a hard time finding educational value that would be useful in the classroom. I suppose that if a teacher wanted to talk about how destructive a volcano is and how quickly it can destroy a village, then this would be useful along with other stories and lessons. This book is good to have on hand for students just to sit down and read. If it were to be used in a lesson, I would read it to the class as a break from the textbook learning, but I would not depend on it for content.

--**Carrie Anderson**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Lake of the Big Snake. Isaac Olaleye. 1998. Boyds Mills Press, Honesdale, PA. ISBN 1-56397-096-1, 29 pp., hard cover, \$15.95.

This children's book is a little story about two young African boys who have a rain forest adventure. Ade and Tayo disobey their mothers and leave the safe confines of the village and travel to "The Lake of the Big Snake." The boys encounter the water snake and have to out-smart the large snake so they can return to their disappointed mothers.

This is a very good book and moves quickly. The two boys learn a lesson about obeying their parents and a good lesson about true friendship. The illustrations are excellent and help portray what is happening in the book. The suggested age range is 4-8 years old. I would recommend this book as a good lead-in about the rain forest.

--**Brent Baker**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

My Box of Color. Lorraine Siomades. 1998. Boyds Mill Press, Honesdal, PA. ISBN 1-56397-711-7, 32 pp., hard cover, \$8.95.

My Box of Color is a book about the way color can effect a person's perceptions. The main character, a little worm asks if certain things would be changed if their colors were different. For example, the worm asks if the length of a giraffe's neck is the same if the giraffe's color was blue instead of yellow and brown. It also asks if a beet would taste the same if it were yellow instead of blue. Finally, it asks if another worm would like it just as much if he were different.

This book covers its topic excellently, but is written for much younger children. A preschool child or a kindergartner would be delighted with this book, but the average elementary program would be annoyed with the writing aimed towards a younger student. With the understanding of its age level it's an excellent book for covering colors, and the difference of objects with different colors. Set into a lesson plan, this could be an excellent book for examining colors and whether or not colors affect an object.

--**Sara Gulick**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Storm in the Night. Mary Stolz. 1988. Harper Collins Publishers, Mexico. ISBN 0-06-443256-4, 32 pp., soft cover, \$4.95.

This story tells of Thomas (a little boy), his grandfather, and Thomas' cat, Ringo. Thomas and Ringo were staying with the grandfather when a storm came. The lights went out, and there was thunder and lightening. The whole house felt like it was trembling. Thomas didn't worry because he wasn't scared. Grandfather was asked to tell some stories. They started out about when Grandfather was a boy. Thomas couldn't believe Grandfather used to be a boy. Then they moved to the back porch on a porch swing and Grandfather told the story of himself and his dog, Melvin. They were both very young when a bad storm came one night. Melvin and grandfather always hid under his bed because they were both scared of the storms. Then one night, Melvin was outside and grandfather was inside when a storm came. Grandfather was under the bed when he found that Melvin wasn't there with him. Later, a stranger was out on the porch and grandfather saw him with Melvin. From then on, grandfather wasn't scared of the stormy nights, because he stopped worrying about himself and thought about where Melvin was.

I liked the book. The book had many great conversations back and forth with the little boy and his grandfather. Thomas was so curious about what his grandfather was like when he was Thomas' age. The pictures were pretty plain and original. The book generally showed Thomas, his grandfather, and the cat in every picture, but the illustrations were plain with simple colors and not much definition or character to the people. The pictures did show what the story was telling. The story also had a good point: it is okay for people to be afraid, but you can overcome that fear.

I think it would be useful in the classroom. After reading it, you could see how kids liked it and have them tell about their fears (if they feel comfortable).

--**Chris Barkley**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Do Cats Really Have Nine Lives? Jack Myers. 1994. Boyds Mills Press, Honesdale, PA. ISBN 1-56397-215-8, 60 pp., soft cover, \$7.95.

Do Cats Really Have Nine Lives? is a book that answers questions asked by children over a broad spectrum of topics. It gives answers to questions in a basic manner that is easy for children to understand, yet it is not so basic that it will bore the child. The book also includes illustrations for every question that helps the child understand better what is being explained. For example, on page 17, prisms are explained not only through the written word, but also through an illustration. This book was written by the Editor of Science for the Highlights magazine, which is a children's magazine that allows children to have their questions answered in a way that makes sense to them. This book includes an index of topics to help make research easier for a child. This book would be useful for children in grades three and up.

--**Becky Pelton**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Cherry Tree. Ruskin, Bond. 1996. Boyds Mills Press, Honesdale, PA. ISBN 1-878093-21-5, 32 pp., hard cover, \$14.95.

Cherry Tree is a story from India in which a little girl and her grandfather grow a cherry tree from a single seed. The tree takes quite a few years to grow as large as it is by the end of the book. The growth of the girl, Rahki, is seen in the illustrations throughout the book.

The story illustrates for children that all things grow and change over time. Everything must work hard to grow, as the tree did. The tree grew despite hard winters, goats eating the leaves, and a runaway cart breaking the small trunk. Children need to understand the concept of becoming older.

--**Dani Theel**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Seeing Earth from Space. Patricia Lauber. 1990. Scholastic, Inc., New York, NY. ISBN 0-590-68691-7, 80 pp., soft cover, \$6.95.

Seeing Earth from Space is an informative children's book that deals with the many different ways one can view planet earth. The author goes into great detail about the geographical aspect of earth and a variety of pictures that explain why nature looks the way it does. The author's detailed descriptions of "Mother Nature's" way can possibly give children a better understanding of the world. The book deals with different types of maps, landmasses, and the many different types of remote/infrared sensing. The content of the book also gives insight into why scientists or geologists come to their conclusions on certain subjects, which can give children exposure to these types of career fields. Adults can read this book to refresh their memory about the earth, the weather, the greenhouse effect, the ozone layer, and how they affect us today. The variety of the pictures and their layout are well done so that the reader can understand what they're seeing. Anyone with a desire to have a better understanding of our world today, and want to know what factors play into it, can find something useful out of this book. Our world as we know it today is ever-changing, and people need to be informed.

--**Andrew H. Roddy**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Chocolate By Hershey. Betty Burford. 1994. Carolrhoda Books, Inc., Minneapolis, MN. ISBN 0-87614-641-8, 64 pp., soft cover, \$5.95.

Milton Hershey liked candy when he was a small boy. After a failed attempt at being a printer's apprentice he became an apprentice to a candy maker. Hershey realized he found what he wanted to do with the rest of his life—make candy. He started several businesses along with his mother and his aunt that failed. Finally, he found a candy that sold well—it was caramel. Hershey made a huge amount of money on his new product, but when he went to Europe he found something he liked even better called chocolate. He made millions and with that money, he and his wife started a new town for his factory and employees. Also, he built a school for orphans. Milton Hershey was a success and he managed to last through the hardships in his life, including the depression. He died a wealthy and happy man at age 88.

I enjoyed the book a great deal. The words were simple enough for kids to read and understand. It gave many pieces of information about caramel and chocolate and I know more about his life now than I ever did before. There were no activities to do in the book, but there was more than enough information in the reading to construct an activity. The book was a great for me and I am sure that it will be a great success with those children in the higher elementary grade levels.

--**Heather Delgado**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Usborne Understanding Geography: Earthquakes and Volcanoes. Fiona Watt. 1993. Usborne Publishing Ltd., London, England. ISBN 0-7460-0984-4, 32 pp., soft cover, \$6.95.

This book introduces elementary-aged children to the world of earthquakes and volcanoes. I found it to be a great learning tool for children. The book starts out by talking about plates and the earth's core and surface. It explains what happens when the plates move—earthquakes can occur. It also explains how they are measured. Then the book moves into discussing the creation of volcanoes, explaining how and where volcanoes are made. It also goes into the eruption process and what happens if eruption occurs.

I found this book to be very educational and a great learning resource for children at the elementary level. I found it easy to follow and it seemed to be well organized. However, I thought that it could have incorporated some activities to go along with the book to help the student understand the material better.

--**Angela Briggs**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Night Time. Joan Westly. 1991. Creative Publication, Mountain View, CA. ISBN 1-561307-076-9, 64 pp., soft cover, \$19.95.

Night Time is part of a series of books called ThemeWorks. Throughout the book it contains the same theme; night. This book includes many different activities dealing with different subjects at night. *Night Time* first starts talking about bedtime and dreams. Then it moves to the differences between night and day and talks about night workers. Many activities are next presented that deal with the sky, stars, and moon. Finally, it talks about creatures of the night. *Night Time* is a good book that contains many

activities for students. It also tries to get the parents involved by suggesting the teacher send letters to ask if they have any ideas. This book can be used in with pre-K–2 students.

--**Rachel Bailey**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Honk! Chris L. Demarest. 1998. Bell Books, Honesdale, PA. ISBN 1-56397-221-2, 15 pp., hard cover, \$9.95.

Honk is a children's book that tells a story about a little goose who is lost and is trying to find its mother. The little goose listens for its mother's honk to find its way back home. The words are large and the sentences are short. This book is entertaining and will keep the children guessing. The book is a flap book so the children can also interact while reading it. The book is written for an audience of children from ages 2–5.

--**Emily Dieker**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Horrible Harry and the Green Slime. Suzy Kline. 1989. Scholastic, Inc., New York, NY. ISBN 0-590-43943-X, 58 pp., soft cover, \$3.95.

This book is for children who can read well, but who are still learning. It is a story about what Harry and his fellow classmates learn while in school. They do lessons on life and death. Other lessons are secret pen pals. They also learn about showing projects in class and about public speaking.

My feeling is that this book is only for story reading. It really isn't informational. It's just about a little boy and his school. The activities didn't go into much detail. If a teacher wants to use part of the ideas from this book, they would have to come up with a more descriptive plan or procedure.

This book is a fun story of what kids do in school and what they might learn. It also gives teachers ideas about what they can do for science, art, speech, and many other subjects.

--**Mindy Bledsoe**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

The Usborne Big Book of Experiments. Alastair Smith. 1996. Usborne Publishing Ltd., London, England. ISBN 0-7460-2288-3, 96 pp., soft cover, \$14.95.

This book is full of fun and easy experiments for kids to do. Throughout the book, there are interesting facts such as: ice skaters skate on water, and there are enough blood vessels in the body to circle the equator more than twice. The book is split into six different sections that cover a large range of topics. A student can make their own compass or even their own ant farm. There is one section that gives some funny food ideas, for example blue hamburgers and red and green fries! There is even one section that covers how to make an uncooked egg float in water.

This book caught my eye immediately. I think it is an excellent book for explaining why things behave the way they do. The illustrations are brilliant and the facts are as well presented. It is a great book when it comes down to teaching kids about science and keeping their attention. The book even gave me an idea for a Halloween joke! I recommend this book to anyone who loves experiments.

--**Shawna Keith**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Shadow Play. Bernie Zubrowski. 1995. Beech Tree Paperback Book, New York, NY. ISBN 0-688-13211-1, 112 pp., soft cover, \$7.95.

Shadow Play is a look at the way light travels and how shadows and photographs are made. Students can try several experiments and even make a box camera. This book is an activity book put out by the Boston Children's Museum. It gives the students step-by-step instructions for several experiments dealing with the way the light travels around objects and even through objects. The book gives lists of supplies needed and even helps students by giving them hints of what to look for in the experiments. The book then tries to explain the concepts behind the experiments. Students are encouraged to get their results, record, and compare them. These experiments can be done inside or outside and there are instructions telling how to allow for cloudy days. This book could be used in 4th-6th grade classes.

--**Michael L. Blankenship**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Extra Cheese, Please! Cris Peterson. 1994. Boyds Mills Press, Honesdale, PA. ISBN 1-56397-177-1, 24 pp., hard cover, \$15.95.

This is an engaging book about the process of making cheese. It has some inviting photographs, so that kids of all ages can see each step of the exciting process of making cheese. Along with the many enticing photographs comes a brief explanation of each step in the process. *Extra Cheese, Please* takes the reader on a journey from the cow in the barn to the milk truck, and then through the exhilarating process of making cheese at the factory. This story will give some informational background of where the cheese on the kid's pizza comes from, along with providing an exciting adventure.

--**Katrina Penner**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Chemical Chaos. Nick Arnold. 1997. Scholastic Inc., New York, NY. ISBN 0-590-10885-9, 158 pp., soft cover, \$3.99.

This book is part of the Horrible Science series published by Scholastic Books. This book discusses chemistry in a way that students can easily understand. It goes over atoms, gases, metals, acids, crystals, ions, and many other things. It also has historical information about chemists and chemicals, and provides experiments for the reader to try on his or her own. The book is full of humor and simple language. It contains illustrations and cartoons to help get the points across. *Chemical Chaos* would probably be a good book for students aged 9 and older, but it could even be used by a teacher with younger students.

I think this was a really great book. It effectively got the information across and it kept me entertained the entire time I was reading it. Chemistry is not the most exciting subject in the world to me, so the humor and the cartoons really helped keep my attention. Throughout the book there are quizzes; for example, there's one about how elements were discovered or named. "Bet you never knew" facts appear every few pages. "Chaotic chemists' Hall of Fame" gives a brief biography of chemists throughout

history, such as John Dalton and Sir Humphry Davy. And “Horrible Science Health Warning” boxes caution the reader about potential dangers. All the experiments in the book are fairly simple and most of them do not require anything more than usual household items. I would definitely recommend this book for classroom use, not only to teachers but to students and parents as well. I would be interested to read other books in the Horrible Science series to see if they are as informative and fun as this book was.
--**Bethany Jacobs**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Wild Earth: Earthquake! Lorraine Jean Hopping. 2002. Scholastic Inc, New York, NY. ISBN 0-439-20545-X, 48 pp., soft cover, \$3.99.

The first page in this book gives before, during, and after tips for helping children understand this book. This five chapter book starts out describing the aftermath of an earthquake that happened in Izmit, Turkey, through the eyes of a special rescue team and the experience that an eight year old little boy had in it. Chapter 2 defines what an earthquake is and about magnitude. This chapter also discusses one great earthquake and five major earthquakes, including the 1989 earthquake in San Francisco, California. Chapter 3 discusses faults, what they are, and how they cause earthquakes. It also talks about dip-slip faults and strike-slip faults and what the difference is between them. The most dangerous places in the United States for an earthquake to happen and the major faults of the world are also stated. Chapter 4 defines what a seismograph is and what an epicenter is. The big upcoming earthquake in California is discussed. Rumors of California falling into the sea and the earth opening up and swallowing people are both addressed. In chapter 5, aftershocks, P waves, and S waves are defined and discussed. This chapter also tells the children how to measure the magnitude of an earthquake. The last page of the book gives helpful earthquake safety tips.

I think this is a very good book. It gives a lot of detailed information about the experiences of earthquakes, but is not too graphic to scare the children. There are a lot of pertinent terms listed and described throughout this book that are helpful to know in order to better understand earthquakes. There are also a lot of detailed and colorful pictures used in this book, which can help students better understand what is being described. I was glad to see that they described and discussed lots of different earthquakes that were located in places all around the world. The information in the front of the book is very good because there might be someone reading this book who might not know when to stop reading and ask the right questions to help understand what they are reading. The information is also good because even though children might hear about earthquakes, they might not know what to do in the event they are in one. This would be good, not only for those who live in an area where earthquakes are somewhat common, but for anyone who might visit a place where earthquakes are common. The only downfall that I found in this book was that even though there was a good usage of multiculturalism in this book, there were not black faces. Overall, I think this is a really good and informative book.

--**Crystal Piper**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

The Clock. Trent Duffy. 2000. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, New York, NY. ISBN 0-689-82814-4, 80 pp., hard cover, \$17.95.

The Clock is for ages 10 and up it tells the story of how the clock and telling time came to be. Telling time started back as far as 1900 B.C. The book lets children know how things were done without an actual clock.

Most children have a hard time understanding that things existed before they were born; most think that the world started with them and will end with them. This book helps the students understand a little bit of how things were before they arrived.

The book has great photos and prototypes of clocks, with great detail of how clocks looked and how they worked. There are also actual photos of people with their clocks. The best thing I found in the book was the center page. It is a pull-out of the clock timeline.

This book would be a great source to use in the classroom to begin telling time. Although it does not teach how to tell time, it helps students understand how time and clocks work.

--**Anthony Purcell**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

The Pied Piper of Peru. Ann Tompert. 2002. Boyds Mills Press, Honesdale, PA. ISBN 1-56397-949-7, 22 pp., hard cover, \$15.95.

This story is a retelling of the story about the Pied Piper, but it takes place in the country of Peru. This is a wonderful story about mice, their habitat, and their predators. There are a lot of earth tone colors in the book to really set the feeling of the book and can help the students realize the story takes place in a southwestern town or country. The colors will possibly attract their attention because it is a scene they don't see everyday. The story is wonderful because it is something that children can relate to. Most people have had the experience of having mice invade their homes. Through this story, they learn that cats are one of the predators on mice. Helping others is also a big part of this story. After reading this story students will be aware that through helping someone else, or in this case something else, not only are they helping the other person, but they might also reap the benefits of helping that person.

This would be a good story to read during a lesson on helping or during a lesson or unit on mice and/or animals. The teacher can teach the students about mice, their habitats, some of their behaviors, and their predators.

I believe this story can be a very effective teaching tool. This book is for children ages 6 and up. Not only is this book informative, but it is also very enjoyable.

--**Crystal Piper**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

The Looking Book. Mary Ann Hoberman. 2002. Little, Brown, and Company, Boston, MA. ISBN 0-316-36328-6, 28 pp., hard cover, \$15.95.

This story is a rhyming tale about a boy named Ned who is looking for his cat. While the reader is helping Ned look for his cat, the book counts the pages as the reader goes through the book. The cat is finally found on page twenty-eight.

I would say that this book is appropriate for 2nd to 3rd grades. There are a couple of words in the book that some second grader might not know. I liked all of the rhyming

throughout the book. What I did not like is that some pages have very little writing on them, which could cause a third grader to be bored with the book. Also some pages had some lengthy paragraphs with larger words that a second grader might not be able to understand. It would be better if the short pages could have more words on them and the long pages could have fewer. I do like how it counts from page to page, because it helps the child to understand how many pages there are in a book.

For me as an adult I would only want to read it a couple of times. For a child it could be more or less depending on their age, comprehension, and attention to the book. Overall I think that it is a good book.

--**Penny Lewis**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

The Bus for Us. Suzanne Bloom. 2001. Boyds Mills Press, Honesdale, PA. ISBN 1-56397-932-2, 30 pp., hard cover, \$10.95.

This book is about how we all need some help. It tells about a little girl waiting for her school bus. But she doesn't know which vehicle is the one she is supposed to get on, so she asks for help from the boy who is also waiting. While they wait, a lot of cars pass by, and the girl asks each time a car goes by if that's the bus they need to be on for school. Because she doesn't know which bus is theirs she needs help to make sure she gets on the right bus for school. They wait there until the bus shows up and the boy makes sure she gets on the right bus.

This would be a good book for the classroom it shows that it's ok to ask for help sometimes, because we all need help some time or another. There are no activities in this book but I think it is a very good book with a good concept.

--**Brandon Meuten**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

They Swim The Seas: The Mystery of Animal Migration. Seymour Simon. 1998. Browndeer Press, New York, NY. ISBN 0-15-292888-X, 26 pp., hard cover, \$16.00.

They Swim the Seas helps readers learn about sea animals. The beginning of the book also gives useful information about the sea. There are many animals in this book, including sea turtles, tuna, lobsters, and whales. This book is appropriate for ages eight and up. The beautiful watercolor pictures give the reader useful pictures of the animals,

One weakness in the book is some big words that might be trouble for some young children. So, when using this book with young children, I would suggest reading it out loud, especially if you just want to talk about one of the animals. The book effectively defines words that children might not understand.

--**Elizabeth Waring**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Three Pigs, One Wolf, and Seven Magic Shapes. Grace Maccurone. 1997. Scholastic, New York, NY. ISBN 0-590-30857-2, 32 pp., soft cover, \$3.99.

Three Pigs, One Wolf, and Seven Magic Shapes is an excellent book for children to read with their parents while enjoying math. It is always hard to get a child interested in doing math. This book uses a slightly different story from the original *The Three Little Pigs* and several geometric shapes. Instead of the little pigs buying straw, sticks, and

bricks, they pigs obtain geometric shapes to use. The story demonstrates all the different shapes you can put together to form different objects.

The illustrations in this book are simple but to the point and are brightly-colored to catch the audience's attention. The emphasis on each page is use of the geometric shapes to create possible objects. The text was written very well. Integrating the story of the Three Little Pigs and math activities is fun while still being informative. There are additional math activities in the back of the book for classroom and home use.

--**Shannon Dolan**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Trial by Ice: A Photo-biography of Sir Ernest Shackleton. K. M. Kostyal. 2000.

Scholastic, New York, NY. ISBN 0-439-18449-5, 64 pp., soft cover, \$9.95.

Trial by Ice is an informative book, appropriate for ages seven and up. This story deals with one man's goal to reach the South Pole on the continent of Antarctica. It tells of his achievements as well as his failures. *Trial by Ice* is also full of pictures that help depict his adventures through the cold wintry conditions.

This book begins with Sir Ernest Shackleton's birth and continues through his life and adventures until his untimely death. It gives detailed description of each landing site that Shackleton's parties encounter. The pictures help the reader visualize what the sailors went through on their voyages. With this book students could learn what life is like on Antarctica and how to survive the extreme weather changes.

Trail by Ice is a wonderful way to learn about a continent that very few people know about. It tells the history of the continent's exploration and the men who explored it. By using the pictures, the author gears this book to many ages. The language used is easy to understand as well as follow. Overall, this book is a good historical reference to a place many know little about.

--**Rachel Land**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

When Poppy and Max Grow Up. Lindsay Gardiner. 2000. Little Brown, and

Company, Boston, MA. ISBN 0-316-60342-2, 17 pp., hard cover, \$12.95.

When Poppy and Max Grow Up is a cute, colorful, short story that allows children to know that they can do anything they want to. This book is easy for children to read, with its big, black, simple words. The book will capture the children's attention by the bright colorful pages and the big illustrations on Poppy and Max on every page. This book will be good for the students to read by themselves or for the teacher to read to the entire class.

--**Jolene Wilcoxson**, Elementary Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS