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ABSTRACT

This annotated bibliography lists books, books in series, books for teacher use, reference books, supplementary texts, filmstrips, study prints, videocassettes, and videocassettes in series. The materials listed may be used for enrichment, leisure, and other purposes by as many students in as many grades as feasible. Such use will ensure that students performing at, above, and below their grade placement have access to a wide variety of materials to meet their personal needs and interests. Included for each entry are a complete citation, number of pages, cost, availability, grade levels, articulation information with the Competency-Based Curriculum for North Carolina, and an annotation. A directory of publishers for use with this list is provided. (CW)

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Australia and to theories of shifting continental plates. Color photographs by Richard Hewett provide closeup view of the fossils and of the work of the museum staff. Some portions of the text dealing with the types of animals are quite detailed and include vocabulary that may be difficult for poor readers, although phonetic spellings are included. Maps depicting the movement of Australia's landmass to its current location and an index are provided. The broad scope of content could have been clarified by the inclusion of individual chapters. This selection would be most appropriate as a supplemental book for individual study or as an introduction to the unique prehistoric animal life of Australia. It would also be useful in a study of museum careers.

Arnold, Caroline. HIPPO. 48 p. \$12.88. Morrow, 1989. (ISBN 0-688-08146-0)
Grades 3-6. Grade 3: CG 1. Grade 4: CG 2

Doodles, a baby hippo, lives at the San Francisco Zoo with his parents. In the course of reading about Doodles and his life at the zoo, readers learn about the physical characteristics, habitat, eating habits, and growth patterns of the hippopotamus. Also explored in some detail are the lives of these animals in the wild. Superb color photographs by Richard Hewett will fascinate readers and make these unique animals more lovable and attractive than one would think possible. An index makes this comprehensive look at the hippo appropriate for research as well as supplementary reading, and many youngsters will simply be glad to discover the wonder of this happy combination of words and pictures.

Arnosky, Jim. A KETTLE OF HAWKS AND OTHER WILDLIFE GROUPS. unp. \$13.88. Lothrop, 1990. (ISBN 0-688-09280-2) Grades 2-5. Grade 2: CG 1. Grade 3: CG 1. Grade 4: CG 2. Grade 5: CG 5

Children learn that names of animal groups can reveal much about their social behavior and habitats in simple verbal summaries and lovely watercolors of six wildlife groups: a kettle of hawks, a swarm of bees, a colony of ants, a school of fish, a cloud of tadpoles, and a gaggle of geese. Jim Arnosky's soft-toned illustrations, accurate but not anatomically specific, aim to stimulate the young reader's imagination. Thus they harmonize with the reflective, appreciative tone of the text and the haiku-like verse introduction to each section of animals. This one provides enrichment and a springboard for discussion and further investigation into the group names of animals not included here.

Asimov, Isaac, and Frank White. THINK ABOUT SPACE: WHERE HAVE WE BEEN? WHERE ARE WE GOING? 140 p. \$11.85. (0-8027-6766-4) \$5.95 paper. (ISBN 0-8027-6767-2) Walker & Co., 1989. Grades 8-12. Grade 8: CG 5. Physical Science: CG 1. Earth Science: CG 10

This overview of space exploration starts with ancient sky watchers, moving on to the Copernican revolution, the invention of rockets, the launch of Sputnik and subsequent growth of NASA, closing on the Challenger disaster and the "Star Wars" concept. Issues discussed include controversies over funding of space development vs. funding for world problems, cooperation vs. competition between nations in space technology, and support for manned vs. unmanned missions. The first-person text addresses students with questions such as "Do you think a strong military presence in space is necessary?" (Events in the Soviet Union subsequent to this publication pose a different set of questions which teachers and readers will want to ponder.) Each chapter concludes with review questions. Besides the usual reference features, the text provides

historic press reports and transcripts of space dialogues. The book's strengths lie in its personal tone, general readability, and comprehensive historical overview. Illustrations and photographs (black and white) are disappointing. A great discussion starter--Asimov always is--this one will launch introductory courses on space exploration with both the facts and pizzazz.

Bare, Colleen Stanley. **ELEPHANTS ON THE BEACH.** 32 p. \$12.95. Dutton, 1990. (ISBN 0-525-65018-0) Grades K-3. Grades K-3: CG 1

This lively presentation of the charmingly ugly elephant seal acquaints beginning readers with the animal whose large snout earned it the name. In big print and many delightful photographs, the elephant seal's story unfolds, from its anatomy, habitat, behavior, reproduction, and feeding, to its threatened environment due to the careless soiling of seas and beaches by humankind. The near extinction of the elephant seal in years past as well as the wanton destruction of its habitat provides a sober conclusion to the photographic narrative of this less familiar creature. An index aids students learning research techniques. This title is a fine addition to collections tagged for environmental studies, ecosystems focus, or life sciences in the early grades.

Bare, Colleen Stanley. **NEVER KISS AN ALLIGATOR!** unpag. \$12.95. Dutton, 1989. (ISBN 0-525-65003-2) Grades 2-4. Grades 2 and 3: CG 1. Grade 4: CG 2

Excellent color photographs will delight and inform children as the text tells them about where alligators are found, their habitats, their physical characteristics, and their natural enemies (man, of course, being the most threatening and dangerous). A detailed comparison is made between alligators and crocodiles. The author/photographer emphasizes that alligators, survivors of the dinosaur age, should be respected, studied, and protected--never harmed. Young students will both learn from and enjoy this selection as a classroom supplement or an interesting read from library shelves.

Beckelman, Laurie. **THE FACTS ABOUT ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE.** (Facts About Series) 48 p. \$10.95. Crestwood Hse., 1990. (ISBN 0-89686-489-8) Grades 2-5. Grade 4: CG 1. Grade 5: CG 1

Alzheimer's disease is just beginning to be widely recognized and medically explored, but as a society we are becoming informed and alerted regarding this devastating illness despite the fact that its origins and a cure or prevent on remain undiscovered. Beckelman's easy book written for young children is a sympathetic portrait of the disease, to which her own grandmother succumbed when Beckelman was a child. She describes the inexorable mental and physical declines, reviews the known facts, discusses the frustrating lack of knowledge, clarifies distinctions between Alzheimer's and the normal forgetfulness which accompanies aging, dispels myths about Alzheimer's (especially the myth that all old people become senile by virtue of age itself), and makes humane and sensitive suggestions for children relating to their relatives or friends with the disease. Many color photographs depict the elderly with their caretakers, with young children, and with medical staff, encouraging a warm, loving relationship in the obvious affection and concern captured by the camera. A bibliography and glossary/index complete this low-keyed, kindly text which will gently remind youngsters of their need to remember the good times and aid their elderly kin through the bad times with compassion.

Bender, Lionel. **ATOMS AND CELLS.** (Through the Microscope Series) 32p. \$11.90. Gloucester Pr., 1990. (ISBN 0-531-17219-8) (Available from Watts) Grades 5-8. Grade 5: CG 2. Grade 7: CG 4

Various sorts of atoms, molecules, and cells are described in two-page subsections throughout this book. An introductory page explains different types of magnifying instruments (e.g., a magnifying glass, a school microscope, and an electron microscope) with text and illustrations. Brief text combined with large, colorful photographs and illustrations go on to cover elements and molecules, crystals and chains, biomolecules, viruses, bacteria, single-cell animals, single-cell plants, organelles, cell division, spores, and simple many-celled creatures. Also included are a few simple projects, brief information about microphotography, a glossary, and an index. This selection could be useful as a preparatory overview for lab or microscopic work.

Berger, Melvin. **AS OLD AS THE HILLS.** (Discovering Science Series) 32 p. \$12.90. Watts, 1989. (ISBN 0-531-10699-3) Grades K-3. Grades K-3: CG 3

In simple terms and large, colorful drawings, the role of plate tectonics in shaping the earth's continents, mountain ranges, and general geography is explained to beginning students. In addition, Berger reviews the earth's internal processes which produce earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. To achieve a simulation within the grasp of young students, the text suggests activities to the reader like laying a heavy towel on the floor and slowly sliding one end toward the other, which is pressed down tightly by the child's flattened palm. As the sliding towel folds in peaks against its taut side, the concept is demonstrated of fold mountains rising out of the earth's crust. Other easy examples illustrate what could be difficult abstractions. S. D. Schindler's artwork is a big plus, both in its rendering of the earth's layers, its conception of Pangaea--the giant supercontinent--gradually separating into our familiar continents and oceans, and in its pleasant, child-centered pictures.

Berger, Melvin. **SOLIDS, LIQUIDS, AND GASES: FROM SUPERCONDUCTORS TO THE OZONE LAYER.** 78 p. \$11.99. Putnam, 1989. (ISBN 0-399-21731-2) Grades 4-8. Grades 4, 5, and 6: CG 3

A straightforward text strengthened by carefully chosen examples explains each of the three states of matter: solids, liquids, and gases. After providing a clear, down-to-earth definition and discussion of all three, Berger follows up with related information on current concerns. The section on solids includes a discussion of how conductors, semiconductors, and superconductors affect our energy delivery system. The liquids section covers acid rain and its destructive effect on the environment and eventually on people. Gases deals with the depletion of the ozone layer of the atmosphere and how this depletion relates to skin cancer. Warnings about CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) are especially vivid. A glossary and index extend the title's research usefulness. Illustrated with adequate black-and-white photographs, diagrams, and pictorial instructions for experiments, this book is not eye-catching, but its compact, important content is well stated. One caution: The review copy was missing a number of text pages, an oversight now corrected--one hopes.

Bornstein, Sandy. WHAT MAKES YOU WHAT YOU ARE: A FIRST LOOK AT GENETICS. 115 p. \$11.98. Messner, 1989. (ISBN 0-671-63711-8) Grades 4-8. Grade 4: CG 2. Grade 6: CG 2. Grade 7: CG 3. Grade 8: CG 3

A good explanation of heredity and how genes and inherited traits work, this text covers the types of cell division in reproduction and growth, Mendel's experiments in growing peas, family genes and traits, the DNA blueprint, and the role of RNA. Six "Activity Boxes" provide useful exercises for a class to complete when studying genetics, from the more complicated, like graphing a family tree (with detailed instructions on tracing recessive and dominant genes), to the simplest, like using your two hands to mimic cell division (mitosis). Accurate and up-to-date, the content helps readers to understand the complexity of genetics, especially by not focusing on the portion of Mendel's work which modern research has shown us is simplistic. Although indexed and containing many diagrams and charts which provide instruction in themselves, the dearth of illustrations will discourage individual students' selecting this title for research. Huge paragraph indentations and wider than average pages create a misleading impression of simplicity, for, unless used with academically gifted students, this book will be of use only as a supplementary source for the teacher. It will benefit upper elementary and middle school libraries that serve academically talented populations and/or have strong science teachers.

Branley, Franklyn M. SHOOTING STARS. (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science Books) 32 p. \$12.89. Crowell, 1989. (ISBN 0-690-04703-7) Grades K-2. Grade 2: CG 3

This introduction to shooting stars describes the composition, origin, and wide size range of shooting stars and explains the differences between meteors, meteoroids, and meteorites. The author includes interesting historical accounts of meteorites that have formed craters or actually crashed into homes. The information is clearly presented, and an abundance of clever, appealing, colorful illustrations by Holly Keller depict children watching and learning about shooting stars. Also included are color and black-and-white photographs of meteorite craters and a brightly colored diagram showing origins of meteorites. This charming book would be suitable for individual browsing or as an introduction to the subject of shooting stars.

Branley, Franklyn M. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DINOSAURS? (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science Books) 32 p. \$12.89. Crowell, 1989. (ISBN 0-690-04749-5) Grades K-3. Grade 2: CG 3. Grade 3: CG 3

The mystery of the dinosaurs' disappearance is addressed in this book for young students of science. Several theories are mentioned, including disease, starvation as a result of a cooling off in the earth's temperature, and the idea that small animals ate the dinosaurs' eggs. Most of the book, however, explores the theory that fires started by comets crashing into the earth destroyed the dinosaurs. Branley emphasizes that so far no one really knows for certain the answer to the question posed by his title. Color illustrations by Marc Simont are clear and informative. Given the ever popular nature of its subject, this selection should be well used.

Cobb, Vicki. FOR YOUR OWN PROTECTION: STORIES SCIENCE PHOTOS TELL. 32 p.
\$12.88. Lothrop, 1989. (ISBN 0-688-08788-4) Grades 4-6. Grades 4-6: CG 1

Scientific applications for modern photography techniques are explored through the text and fascinating color photographs of this selection. The author describes environmental threats to humans, such as cold, germs, and dust, and details how our skin, hair, and materials such as fabrics offer protection from these threats. General explanations are given of ways in which high-speed strobe photography, thermography, and scanning electron microscopy reveal objects, properties, or events that the naked eye cannot see. A detailed index is included. The high-magnification photographs are a strong point of the book. The content, however, is not always logically sequenced and may be more suitable for individual browsing than for researching specific facts.

Cobb, Vicki. WHY CAN'T YOU UNSCRAMBLE AN EGG? AND OTHER NOT SUCH DUMB QUESTIONS ABOUT MATTER. 40 p. \$12.95. Lodestar Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-525-67293-1) Grades 2-5. Grade 2: CG 2. Grade 3: CG 2. Grade 4: CG 3. Grade 5: CG 3

Young children learn about the nature of matter by investigations into nine questions, including "Why does an ice cube float?", "Why isn't the Earth egg-shaped or a cube?", and "How is warm air different from cold air?". Some concepts covered are density, elements, the process of changing matter from liquids to solids, air pressure, spherical shapes, and chemical reactions. Important terms (*molecule*, *gas*, *element*) are italicized when they first appear and are then defined in context. Examples of illustrative parallels include comments like "Cracks are put into sidewalks so they won't form cracks where we don't want them" (explaining how freezing water can crack stones), and "A piece of black hole the size of a pea would weigh more than the entire earth" (on black holes). Cartoon-like, pen-and-ink drawings enhance and further explain the text. An index aids this useful selection for stimulating class discussion, for introducing concepts about matter, or for individual browsing.

Cobb, Vicki. WRITING IT DOWN. 32 p. \$11.89. Lippincott, 1989.
(ISBN 0-397-32327-1) Grades K-3

This short, humorous book informs readers of inventions that help us write. The history and development of paper, ballpoint pens, pencils, and crayons are discussed and illustrated with Marilyn Hafner's colorful, witty pictures. Simple directions for making paper are also included. A bright, attractive, cheerful introduction to the history of writing tools that also encourages children to use these tools to create their own art.

Cowcher, Helen. ANTARCTICA. unsp. \$13.95. Farrar, 1990. (ISBN 0-374-30368-1) Grades K-2. Grades K-2: CG 1

The nesting habits of emperor penguins, Weddell seals, and Adelle penguins in Antarctica provide the basis for this simple and sensitive book. The struggle for these animals to raise their young includes avoiding some natural enemies (e.g., the leopard seal) and some unnatural ones (helicopters, for instance, which frighten the Adelles into leaving their eggs). The book's ultimate message, presented in a subtle yet powerful way, is that these animals must contend with frightening human creations and acts that threaten their environment and their peace. Color illustrations are in double-page spreads with only a sentence or two of text per illustration. This selection provides young children with a gentle introduction to the idea that animals and humans must share this earth in a compassionate way in order to survive.

Docekal, Eileen M. NATURE DETECTIVE: HOW TO SOLVE OUTDOOR MYSTERIES. 128 p. \$14.95. Sterling, 1989. (ISBN 0-8069-6844-3) Grades 4-t. Grade 4: CG 2 and 4. Grade 5: CG 2. Grade 6: CG 5

Nature lovers will enjoy the investigative projects designed to satisfy their curiosity and initiate them into the world of clues to why birds sing, how seeds travel, how sky watching reveals weather, how they can track animals by prints and scent, and how fairy rings function, among many others. Set up like a detective's handbook, the text has a table of contents, chapter headings, and organization which will appeal to the child's sense of mystery and natural curiosity ("Hidden Havens," "Follow That Scent"--beckoning chapter titles). David Eames' one-color line drawings are prolific, well sequenced, and mix humor with accurate scientific representation. Readers will hoard the tips and clues provided and expand their concepts to other areas of individual research into nature. A familiar, conversational text, step-by-step instructions, an attractive format, wide margins, and a comprehensive index are strengths of a valuable candidate for science libraries.

Dolan, Edward F. DROUGHT: THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE ENEMY. 144 p. \$13.40. Watts, 1990. (ISBN 0-531-10900-3) Grades 9-12. Earth Science: CG 6 and 7

This selection provides a sobering look at the historical impact of drought on our planet. The Dust Bowl of the 1930s and disastrous droughts in other nations are detailed. Information is included as to the causes of drought and man's attempt to control it, the devastating social and economic effects of drought, and the serious threat of future droughts due to changes in the earth's climate. The text is current and logically sequenced. Chapters are subdivided into titled sections for easier access to information. Diagrams, maps, and black-and-white photographs accompany the text. The author includes a listing of source notes organized by chapter and topic, a bibliography, and a four-page index. This book is well suited for use by those preparing reports or for classroom use in the study of climate.

Epstein, Sam and Beryl. BUGS FOR DINNER? THE EATING HABITS OF NEIGHBORHOOD CREATURES. 48 p. \$12.95. Macmillan, 1989. (ISBN 0-02-733501-1) Grades 4-6. Grade 4: CG 2. Grade 6: CG 5

The eating habits of squirrels, earthworms, and a variety of birds and insects are detailed in this book. The authors explain how each animal locates or captures its food and also describe their digestive processes. The book also examines ways in which each animal avoids becoming the prey of another creature. Pen-and-ink drawings give clear and detailed views of each animal. In some cases, diagrams are included to point out body parts such as the crop, thorax, and gizzard. The index is categorical and lists each animal with associated topics such as "enemies of" rather than including specific vocabulary terms. This would be an appropriate research tool as well as an enrichment text for life science classes.

Fine, John Christopher. CREATURES OF THE SEA. 32 p. \$13.95. Atheneum, 1989. (ISBN 0-689-31420-5) Grades 3-5. Grade 3: CG 1. Grade 4: CG 2

Sea creatures, both familiar and unusual, are the stars of beautiful color photographs and the subject of the accompanying explanations of their special characteristics. Some of the creatures described are hermit crabs, trumpet fish, limu clams, anglerfish, flounder, Christmas tree worms, puffer fish, bristle worms, coral, crocodile fish, clown fish, batfish, and scorpion fish.

These superb pictures of the underwater world along with the brief but informative text will help children understand the reasons for the very strange appearance of some ocean residents. An index helps students locate information.

Fischer-Nagel, Heiderose and Andreas. **FIR TREES**. (Nature Watch Series' 47 p. \$12.95. Carolrhoda Bks., 1989. (ISBN 0-87614-340-0) Grades 5-8. Grade 5: CG 2. Grade 6: CG 5

A translation/adaptation from the German, **FIR TREES** is a graphically appealing book on the true firs, focusing on nine species of fir trees native to America. In text and sharp, clear color photographs, the book covers the growth, development, and ecosystem of this endangered evergreen. The damages of commerce and pollution provide a background to the story of firs, figuring in discussions of their increasingly threatened existence due to acid rain, forest fires, and over harvesting, among other destructive forces. Smoothly, interestingly written, the content succeeds through a sympathetic point of view, vivid description, and imaginative comparisons. For example, a particular fir began to grow not just in 1823 but "when James Monroe was President and the United States government was not even 50 years old." Key-words appear in dark print and are defined in a glossary. Along with the superb photographs, an index rounds out an excellent reference source for students learning about ecosystems, ecology, and, of course, the magnificent firs.

Franck, Irene M., and David M. Brownstone. **HEALERS**. (Work Throughout History Series) 232 p. \$17.95. Facts on File, 1989. (ISBN 0-8160-1446-9) (Available from Bazar) Grades 10-12. Biology: CG 8

Students who enjoy discovering odd, quaint facts about universal human experiences, such as illness, childbirth, taking medicine, or hospitalization, or who have a special interest in medical, veterinary, or pharmaceutical careers will find this book fascinating. Filled with historical facts, tidbits, and lore, Healers explores the ancient and modern occupations of barbers, dentists, midwives, obstetricians, nurses, pharmacists, physicians, surgeon, psychiatrists, psychologists, and veterinarians. The text examines how each occupation came into being and evolved, both in society's view and in fact, incorporating technology over time. Especially absorbing are ancient and medieval attitudes toward illness and physical and mental health, descriptions of those who performed the services rendered the sick and injured, and the quaint curatives or, in some instances, the astute treatment prescribed. The book is necessarily broad and general, a fact compensated for, overall, in its fascinating details on the obscure practices described--those of Egyptian priest-physicians or medieval midwives, for example. The section on psychiatrists and psychologists, however, adopts a rather patronizing, judgmental tone, especially toward drug therapy in the treatment of neuroses and psychoses. Reproductions of archival drawings and paintings and photographs in black and white illustrate nicely. Wide margins, good print, a bibliography, and index are further inducements. It will not be used by the general biology student but will serve as an excellent research tool.

Friedhoffer, Robert. **MAGIC TRICKS, SCIENCE FACTS.** 126 p. \$12.90. Watts, 1990. (ISBN 0-531-10902-X) Grades 5-9. Grades 5-8: CG 1

A most engaging book of magic tricks, Friedhoffer's collection is divided into four sections of tricks that illustrate principles in physics, math, chemistry, and physiology. Every trick has subsections giving the reader the effect, the routine, and the props, as well as why it worked. For example, the section on physics sleight of hand describes three tricks using a "haunted" matchbox, a finger ring, and "magic rings of Cairo" (paper towel tubes), all demonstrating the simple pulley and basic principles of movement. In math magic, one trick requires a telephone book and instructions to open the book "to any page and mark off twenty successive numbers." Out of those 20, the odds are 7 to 1 that at least two of those 20 numbers will have the same last two digits, illustrating the theory of probability first developed by Pascal. Principles are quite simply summarized or significantly alluded to, reinforcing classroom instruction. Many tricks seem totally original, and all appear to be tricks that students can master. Frequent cautions warn students about improper use of chemicals and caution them to treat all such ingredients with respect. A truly involving book that will help teachers interest students in the "secrets" of science and math, this title will be an excellent addition to any middle school library collection.

Gardner, Robert. **EXPERIMENTING WITH INVENTIONS.** (Venture Books) 128 p. \$11.90. Watts, 1990. (ISBN 0-531-10910-8) Grades 9-12. Physical Science: CG 1. Biology: CG 1 and 3. Earth Science: CG 11. Chemistry: CG 9. Physics: CG 1 and 7

Curious, creative students will enjoy this interesting introduction to inventions and inventors. Gardner describes qualities inherent in good inventors, such as inquisitiveness, imagination, persistence, optimism, and receptiveness to their subconscious selves and includes advice from successful inventors. He examines the working styles of Edison, da Vinci, and other well-known inventors, providing anecdotes of how accidental discoveries produced useful products and theories, such as potato chips, penicillin, and the process of vulcanization. A large section offers suggestions for forming an invention club, hosting invention contests, brainstorming for new uses for common objects and broken or discarded ones (a needed boost for environmental conservation), and applying for a patent. The black-and-white photographs and diagrams are merely adequate. The vocabulary level is basic enough for high school students who are poor readers. Select this one for curious and inventive students or as a handbook for small groups participating in an invention club or enrolled in a minicourse or magnet school course on inventions.

Gay, Kathlyn. **OZONE.** (Impact Series) 128 p. \$12.90. Watts, 1989. (ISBN 0-531-10777-9) Grades 6-12. Grade 6: CG 5. Grade 7: CG 8. Grade 8: CG 3. Biology: CG 7 and 8. Earth Science: CG 7

Kathlyn Gay explains how pollution is threatening the ozone layer, a condition which in turn endangers people, plants, and animals exposed to ozone pollution and to the consequences of stratospheric ozone loss. In addition to reviewing past agreements and EPA controls intended to protect the ozone, Gay also outlines initiatives necessary to reduce and eliminate the problem, putting them into personal perspective by listing actions that individual students can take to become caretakers of the Earth. The author's tone is nonjudgmental and objective. Endnotes for every chapter help emphasize to students that

information should be attributed to the original source, providing a strong model for research efforts. A comprehensive bibliography and extensive index make this volume a librarian's delight as well as a classroom teacher's. Selected black-and-white photographs help illustrate the content in this up-to-date, excellent summary for any school in which teachers assign reports on environmental issues.

Gelman, Rita Golden. **MONKEYS AND APES OF THE WORLD.** 64 p. \$11.90. Watts, 1990. (ISBN 0-531-10749-3) Grades 3-6. Grade 3: CG 1. Grade 4: CG 2. Grade 5: CG 2. Grade 6: CG 5

Easy vocabulary, a handsome format, and excellent color photographs and watercolors are hallmarks of an appealing, often droll study of monkeys and apes which concludes on the simple statement, "Monkeys and apes are a lot like us." That point is reinforced throughout Gelman's engaging discussion of these animals' intelligence, feeding and grooming habits, and social interactions, with specific attention given to orangutans, macaques, baboons, gorillas, gibbons, and chimpanzees. The friendly, tolerant tone, for example, informs us that chimps "love to snack on termites" and, again, a smart young macaque named Iao refused to eat the sand-soiled potatoes--a real treat--tossed by scientists to her and her cohorts on their island beach until she dunked them into the ocean, whereupon all her playmates, her mom, and "her mom's friends" did likewise. But the males characteristically ignore both the young and females. "Weeks later, they were still crunching sand." Irresistible and anecdotal, yet factually solid and sequenced for young readers' grasp and attention spans, this selection is fine high interest/low vocabulary pleasure reading in addition to a research source for students. A glossary, bibliography, and index conclude the text.

George, Jean Craighead. **ONE DAY IN THE TROPICAL RAIN FOREST.** 56 p. \$11.89. Crowell, 1990. (ISBN 0-690-04769-X) Grades 4-7. Grades 4-7: CG 1. Grades 5-7: CG 5

Tepui, a young Indian boy, lives in a Venezuelan rain forest. Readers take a day's journey through that forest as Tepui and a scientist look for a previously unknown, unnamed butterfly. If they find one, a wealthy man will buy and save the rain forest. If not, this particular day will be the day of the forest's destruction. As Tepui and the scientist go through this day, readers see or hear about many of the forest's sights: a jaguar, a colony of army ants, gigantic Hercules beetles, termites, sloths, monkeys, lizards, frogs, land crabs, long-nosed tapirs, falcons, hawks, other animals, and more kinds of plants than could even be described. Descriptions of the day's sights and happenings are divided into segments based on time of day. Throughout the descriptions of the rain forest, George also manages to explain the importance of the rain forests to the entire earth and to provide some insight into what happens to rain forest dwellers (both human and animal) when forests are destroyed. Black-and-white illustrations by Gary Allen are clear and informative. Also included are a bibliography and an index. This selection is an excellent introduction to the rich variety of life in the rain forests and their importance to all of life. It is an appropriate classroom supplement for helping students become more environmentally aware.

George, William T. **BOX TURTLE AT LONG POND.** unpub. \$12.88. Greenwillow, 1989.
(ISBN 0-688-08185-1) Grades K-2. Grades K-2: CG 1

A box turtle emerges in the early morning from a log he has spent the autumn night in. Although he spends part of his day resting in sunshine and taking shelter from an afternoon rain, his main occupation is looking for food. A chipmunk takes most of the grapes he is looking for, and a raccoon eats the worms the turtle had killed for himself. He does manage to keep himself safe from the raccoon, however, and finally finds enough grapes to satisfy his hunger. As the sun sets, the turtle finds a warm spot in the pine needles to spend the night. The clear, informative text appears with outstanding, true-to-life color illustrations by Lindsay Barrett George that will keep young eyes attentive and busy (and fascinate their teachers as well). An excellent choice for reading aloud and discussing in the classroom as well as for browsing, this is nature study for young children at its best.

Gibbons, Gail. **CATCH THE WIND! ALL ABOUT KITES.** unpub. \$12.45. Little, 1989.
(ISBN 0-316-30955-9) Grades K-3

Information about different kinds of kites is the story in a colorful, typically Gibbons picture book that tells about Katie and Sam who visit Ike's Kite Shop to buy a kite for the big kite festival. They discover that there are many different shapes, sizes, and styles of kites: flat, bowed, delta, box, and flexible. To make kites even more interesting, a brief history of kites works smoothly into the narrative. In the back of the book, illustrated instructions explain how to make and launch a flat kite. Striking graphics in bold, bright greens, reds, blues, and yellows frame the text as well as illustrate the beauty and variety of different kite structures. Kite names appear with illustrations, helping young children focus on specific styles. The text appears on white framed in black which again separates text from illustration and helps the child focus his or her attention. Simple yet vivid drawings aided by well-written short paragraphs make this an appealing, excellent reference for kite enthusiasts--and teachers looking for activities to do in March.

Gibbons, Gail. **MONARCH BUTTERFLIES.** unpub. \$13.95. Holiday, 1989.
(ISBN 0-8234-0773-X) Grades 1-4. Grades 1-3: CG 1. Grade 4: CG 2

Concise text and stylized drawings in intense colors describe the life cycle of a monarch butterfly, beginning with the laying of the egg on a milkweed plant. The stages of the life cycle then explored are hatching of the egg, molting, formation of the chrysalis, growth of the butterfly inside the chrysalis, emergence of the butterfly, and its initial flight. A labeled drawing indicates the different parts of the butterfly and is followed by several pages of information about its migration habits. A two-page section shows how to raise a monarch butterfly from a caterpillar (adult supervision is needed although the text fails to mention that fact), and the final page summarizes some interesting facts about monarchs. Phonetic spellings are given for difficult words such as proboscis and abdomen. Young readers and researchers will delight in this attractive, informative book.