This list of books for younger readers of natural resources and environmental education is compiled by Jennifer Turner at the Kentucky Division of Forestry.

http://www.forestry.ky.gov/

**Jennifer’s Favorite EE Books A-Z**

**A**

* A is for Appalachia* by Linda Hager Pack. Harmony House Publishers. 2002
This beautifully illustrated alphabet book explores the wonders and uniqueness of the Appalachian people and their heritage.

* A Day in the Salt Marsh* by Kevin Kurtz. Sylvan. 2007
Rhyming verse introduces readers to hourly changes in the salt marsh as the tide comes and goes. Includes an educational section about salt marshes and the plants and animals found in the book.

Journey from Maine to Mumbai with one raindrop as it touches plant, animal, and human life all around the world. Traveling with Drop, readers will see the world, inside and out, from solid, liquid, and vaporous viewpoint.

Ziggy proudly invites other piglets and their parents to see what his father has made from all the things he has been saving.

An environmental history of the Nashua River, from its discovery by Indians through the polluting years of the Industrial Revolution to the ambitious clean-up that revitalized it.

A Sand Country Almanac combines some of the finest nature writing since Thoreau with an outspoken and highly ethical regard for America's relationship to the land.

* A Swim through the Sea* by Kristin Joy Pratt-Serafini. Dawn. 1994
In this illustrated tour of the plants and animals of the undersea kingdom, Kristin Joy Pratt-Serafini once again introduces children to one of our planet's most precious and fragile realms. Each page highlights a selected species with a full-color illustration and a paragraph of fascinating facts.

Tells about the structure of trees and how they grow, as well as their uses.

* A Tree is Nice* by Janice May Udry. Harper & Row. 1956.
An older book with a simple message, this book describes the importance of trees to people and to wildlife. Most children will be able to relate personal experiences to the story.

The forest in which an acorn lives is cut down and is swept away by floods, until in the spring it is reborn as part of a new forest.

Lonely in his house beside a road in the desert, Alejandro builds an oasis to attract the many animals around him.

* All Around Me I See* by Laya Steinberg. Dawn. 2005
With eyes wide open to the mysteries of nature, a child on a hike discovers that "a leaf is a boat for a beetle" and that "a nest is a cradle for eggs." Tired from her long walk, she sleeps - and in her dream she flies like a bird and marvels at the beauty around her. This planet that is home to so many creatures is magical when seen through the eyes of wonder.

* An Elm Tree and Three Sisters* by Norma Sommerdorf. Viking. 2001
When three young sisters plant a tiny elm tree in their barren back yard, they find it becomes an integral part of their lives as they grow older.

*And the Good Brown Earth* by Kathy Henderson. Candlewick Press. 2003
Throughout the seasons, Gram and little Joe work independently but side-by-side on their gardens, planning, planting, watering, weeding, and waiting. At harvest time, both have grown beautiful vegetables--Gram's in neat rows; Joe's "higgledy-piggledy, tangly, FANTASTIC!"

*Animal Acrostics* by David Hummon. Dawn Publications. 1999
Often humorous, always fun, these animal poems combine fact and fancy in acrostics.

*Animal Ecology* by Mark Lambert & John Williams. Wayland. 1987
This is an older book but if you can find it, it is well worth the time. This informative, activity-based book looks at the ways in which animals affect and are affected by, their environments.

An attractive book about how different animals (including frogs, bats, butterflies, deer, and others) not only see, hear, smell, taste, and feel what's around them but also pick up on clues by sensing heat, electricity, and magnetic fields. Includes experiments for students to try.

*Animals in Summer* by Jane R. McCauley. National Geographic. 1988
Summertime! A busy, wild world of sights, sounds, and activities unfolds through 36 lively photographs. Children discover secrets of the animals they see every day and find out why summer is the time for newborns to learn about their world.

*Around One Cactus: Owls, Bats and Leaping Rats* by Anthony Fredericks. Dawn. 2003
Have you seen a saguaro cactus? It looks lonely, standing in the dry, dry desert. But actually the saguaro is a haven for a whole community of creatures - some cute, some creepy, all of them fascinating! The renowned educator-author uses an entertaining, repetitive rhyme that culminates in successful learning. Includes "field notes" and resources.

*Autumn Leaves* by Ken Robbins. Scholastic. 1998
This book gives an introduction to the wide variety of leaves to be seen, accompanied by a life-size, full-color photograph of one or more leaves on one page, with a photograph of the tree or some of its branches facing it. One or two simple sentences give a description or a snippet of information. A page on photosynthesis, the chemicals that give the leaves their colors, and the processes involved in a leaf's dying complete the attractive package.

*Bashi, Elephant Baby* by Theresa Radcliffe. Viking/Puffin. 1997
A small African drama is played out here as if seen through the dusty lens of a nature photographer's camera. It is the powerful illustrations that fuel this story of a newborn elephant and her protective family as they are sized up by a pride of hungry lionesses.

*Beaks!* by Sneed B. Collard III. Charlesbridge. 2002
Simple text describes various bird beaks and how birds use them to eat, hunt, and gather food. Includes a quiz.

*Bear and Bunny Grow Tomatoes* by Bruce Koscielniak. Umbrella Books. 1993
A hard-working bear and a lazy bunny both plant tomatoes in their gardens, with quite different results. Far from being a tiresome exercise in preparedness, Koscielniak imbues his story with touches of gentle humor that make the characters and their goofy antics quite irresistible.

*Beatrice's Goat* by Page McBrier. Aladdin Paperbacks. 2001
Based on the true account of one family who received aid from Heifer Project International, a charitable organization that donates livestock to poor communities around the world, this moving story is eloquently and gracefully recounted. Although she may live far removed from the comfortable middle-class lives of many young readers, it is clear that Beatrice is a girl of unusual heart and, like any child, filled with hopes and dreams.
*Best Nest, The* by Doris L. Mueller. Sylvan Dell. 2008
In this retelling of an old English folktale featuring birds native to the U.S., Magpie patiently explains to the other birds how to build a nest. Some birds are impatient and fly off without listening to all the directions however, and that is why, to this day, bird’s nest come in all different shapes and sizes.

*Blue Potatoes, Orange Tomatoes* by Rosalind Creasy. Sierra Club. 1994
A gardening guide in picture-book format. Creasy encourages young gardeners to plant a “rainbow garden” of edible plants.

*Birds in Your Backyard* by Barbara Herkert. Dawn.
Watching birds can be easy and lots of fun. With plentiful illustrations and simple text, this book is especially designed to kindle the spark of interest in birds for children ages 4 to 10. With the attached set of binoculars, the budding birdwatcher is ready for action!

This book introduces nonscientists to the anatomy of heat, ignition, and flame, progressing from how a twig catches fire to how an entire landscape burns.

On a busy day at Long Pond, Box Turtle searches for food, basks in the sun and escapes a raccoon.

This picture book is adapted from a speech purportedly delivered by Chief Seattle at treaty negotiations in the 1850s.

A fun and complete introduction to the world of fishing for small fry of all ages.

*Buffalo Woman* by Paul Goble. Aladdin Books. 1984
A young hunter marries a female buffalo in the form of a beautiful maiden, but when his people reject her, he must pass several tests before being allowed to join the buffalo nation. There’s a strong underlying message in this story, not just for us to respect and protect animals but to respect and love each other. "Mitakuye oyasin--We are all related."

From a pigeon’s-eye view, a city is a marvelous place, full of adventure and surprise! See and feel a pulsing city from the unique perspective of a pigeon! In the process, the reader gains a new appreciation for this special bird that has chosen to live in urban canyons all over the world.

*Come On, Rain!* by Karen Hesse. Scholastic Inc. 1999
In this quietly affecting story, award-winning author Karen Hesse and artist Jon J. Muth deftly capture the magnificence of a sudden rainstorm on a swelteringly hot day. Much more than a simple tale of weather, *Come On, Rain!* also portrays the tenderness of mother-daughter relations, the rhythms of urban society, and the power of nature to transform and reinvigorate all forms of life.

*Cottontails: Little Rabbits of Field and Forest* by Ron Fisher. National Geographic. 1990
Fifty-one photographs reveal the secret-and exciting-worlds of rabbits and hares. Discover how these delicate-looking creatures are tough survivors from steaming deserts to the frozen artic. Learn about safety features that include eyes on the sides of their heads and legs that can really leap!

One by one, birds arrive at a feeder until a total of 20 are clustered at the spot. A squirrel scatters the flock, thwarting a patient cat who lurks in the background. This versatile book invites more than one reading to absorb the variety of concepts presented. It is, first of all, a counting book with a flowing, rhyming story, but it also gives information about birds in both text and illustration.

The humble dandelion. By roadside or mountainside, it flowers every month of the year throughout the world, a fitting symbol of life. Its journey is our journey, filled with challenge, wonder and beauty. This popular, simple book is beautiful and touching.

Describes a day in the life of a colonial printer, the workings of a printing press, and how it was used to spread news.

*Dig In! Hands-On Soil Investigations*. NSTA Press. 2001
Kids will be up to their elbows in the study of soil formation, habitats, animals that depend on soil, plants that grow in soil, land use, and soil conservation.

*Discover The Seasons* by Diane Iverson. Dawn 1996
Rich illustrations and sensitive poetry vividly capture the unique spirit of each part of the year: Celebration for spring, Learning for summer, Work for fall and Rest for winter. Each theme is then explored through hands-on activities that adults and children can share. Tasty recipes using freshly gathered fruits and vegetables provide the final, irresistible highlight for each season.

*Discovering Trees* by Douglas Florian. Aladdin Books. 1986
An introduction to trees, their growth, reproduction, usefulness, and some specific kinds.

BOOK 4 focuses on the Polar Regions -- Arctic and Antarctic. Each drawing lesson includes a colorful picture and step-by-step instructions, while the writing lesson includes four simple handwritten sentences.

BOOK 6 focuses on animal habitats - land, freshwater, and saltwater. Each drawing lesson includes a colorful picture and step-by-step drawing instructions, while the writing lesson includes four simple handwritten sentences with handwriting guidelines.

BOOK 7 focuses on forest animals of the world -- tropical and temperate. Each drawing lesson includes a colorful picture and step-by-step instructions, while the writing lesson includes four simple handwritten sentences.

BOOK 8 focuses on dry land animals of the world - Savannas, grasslands, mountains, and deserts. The books are simple enough for a young child to do independently, but a teacher or parent may present the lessons. Each drawing lesson includes a colorful picture and step-by-step instructions, while the writing lesson includes four simple handwritten sentences.

This is a sing-along read-along book to the tune of “The Twelve Days of Christmas.” Lovely pictures of wolves, bison, turtles, and fish in their natural habitats.

*Earth Heroes: Champions of the Wilderness* by Bruce and Carol L. Malnor. Dawn Pub. 2009
The Earth Heroes books feature the youth, careers and lasting contributions of some of the world’s greatest naturalists and environmentalists. This is the first in a series of meticulously researched books that introduces influential people involved in the preservation of wild places to upper elementary and middle school children. In almost all cases they were scientists as well as activists and authors. Their lives show how they shared their scientific skills and knowledge with the public to make lasting contributions to the world.

An alphabetical tour of the world of fruits and vegetables, from apricot and artichoke to yam and zucchini.

When Hannah finds an ivory necklace that belonged to her great-grandmother, it gives her dreams; and she knows she must make restitution to the elephants for their suffering caused by the ivory trade.

**Energy From the Sun** by Melvin Berger. Thomas Crowell Co. 1976
This is a Let’s-Read-And-Find-Out science book. It explores how the energy from the sun powers everything around us. The easy to read text explores all aspects of energy.

**Fireflies** by Julie Brinckloe. Alladin. 1986
A young boy is proud of having caught a jar full of fireflies, which seems to him like owning a piece of moonlight, but as the light begins to dim he realizes he must set the insects free or they will die.

**First Forest, The** by John Gile. John Gile Communications. 1989
A modern fable to remind us that greed and selfishness are harmful and that peace and harmony flow from an attitude of grateful appreciation for the gifts we receive and a respect for the need and right of others to share in those gifts.

**Five Senses, The** by Keith Faulkner. Scholastic Books.
Pull the tabs to see animals use their senses to learn about the world around them.

**Flower Garden** by Eve Bunting. Scholastic. 1994
An urban girl and her father buy plants, potting soil, and a window box, ride the bus to their apartment, and put together a colorful gift for the child's mother. Rhyming verse carries the brief story, while wonderful, warm, full-color illustrations present scenes from novel angles, and depict a loving family with a sense of intimacy, sincerity, and joy.

**Footprints in the Snow** by Cynthia Benjamin. Scholastic. 1994
Pictures and simple text depict forest animals’ tracks in the snow as they rush to their homes during a winter storm.

**Forest Bright, Forest Night** by Jennifer Ward. Dawn. 2005
Someone is always awake in the forest - and someone else is always asleep! Some animals are alert in daytime and sleep at night. Others are alert at night, and are sleepyheads during the day. You can FLIP THIS BOOK to flip from day to night - and back again! And when you do, be sure to count the animals you see.

**Forest Explorer: A Life-Size Field Guide** by Nic Bishop. Scholastic Press. 2004
Depicts in detail several different deciduous forest habitats, with field notes about the insects and animals shown, as well as tips on how to explore a real forest.

**Forest Mammals** by Glen Loates. Crabtree Publishing Company. 1987
Glen Loates' stunning illustrations add to this profile of forest mammals which encourages children to respect nature and wildlife.

On a hike through the Children’s Eternal Rainforest, Peter discovers many intriguing plants and animals, and also that his mother was one of the second-graders who joined with other children from all over the world to make preservation of this Costa Rican rainforest possible.

**Free Fall** by David Wiesner. Scholastic. 1988
A boy falls asleep and experiences several wordless, surreal journeys. The influence of such literary classics as Gulliver's Travels, The Wizard of Oz, and The Water-Babies, along with the artistry of Raphael, Escher, and Sendak, is apparent.

The six women portrayed in this book--Maria Merian (b.1647), Anna Comstock (b.1854), Frances Hamerstrom (b.1907), Rachel Carson (b.1907), Miriam Rothschild (b.1908) and Jane Goodall (b.1934) - all
grew up to become award-winning scientists, writers and artists, as comfortable with a pen as with a
magnifying glass.

After a teacher reads Beatrice’s Goat to her fifth-grade class, her students work together to buy a goat for a
needy family through Heifer’s program. With an initial loan from their teacher, they prepare and sell healthy
snacks, eventually earning more than enough to buy the animal, educating their school about Heifer’s work
in the process. The original spark of inspiration, the planning process, the endeavor's success, the
mathematics of running a business, and background information on Heifer International are seamlessly
integrated into the text. The story is a clear advertisement for both Heifer and the rewards of community
service.

A moving parable about the gift of giving and the capacity to love, told throughout the life of a boy who
grows to manhood and a tree that selflessly gives him her bounty through the year.

A true story about intergenerational relationships and tolerance that's perfect for sharing. An elderly French
Canadian named Noeline often drew criticism from the Dartmouth, MA, townsfolk because she kept a herd of
white goats in her yard until two children and their mother took the time to really know her.

Grandmother's Pigeon by Lois Erdrich, Hyperion. 1996.
The eccentric, well-traveled grandmother of two young kids decamps in mid-vacation, riding a porpoise to
Greenland and leaving behind a trove of strange treasures and artifacts including a collection of bird's nests
and three old eggs which hatch, marvelously, into passenger pigeons.

The animal citizens of Beaston discover better ways to recycle and control their trash.

A father and child grow vegetables and then make them into soup. This is a fabulous gardening book that
really shows where our vegetables come from.

Haiku Hike by St. Mary’s Catholic School, 4th grade. Scholastic Inc. 2005
Part of the Kids Are Authors® series, this book is filled with Haikus written and illustrated by 4th graders.

Each autumn, when Heetunka the Bean Mouse gathers earth beans, the women from the tipi encampment
come to trade with suet or dried corn. One woman learns a hard lesson about greed and selfishness.

Her Seven Brothers by Paul Goble. Aladdin Paperbacks. 1988
In this Cheyenne legend of the creation of the Big Dipper, an Indian girl begins to make clothes beautifully
decorated with porcupine quills for seven brothers she has not yet met.

Home Place by Crescent Dragonwagon. Aladdin. 1993
Deep within a lush woodland is the site of an old homestead, visited only by deer, squirrels, and raccoons. A
child discovers this "home place." She digs in the ruined foundation and discovers treasures. These objects
lead her to envision the family whose home once stood there. Children love a mystery and this is a picture
book that will invite them to think about the life cycle and the riddles of the past.

In 1927 Emily Cartwright’s father brings home a book filled with pictures of houses made from kits.

Describes the structure and purpose of leaves, the ways in which they change as part of the natural cycle of
the seasons, and the process that creates their autumn colors.

Describes the gradual transformation of a cleared farm field into a dense forest.

How the Leopard Got His Spots by Rudyard Kipling. Western Publishing Company, Inc. 1989
Relates how the leopard got his spotted coat in order to hunt the animals in the dappled shadows of the forest.

**How the Moon Regained Her Shape** by Janet Ruth Heller. Sylvan Dell. 2006
After the sun bullies her, the moon gets very upset and disappears, but with the help of her friends, the moon gains more self-confidence each day until she is back to her full size.

**How the Sun Was Born** by third-grade art students of Drexel Elementary School in Tucson, Arizona. Willowisp Press. 1993
This book was created by Drexel Elementary School’s third-grade art students after they began studying ancient cultures of Mexico. After hearing various stories of the Aztec sun, the students created their own story to explain the sun’s existence.

**How We Know What We Know About Our Changing Climate: Scientists and kids explore global warming** by Lynne Cherry & Gary Braasch. Dawn. 2008.
When the weather changes daily, how do we really know that Earth's climate is changing? Here is the science behind the headlines - evidence from flowers, butterflies, birds, frogs, trees, glaciers and much more, gathered by scientists from all over the world, sometimes with assistance from young "citizen-scientists."

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**I Can be a Forest Ranger** by Carol Greene. Children’s Press. 1989
This book describes the duties and training of a forest ranger. It has beautiful photographs and a glossary of terms in the back.

**I'm in Charge of Celebrations** by Byrd Baylor. Aladdin. 1995
A dweller in the desert celebrates a triple rainbow, a chance encounter with a coyote, and other wonders of the wilderness. Baylor's radiant prose-poem and Parnall's exquisite illustrations combine to create a joyous celebration of the human spirit.

**In A Nutshell** by Joseph Anthony. Dawn 1999
An acorn drops from a great oak and grows. Animals nibble at it, a fire threatens it, but overcoming many challenges it eventually towers high in the forest, observing the changing human scene below. Eventually its energy passes into many other life forms--even the cherry pie enjoyed by the boy in the house below.

Children will delight in discovering the inhabitants of a tree in this colorful mystery book. Each organism’s anatomy is revealed through up close observations of one feature and then a large scale photograph of the entire organism. The simple text and photographs reveal a caterpillar, raccoon, and other animals.

**In My Backyard** by Valarie Giogas. Sylvan Dell. 2007
Counting from one to ten, familiar backyard animals are introduced by baby and family group name. Each stanza also tells a bit more about each animal by providing clues as to what they eat, how they sound or where they live. The For Creative Minds section includes more animal fun facts, information on keeping a nature journal and how to watch for wildlife in your own backyard.

**In the Small, Small Pond** by Denise Fleming. Henry Holt and Co. 2007
The animals and insects that live on and in a freshwater pond wiggle, waddle, hover, swoop and swirl through the stunning spreads--and through the seasons of the year.

**In the Tall, Tall Grass** by Denise Fleming. Scholastic. 1991
Bold, bright, stylized collage illustrations capture the eye and the imagination as they depict the simple, rhyming text of this outstanding nature tale. From a caterpillar's point-of-view, children see the many happenings in the tall, tall grass.

**In the Trees, Honey Bees!** by Lori Mortensen. Dawn Pub. 2009
This inside-the-hive view of a wild colony of honeybees offers close-up views of the queen, the cells, even bee eggs. Simple verse will engage a young child, while sidebars with fascinating information satisfy the somewhat older child. Parents, teachers, and interested children will enjoy much more information about both wild and domestic hives in the back of the book.

**In the Woods: Who’s Been Here?** by Lindsay Barrett George. Mulberry Books. 1995
Cammy and William don’t see any wildlife as they walk through the woods, yet there are signs everywhere that animals have been around. Help these young nature lovers find the clues— an empty nest, a fallen branch with the bark gnawed off, bleached bones by a cave, and more – and join in guessing, “Who’s been here?”

*Investigating Your Backyard* by Natalie Lunis, Newbridge.

Children learn that nature is all around them. Whether their backyard is a park, a seashore, or a patch of grass, it’s full of discoveries waiting to be made.


The book is written from the perspective of a small desert-dwelling girl who can see, smell, hear and sense the coming deluge to her desert home.


Watching a videotape of Grandma Wolfe performing a jingle dance, Jenna is determined to dance at an upcoming powwow. But she lacks the cone-shaped, tin jingles that are sewn on to dancers' dresses as part of the regalia. Smith's language consciously evokes legend and portrays a harmonious meshing of old and new.


This unique "autobiography" of John Muir is told in his own words, brimming with his spirit and his adventures. The text was selected and retold by naturalist Joseph Cornell. The result is a book with aliveness, a presence of goodness, adventure, enthusiasm, and sensitive love of each animal and plant that will give young adults an experience of a true hero.


What do you do with an overcoat that is torn and worn but that is so dear that you can't toss it out? Cut it down, trim it and turn it into something else.


When he has a dream about a future Earth devastated by pollution, Walter begins to understand the importance of taking care of the environment.


A rich collection of uplifting Native American stories and creative nature activities that will inspire children to love and respect animals. Keepers of the Animals will help children to understand their interdependence with all living beings and life forms.


When a strange little creature appears out of nowhere after the big rains, Australian animals wonder what in the world he could possibly be! With a “down-under” spirit, they all pitch in to help him discover where he belongs.


Using the methods that the authors have developed over years of journaling and teaching, this book guides you in creating ongoing journals for all seasons and purposes.

*Leaf Man* by Lois Ehlert. Harcourt. 2005

A man made of leaves blows away, traveling wherever the wind may take him.


During the four seasons of the year, Buddy Bear and his mother go “leaf walking” and discover a lot of interesting things about leaves.

A thought-provoking look at the state of our world, how our environment has been damaged and how it can be repaired. The "Life in the..." series looks at cities, deserts, islands, oceans, plains and more - teaching kids ages 8-11 how to protect the environment.

**Life in Your Backyard** by Natalie Lunis, Newbridge.
Students discover that every backyard, vacant lot, and playground is a wildlife habitat filled with plants and animals to explore.

**Lifetimes** by David Rice. Dawn. 1997
With delightful simplicity, Lifetimes introduces some of nature’s longest, shortest and most unusual lifetimes. David Rice's "tell about it, think about it" questions for each lifetime are perfect for engaging a young person in a stimulating conversation

**Lies (People Believe) About Animals** by Susan Sussman and Robert Albert Whitman & Co. 1987
Presents commonly held beliefs about bats, tarantulas, snakes, porcupines, and other animals and then explains the surprising truths.

**Listening to Nature** by Joseph Cornell. Dawn. 1987
For each day of the month, the reader is treated to an inspirational quotation from the likes of Muir and Thoreau. The book is sensitively highlighted with stunning color photographs by award-winning Sierra Club Calendar veteran John Hendrickson.

**Little Skink’s Tail** by Janet Halfmann. Sylvan Dell Publishing. 2007
While Little Skink hunts for breakfast, she is attacked by a crow and escapes by snapping off her tail. Little Skink’s tail follows her as she daydreams of having the tails of other animals in the forest. Includes “For Creative Minds” section with information on tail adaptations, matching activity, and a footprint map activity.

In this classic story, the Once-ler describes how his greedy actions destroyed a beautiful and thriving environment. Children will enjoy the colorful characters and rhyming verse and adults will appreciate the subtle messages about the negative effects of deforestation, habitat destruction, and air and water pollution.

**Lost Dispatch, The** by Marie Mitchell & Mason Smith. The Clark Group. 2008
Twelve-year-old Victoria Johnson reluctantly enlists in the Union Army. She’s a little late. The Civil War was fought nearly 150 years ago. But Vic's sixth-grade class has joined adult re-enactors staging the October 8th, 1862, Battle of Perryville. Vic experiences a re-enactment of what camp life was like for a soldier in 1862 and solves a mystery.

Written in the 1950’s, its message was ahead of its time, inspiring readers to rediscover the harmonies of the countryside and prevent its willful destruction.

**Marcie the Marvelous Tree: An Autobiography** by Tree Musketeers. Worzalla Publishing. 2005
Just when she thought no one would adopt her and plant her before she became too root bound, Marcie's special friends come along and plant her, pruning her branches, staking her upright in the ground and giving her plenty of tender, loving care.

**Money Tree, The** by Sarah Stewart. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux. 1991
In summer the leaves on the strange tree growing in Miss McGillicuddy’s yard are harvested by many people, but when Miss McGillicuddy thinks about needing firewood for the winter, she realizes the tree may have another use.

**Mountain Magic** by Alice Boggs Lentz. Tommy Nelson, Inc. 1998
Recalls the lure of the mountains that first draws a family to spend the summer there in Grandmother’s house and brings them back year after year even when the children are grown and have children of their own.

Trees are important in children’s lives. This book celebrates the joy children feel as they interact with their favorite tree in their own unique way. For older children, separate text is included that features an overview of each tree’s traits, associated wildlife companions, and role in the web of life.
My First Hike by Catherine Maria Woolf. Dawn Pub. 2008

Name That Plant by Lisa Trumbauer. Harcourt Achieve. 2003
This beautifully illustrated, lift-the-flap book explains how many flowers, plants, and trees got their names.

Photographs portray a young girl as she takes a close-up look at nature’s wonders, examining an acorn on a branch, the lines on a leaf, and the golden eye of a frog.

A beetle takes readers through its work day in maintaining an ecological balance in nature.

What creatures live in a bog-boggy place? From zip-zipping dragonflies to hip-hopping frogs, here’s a medley of critters who swim, soar or crawl in a wetlands home that protects one and all. This engaging book is the fourth natural neighborhood to be portrayed by this dynamic author-illustrator duo.

When his family comes to live in Israel after the end of World War II, a young boy begins planting and caring for trees, a practice that spreads across the whole country.

Nina’s Waltz by Corinne Demas. Orchard Books. 2000
Nina must step in for her dad and play her special song at the fiddle competition when he is stung by wasps.

Once There Was a Tree by Natalia Romanova. Dial Books. 1985
Originally published in the Soviet Union, Spirin’s delicately detailed illustrations give a character and a soul to this song of the earth that nurtures the smallest insects, the largest animals, and the trees that shelter them.

Families in a Ghanan village pool their small savings into a community bank that makes loans available to members. When Kojo’s mother borrows money, he asks her for a few coins to buy a hen. The hen produces eggs for the family as well as a few for him to sell at the market, and Kojo uses that money to grow his business into a thriving enterprise. As a successful adult entrepreneur, Kojo now loans money to other aspiring businesspeople. Kojo’s inspiring, upbeat microfinance story makes the economic concept easy to grasp and admire.

A goldenrod flower is a "mini-beast park," have you noticed? Take a closer look ... a butterfly sipping nectar ... a ladybug snacking on aphids. Oh ladybug, look out for the ambushbug! This fifth book in Dr. Fredericks' series on animal communities will again send kids outdoors to explore.

This little book will tell you how different types of trees grow and how they are harvested. You’ll find out how trees and animals live and grow together, and how we can protect them.

Discusses various parts of trees and their functions, including the bark, sapwood tubes, roots, and leaves.

Over in the Jungle: A Rainforest Rhyme by Marianne Berkes. Dawn
This rainforest is teeming with monkeys that hoot, ocelots that pounce, parrots that squawk, and boas that squeeze! It won't take much to have your child joyfully hooting and squawking too. And the illustrations - all done in polymer clay - are truly remarkable, vividly conveying the abundant energy of a rainforest.

Over in the Arctic, the snow goose "honks" and the wolf "howls." Children too will joyfully honk and howl while they count the baby animals and sing to the tune of "Over in the Meadow." And the illustrations - all done in cut paper - vividly convey the dramatic landscape of the Arctic. *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen. Philomel Books. 1987.

On a winter’s night under a full moon, father and daughter trek into the woods to see the Great Horned Owl.

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**Pass the Energy, Please!** by Barbara Shaw McKinney. Dawn. 1999

Each of nature's creatures "passes the energy" in its own unique way. In this upbeat rhyming story, the food chain connects herbivores, carnivores, insects and plants together in a fascinating circle of players. All beings on Earth - from the anchovy to the zooplankton - depend upon the green plant, which is the hero of the story.

**Path of the Quiet Elk, The** by Virginia Stroud. Dial Books. 1996

This Native American alphabet book is also a story that delves into the philosophy and culture of many Plains Indian tribes.

**Peeping and Sleeping** by Fran Manushkin. Clarion Books. 1994

Barry and his father take an evening walk, exploring the strange peeping sounds they hear and finding a surprise down at the pond.


This book tells the story of those fascinating birds, the emperor penguins, and their dramatic struggle to survive the bitter blizzards and extreme cold of the South Pole winter.

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**Reading the Wild** by Elise Maclay. The Greenwich Workshop Press. 2001

Reading the Wild, with Bev Doolittle's famously detailed watercolor paintings, gives us clues, from both Indian lore and modern science, to understanding the animal life around us. With a little knowledge and a willingness to pay attention, a walk through the woods, or even a single tree, can become a scavenger hunt for the signs and the wonders of animal life.

**Reason for a Flower, The** by Ruth Heller. Grosset & Dunlap. 1987

Brief text and lavish illustrations explain plant reproduction and the purpose of a flower and present some plants which don't seem to be flowers but are.


A child describes the growth of a maple tree from seed to sapling. A special glossary explains how roots absorb nutrients, what photosynthesis is, how sap circulates, and other facts about trees.

**River Song With the Banana Slug String Band** by Steve Van Zandt. Dawn. 2007

Rivers make beautiful music - from the trickle of snowmelt to the burble of a full-flowing stream. Here the famed children's musical ensemble, the Banana Slug String Band, celebrates rivers as a fascinating, ever-changing source of life and joy. The attached CD includes their vibrant rendition of "River Song."

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Take a close look at your local lake, pond or woodland pool. Don't mind the mud - see it from a kid's eye view. Here is the journal and scrapbook of Klint, a young Planet Scout who kept notes for a year on his discoveries and became engrossed by the daily drama of turtles, crayfish dragonflies and water skimmers.


A young boy finds a salamander and thinks of the many things he can do to make a perfect home for it.


An overview of the environmental problems of land, atmosphere, water, energy, plants, animals, and people. Includes projects and a section on becoming an environmental activist.

**Secret Life of Trees, The** by Chiara Chevallier. DK Pub. 1999
Details the parts and inner lives of trees and all the organisms that live within them. Why do trees lose their leaves in winter? How do insects hide on bare branches? Let the trees themselves reveal their many secrets to you. Information boxes full of background information will stimulate inquisitive minds.  

When Warren moves away he misses his older friend next door and the times they shared in the garden, but the separation inspired each of them to do something creative about it.  

*Sense of Wonder, The* by Rachel Carson. Harper & Row. 1984 (There are newer versions)  
Beautiful words and pictures make this book a timeless classic. Rachel Carson writes about the walks she took with her nephew Roger along the rocky coast of Maine and in her nearby woods.  

*Senses* by Jinny Johnson. Kingfisher Pub. 2004  
Senses is a fascinating introduction to the five senses: sight, hearing, taste, smell, and touch. Explore the parts of the human body that enable every person to understand the world in which he or she lives. Examine the super senses of the animal kingdom and discover the creatures with the sharpest eyesight, the most acute sense of smell, and the most delicate sense of touch.  

a superb picture book about a boy, a special swan and the sometimes cruel realities of nature. After a female swan arrives on a lake one moonlit night, a solitary farm boy who lives nearby befriends her, watching through the seasons as she finds a mate and starts a family.  

This book invites adults and children to experience the life of a tree and its relationship to the sky in several different ways. Through storytelling, art appreciation, and scientific exploration.  

A collection of twenty-five traditional tales from countries around the world, including Iran, Brazil and Greece.  

*Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon. Harcourt. 1993  
After she falls headfirst into a bird’s nest, a baby bat is raised like a bird until she is reunited with her mother.  

The resident birds and animals react to a snowman appearing in their woods after a winter storm in this photographic fantasy.  

In simple poetic language describes what a wetland is, and introduces the reader to this vital and endangered world.  

Paul’s grandmother describes her first sugaring-off party at Tante Loulou’s farmhouse, where they boiled maple sap into syrup and poured it on snow to make a delicious dessert.  

T  

A true to form Gary Larson twisted tale about the life of a worm and other aspects of nature underground.  

*Tiny Seed, The* by Eric Carle. Little Simon. 1987  
Join the tiny seed on an adventure as it becomes a giant flower!  

Hare turns his bad luck around by striking a clever deal with the lazy bear down the road.  

*Tortilla Quilt, The* by Jane Tenorio-Coscarelli. ¼ Inch Designs & Publishing. 1996  
The Tortilla Quilt will open up a bilingual world for readers of all ages. With color illustrations, quilt pattern and a recipe for tortillas, you too can bring a little of Grandma Lupita home with you.  

Structured like "This Is the House that Jack Built," this environmental rhyme aims to show the interdependence of living things in the ancient forests.
Tree of Life: The Incredible Biodiversity of Life on Earth by Rochelle Strauss. Kids Can Press. 2004
A dazzlingly illustrated and child-friendly introduction to biodiversity. This useful, attractive, oversize volume uses its height well, employing a tree metaphor to show the earth's biodiversity and how all living things, from bacteria to the largest mammals, are related. Each spread covers one branch of the animal kingdom.

Identifies many types of trees and describes how they grow and the kinds of leaves, fruits, and seeds they produce. Includes suggested experiments and projects.

Cut-paper collage and a pair of cheerful woodland animals decorate this informative look at trees. This delightful and informative book takes complex material about trees and pares it down to the basic facts that children can understand and enjoy.

Truax by Terri Birkett. 1995.
Written specifically to counter the book "The Lorax", by Dr. Seuss. It is an encounter between Guardbark, protector of trees, and Truax, the logger. In a fast paced, fun, rhythm and rhyme style, the book addresses issues such as harvesting trees, regeneration, old growth, biodiversity, endangered species and other forestry issues.

Turtle Summer by Mary Alice Monroe. Sylvan Dell Pub. 2007
This introduction to the hatching of sea turtles is organized as a kind of scrapbook for the author's young daughter, seen in occasional photographs as she walks on the beach with her mother or watches for the hatching. Closing pages include a review of sea turtle facts, short activities, and suggestions for constructing one's own nature scrapbook.

W

When Wangari Maathai was growing up in Kenya, the land was covered with trees. Starting in her own backyard, Maathai planted trees and encouraged other women to do the same. More than 30 million trees have since been planted by the members of her Green Belt Movement. Maathai was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2004 in recognition of her work.

A barefoot girl clad in rolled-up overalls takes readers on an exquisite journey to a special place: a waterfall deep in the north woods near her grandmother's house. There is the awakening of all five senses, a remembering of deceased loved ones, a connection to the past, and a hope for the future.

Weather, I Can Read About by Robyn Supraner. Troll. 1997
Designed for small group use, these read-along sets meet the need for science materials to be used in the early elementary grades. A nice introduction to weather. This book includes information about clouds, forecasting, the water cycle and more.

Enthralled by her grandmother’s story of seeing and hearing whales singing in the sea long ago, Lilly hopes to see them herself and to hear their mysterious songs.

Describes the plants, animals, and human inhabitants of a tropical rain forest and discusses the importance of these unique environments and threats to their survival.

When God Made the Tree by Virginia Kroll.. Dawn. 1999.
When God made the tree, he knew that children and creatures all over the world would depend on them for food, shelter and comfort. This book shows how trees, animals and people are forever linked in an intimate relationship that suggests the greatness of their Creator.

When I Was Young In The Mountains by Cynthia Rylant. Puffin. 1982
An evocative remembrance of the simple pleasures in country living; splashing in the swimming hole, taking baths in the kitchen, sharing family times, each is eloquently portrayed here in both the misty-hued scenes and in the poetic text.

**Where Does the Wind Blow?** By Cindy Rink. Dawn Pub. 2002
A mother and son share in the universality of the wind, which brushes past people and nature all over the Earth and provides a connection between them.

**Where in the Wild?** by David M. Schwartz and Yael Schy. Tricycle Press. 2007
Ten creatures await, camouflaged in artful, full-page photographs, while playful poems offer clues about each animal's identity and whereabouts. Think you've spotted one? Lift one of ten gatefolds to find out. A full page of fascinating information accompanies each animal so readers can learn how nature's camouflage serves hunter and hunted alike.

**Where the Wild Things Are** by Maurice Sendak. HarperCollins. 1963
Max dons his wolf suit in pursuit of some mischief and gets sent to bed without supper. Fortuitously, a forest grows in his room, allowing his wild rampage to continue unimpaired. Sendak's color illustrations (perhaps his finest) are beautiful, and each turn of the page brings the discovery of a new wonder.

Pictures & simple text show many of the animals that live in the woods.

**Wild Animal Shelter** by Esther Kellner. Scholastic. 1976
True stories about orphaned animal babies – and lots of helpful information about how to care for small wild animals in trouble.

The birds that glide through the sky, hop through the grass, and sing on the fence gradually come to feed from a child’s hand.

Exploring the place of fire in nature, Simon explains that despite Smokey the Bear's warning, forest fires have important functions in the ecosystem. With a brilliantly clear and colorful photograph facing each page of text, the book describes the causes and the progression of the wildfires that burned areas of Yellowstone National Park in 1988, explains how the fires were beneficial in many ways, and shows the regeneration of the forests.

**Wind Garden, The** by Angela McAllister & Claire Fletcher. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books. 1994
Ellie’s grandfather lives at the top of a high house, and he misses having a garden. Every time grandfather and Ellie grow one, the wind destroys it. Grandfather needs a special kind of garden that the wind won’t destroy and Ellie comes up with a solution.

**Wisconsin Forest Tales** by Julia Pferdehirt. Trails Custom Publishing. 2004
This book is a collection of stories that highlight the important role forests have played in Wisconsin’s history. Readers learn about the events that have helped shape Wisconsin forests, leading to the strong, sustainable forests we all enjoy today.

All over the world, groups of people, like species of animals, are endangered. Like the Native Americans of North America, their age-old ways of living are in danger of being lost forever. Often these people have a beautiful, meaningful relationship with the Earth and each other.