

WILDLIFE

Annotated Bibliography of K-12 Educational Resources

Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (06/08)

The following list consists of selected resources on the general topic of Wildlife. All materials are available for loan at the WCEE Resources Library. Many more resources are available on this and other topics, and there are many resources for specific animals, such as bats, wolves, raptors, snakes, etc. There is also a separate annotated bibliography for biodiversity. Please call or visit the WCEE for assistance or visit our web site at www.uwsp.edu/wcee/library for additional information on borrowing resources.

Teaching Activity Guides

Nocturnal Animals and Classroom Nights by Rhonda Vansant and Barbara Dondiego.

Learning Triangle Press/McGraw Hill, New York, NY. (1997).

Interdisciplinary activities centered around “camping” experiences in the classroom. Lessons are divided into chapters entitled “Night & Day”, “Shadows”, “Nocturnal Animals”, and more.

Includes resource list of other books about nocturnal animals.

Grade levels: PK-4 Length: 110 pages WCEE call number: AC WL 28

Insectigations: 40 Hands-On Activities to Explore the Insect World by Cindy Blobaum, Chicago Review Press, Chicago, IL. (2005).

This is a wonderful introduction to insect science for kids age 7-10 filled with more than 40 experiments, art projects, and games. Insectigations provides great playground trivia as well as solid information about the natural world.

Grade levels: PK-6 Length: 133 pages WCEE call number: AC WL IN 19

Schoolyard Wildlife Activity Guide, The by Linda Cronin-Jones. Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, FL. (1992).

Focuses on diverse wildlife lessons that can be completed inside and out, but without necessitating fieldtrips. Very usable format, with many helpful sub-headings for each activity. Also provides many helpful appendices.

Grade levels: K-9 Length: 35 lessons, 208 pages WCEE call number: AC WL 24

Of Bugs and Beasts: Facts, Folklore, and Activities by Lauren Livo, Glenn McGlathery, and Norma Livo. Teacher Ideas Press, Englewood, CO. (1995).

A resource that focuses on the “less popular” animals and aims to help students become more comfortable with them. Each section is dedicated to an individual animal (i.e., bats, buzzards, ants, toads) and includes the natural history, folklore, bibliography, and a list of short ideas for related activities.

Grade levels: K-12 Length: 215 pages WCEE call number: AC WL 38

Project WILD and **Project WILD Aquatic** by Project WILD. Council for Environmental Education, Houston, TX. (2000).

Two of the definitive activity/curricula guides in environmental education. Numerous subjects, learning styles, topics, etc. covered. Very usable format.

Grade levels: K-12 Length: 526 and 260 pages WCEE call number: AC WL 3 and AC WR 2

Animals in the Classroom by David Kramer. Addison-Wesley, Menlo Park, CA. (1989).

For each of the many animals listed in this resource, information is provided on the animal's natural history, how to obtain the animal, housing and diet, how to handle the animal, activities, and more.

Useful as an activity guide or a background information resource for existing activities.

Grade levels: K-12 Length: 234 pages WCEE call number: AC WL 31

Wildlife Forever by Ann McCarthy. Wildlife Forever, Minnetonka, MN. (1998).

Very usable activity guide covering topics including taxonomy, animal behavior, management, and natural resource careers. Contains many supplemental resources such as a CD-ROM, species sheets, and student worksheets.

Grade levels: 3-6 Length: 14 lessons, 441 pages WCEE call number: AC WL 39

Gray Wolves, Gray Matter by International Wolf Center, Ely, MN. (2006).

This activity guide provides teachers with activities addressing the wolf and the current controversies surrounding their survival, including teacher background information, interdisciplinary activities, assessment recommendations, and student worksheets.

Grade levels: 4-9 Length: 228 pages WCEE call number: AC WL M 18

Crane Count in the Classroom: A Citizen Science Curriculum for Grades 6-8 by International Crane Foundation, Baraboo, WI. (2005).

This curriculum focuses on the Annual Midwest Crane Count as a citizen science program. Included are lessons developed around the program, materials related to participating in the crane count, and reference materials.

Grade levels: 5-9 Length: 120 pages WCEE call number: AC WL B 22

Flying Wild: An Educator's Guide to Celebrating Birds by Council for Environmental Education, Houston, TX. (2004).

The purpose of this guide is to provide activities that teach middle school students about birds, their migration, and what people can do to help birds and their habitat.

Grade levels: 5-9 Length: 358 pages WCEE call number: AC WL B 18

Animals Alive! An Ecological Guide to Animal Activities by Dennis Holley. Roberts Rinehart Publishers, Niwot, CO. (1994).

Intended as an alternative guide to anatomy/identification activities that often use non-living specimen material. Activities are "non-invasive, observation-oriented, and inexpensive" and listed by animal phylum.

Grade levels: 9-12 Length: 301 pages WCEE call number: AC WL 17

Videos

Bugs Don't Bug Us! by Bo Peep Productions, Eureka, MT. (1991).

Shows children interacting comfortably with many common invertebrates. Lacking narration, it focuses on the child's experiences and comments.

Grade levels: PK-4 Length: 35 minutes WCEE call number: AV WL IN 1

Into the Outdoors (Series) by Discover Mediaworks and WI DNR. (2005).

A great outdoor television series filmed in and around Wisconsin, and geared toward and presented by kids. Wildlife-specific episodes are: Whooping it up with the Cranes, For the Birds, Crazy for Cranes, It's a Bug's World.

Grade levels: K-12 Length: 25 minutes each WCEE call number: AV DVD WL 1, B 2-3, IN 1

World Alive, A by Sea Studios, Monterey, CA. (1990).

Narrated by James Earl Jones. An overview of the diversity of life in the animal kingdom.

Grade levels: 4-9 Length: 25 minutes WCEE call number: AV BD 9

World of Raptors by Echo Film (2003).

Explores the families of raptors, including falcons, eagles, and hawks. Amazing footage shows how birds of prey hunt and nest. Bird expert Morley Nelson shows how to properly bird watch and identify raptors.

Grade levels: 4-Adult Length: 55 minutes WCEE call number: AV DVD WL B 5

Audubon Video Guide to 505 Birds of North America on Two DVD's by Mastervision, New York, NY. (2004).

An expansive video field guide to 505 North American bird species. Each species is covered in about 32 seconds, and its range, size, and distinguishing characteristics are given.

Grade levels: 5-Adult Length: varies WCEE call number: AV DVD WL B 7

Life in the Undergrowth by BBC Video (2005).

A vibrant and interesting documentary on the world of insects. From their evolution from simple aquatic creatures to the amazing adaptations that allow them to inhabit every habitat. David Attenborough takes us around the world to see insects of all kinds.

Grade level: 5-Adult Length: 250 minutes WCEE call number: AV DVD WL IN 4

Coyoteland by The Video Project, Oakland, CA. (1992).

A documentary surrounding the real-life conflict between urban development and wildlife. Humorous and well-balanced, the video provides an avenue to facilitating class discussions on this and related topics.

Grade levels: 7-12 Length: 17 minutes WCEE call number: AV WL M 2 3

In Celebration of America's Wildlife by US Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, DC. (1987).

A look at human management of wildlife populations. Focuses on "success stories" of reintroductions and recoveries that have led to high population growth of formerly endangered animals. Also discusses positive effects that hunting has on management.

Grade levels: 9-12 Length: 28 minutes WCEE call number: AV WL 3

Wild & Forever Free by WI Department of Natural Resources, Madison, WI. (2001).

A Wisconsin-centered look at wildlife management, especially the work of the DNR. Useful especially in class discussions of careers in biology, natural resources, or discussions of management of wildlife populations.

Grade levels: 9-12

Length: 30 minutes

WCEE call number: AV WL 13

Books for Youth

Stranger in the Woods, First Snow in the Woods, and Lost in the Woods by Carl R. Sams II and Jean Stoick, Friesens of Altona, Manitoba, Canada (2000, 2004, 2007)

Wonderful story about a fawn discovering the world. This series uses photography as the images. Well done.

Grade Levels: PK-6 Length: 40-50 pages WCEE Call number: BY WL 48, 80, & 100

Ultimate Bug Book, The by Luise Woelflein, Golden Books, New York, NY. (1993).

Non-fiction. A very interactive pop-up book. Lots of information on each page, including facts about adaptations, habits, diets, etc.

Grade levels: PK-6 Length: 11 pages WCEE call number: BY WL IN 11

Where Are the Night Animals? by Mary Ann Fraser, Harper Collins, New York, NY. (1999).

Non-fiction. Focuses on the world of nocturnal animals. Realistic drawings. Also includes vocabulary, "fact pages" for the animals mentioned, and a pages of extension activities.

Grade levels: PK-6 Length: 32 pages WCEE call number: BY WL M 50

Little Skink's Tail by Janet Halfmann, Sylvan Dell Publishing, Mt. Pleasant, SC. (2007).

A very cute story about a skink who snaps off her tail to escape danger and dreams of new tails as she waits for hers to grow back. Also includes some short activities in the back about different animals and the functions of their tails.

Grade levels: K-4 Length: 30 pages WCEE call number: BY WL R 10

Beast Feast, Insectlopedia, In the Swim, Lizards, Frogs, and Polliwogs, Mammalabilia, and On the Wing by Douglas Florian. Harcourt, Inc., Orlando, FL. (Various pub. dates).

Fiction. An excellent series of books. A picture and a poem is dedicated to each individual animal. Creative, colorful, and highly recommended.

Grade levels: K-6 Length: Varies WCEE call number: Varies

Turtle Tide: The Ways of the Sea Turtle by Stephen R. Swinburne, Boyds Mills Press, Inc. Honesdale, PA. (2005).

A mother loggerhead crawls onto an Atlantic beach to lay her eggs. Then the story continues as the baby turtles struggle to reach the ocean. After the story, factual information about sea turtles and other information are listed.

Grade levels: K-6 Length: 30 pages WCEE call number: BY WL R 7

Starting Life Frog by Claire Llewellyn, Northwood Press, Chanhassen, MN. (2003)

Describes the physical characteristics and behavior of frogs, including their development from an egg to a tadpole to an adult.

Grade levels: 4-6 Length: 23 pages WCEE call number: BY WL A 10

Take a Walk with Butterflies and Dragonflies & Take a Backyard Bird Walk by Jane Kirkland, Stillwater Publishing, Lionville, PA. (2004).

Guide to finding, observing, identifying, and understanding butterflies and dragonflies and birds.

Grade levels: 4-9 Length: 32 pages ea. WCEE call number: BY WL B 45, IN 50

Salmon Forest by David Suzuki and Sarah Ellis, Greystone Books: Douglas and McIntyre Publishing Group, Vancouver/Toronto/New York. (2003).

This book is about loving father who opens the eyes of his daughter to the wonderful world of salmon.

Grade levels: 4-9 Length: 32 pages WCEE call number: BY WL F 6

Who Lives in the Snow? by Jennifer Berry Jones, Court Wayne Press, Boulder, CO. (2001).

Non-fiction. A very complete look at snow-adapted animals. Very good for winter-time wildlife units in Wisconsin. Also includes glossary and a list of other suggested reading.

Grade levels: 4-9 Length: 30 pages WCEE call number: BY WL 66

E.Encyclopedia Animal ed. Sarah Larter, DK Publishing, New York, NY. (2005).

An amazingly comprehensive resource exploring the animal world through concepts such as evolution and adaptation, to the basics of anatomy and function, and finally through the classes of the animal kingdom. The book is organized very nicely with vibrant photographs and hundreds of current website links.

Grade levels: 4-Adult Length: 305 pages WCEE call number: BY WL 97

Reference/Background Books

Nature's Outcasts: A New Look at Living Things We Love to Hate by Des Kennedy. Storey Publishing, Pownal, VT. (1993).

Another resource which aims at increasing comfort with "less loveable" animals. Also includes information on biology, life history, human/animal relationships, folklore, etc., but set up more as a continuous "book" rather than an encyclopedic resource.

Grade levels: 9-12, Adult Length: 216 pages WCEE call number: BA WL 2

Bats of Puerto Rico by Gannon Michael R. et. al. Texas University Press, Lubbock, TX. (2005).

A compilation of the distribution, natural history, taxonomy, misconceptions and ecology of Puerto Rican bats. Included are maps, detailed illustrations and photographs of bats and their habitats, and numerous graphs and charts.

Grade level: Adult Length: 239 pages WCEE call number: BA WL M 16

Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail by Wisconsin DNR, Vol.1-5. (2005).

A series of brochures that provide excellent information for suggested birding and hiking trails in WI. Each series focuses on a designated region.

Grade levels: Adult Length: 58 pages ea. WCEE call number: BA WL B 14 v1-5

The Practical Entomologist by Rick Imes, Simon & Schuster Inc., New York, NY. (1992).

This text describes what characterizes an insect, including anatomy and the life cycle. It takes an order-by-order look at insects, explaining how each group differs from another and why certain types of insects have been classified together.

Grade levels: Adult Length: 160 pages WCEE call number: BA WL IN 1

Wildlife and the School Environment The Green Brick Road, Ontario, Canada. (1992).

A handbook about using the school grounds to teach about wildlife. Includes information about using existing resources and adding new spaces. Also includes a list of additional resources.

Grade levels: Adult

Length: 35 pages

WCEE call number: BA SS 12