

Nonfiction Read Alouds



The books mentioned in this bibliography are just a sampling of nonfiction books that work well as read alouds. In addition to the teaching features listed, many of the books can be used to teach voice, word choice, organization and sentence fluency in nonfiction.

Brenner, Barbara. 1997. *Thinking About Ants*. Illus. Carol Schwartz. New York: Mondo.

Topic: ants

Teaching Features: cross-sections; cutaways; labels; illustration guide; poetic text

Collard, Sneed B., 111. 1997. *Animal Dads*. Illus. Steve Jenkins. New York: Houghton Mifflin Co.

Topic: the roles of animal fathers

Teaching Features: simple main text with much information in caption format; cross-section

Ehlert, Lois. 2001. *Waiting For Wings*. New York: Harcourt, Inc.

Topic: the life cycle of a butterfly

Teaching Features: page size increases as the butterfly develops; identification charts; diagrams; labels; poetic text; supplemental information pages

Fanelli, Sara. 1995. *My Map Book*. Singapore: HarperCollins Publishers, Inc.

Topic: a collection of original maps created by a seven-year old girl

Teaching Features: maps; diagrams; headings; labels; bird's eye view; flow charts; compass rose; timeline

Gibbons, Gail. 2000. *Rabbits, Rabbits & More Rabbits*. USA: Holiday House.

Topic: different kinds of rabbits, their physical characteristics, habitats, behavior and how to care for them

Teaching Features: diagrams; labels; headings; cross-sections; how-to charts; comparison charts; fact boxes; supplemental information

See also: other texts by Gail Gibbons

Jenkins, Martin. 1999. *The Emperor's Egg*. Illus. Jane Chapman.

Cambridge, Massachusetts: Candlewick Press.

Topic: a father emperor penguin cares for his egg

Teaching Features: introduction; bold print; font size changes; index; italic captions; use of story

Jenkins, Steve and Page, Robin. 2001. *Animals in Flight*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Topic: animals that fly and how wings work

Teaching Features: captions; italics; size and shape comparisons; diagrams; sequenced diagrams; labels; supplemental information pages; bibliography

Jenkins, Steve. 1998. *Hottest Coldest Highest Deepest*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Topic: descriptions of some of the most remarkable places on earth

Teaching Features: bold print; maps; map enlargements; size comparison charts; captions; graphs; supplemental map with key; bibliography

Kaner, Etta. 2001. *Animals at Work: How Animals Build, Dig, Fish and Trap*. Illus. Pat Stephens. Tonawanda New York: Kids Can Press Ltd.

Topic: descriptions of the work of a variety of animals

Teaching Features: table of contents; introduction; headings; diagrams; labels; fact boxes; bullets; cross-sections; flow charts; experiments; index

Kramer, Stephen. 1995. *Caves*. Photographs by Kenrick L. Day. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, Inc.

Topic: caves

Teaching Features: table of contents; headings; subheadings; pronunciation guides; captions; maps; labels; photographs; diagrams; cross-sections; italics; labeled picture with corresponding key; supplemental information page; table; glossary; index

London, Jonathan. 2001. *Come Again Ptarmigan*. Illus. Jon Van Zyle. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society.

Topic: the life of the willow ptarmigan and other animals in the arctic circle

Teaching Features: small picture boxes with captions; italics; map; poetic text; supplemental information pages

Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth. 2001. *The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere*. Illus. Christopher Bing. Brooklyn, New York: Handprint Books.

Topic: an interpretation of Longfellow's famous poem that creates a portrait of Paul Revere

Teaching Features: recreations of historical documents; maps; bibliography

Martin, Jacqueline Briggs. 1998. *Snowflake Bentley*. Illus. Mary Azarian. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Topic: the life of Wilson Bentley, a snowflake authority and photographer
Teaching Features: biographical organization; sidebars; use of story; supplemental page with photographs and quotation

Nicolson, Cynthia Pratt. 2001. *Volcano!* Tonawanda, New York: Kids Can Press.

Topic: Volcanoes

Teaching Features: table of contents; headings; captions; diagrams; labels; photographs; fact boxes; cross-sections; experiments; bullets; bold print; maps; table; glossary; index; some newspaper format

O'Brien, Patrick. 2001. *Megatooth*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, LLC.

Topic: the ancient giant shark, megalodon

Teaching Features: size comparisons; diagrams; labels; captions; colored print; timeline; supplemental information page

Parker, Steve. 1999. *It's a Frog's Life: My Story of Life in a Pond*. Pleasantville, New York: Reader's Digest Children's Books.

Topic: frogs and pond ecology

Teaching Features: diagrams; labels; bold print; captions; headings; lists; bullets; map; timelines; fact boxes; table; newspaper clipping; glossary; journal format

See also: It's an Ant's Life: My Story of Life in the Nest. 1999.

Rappaport, Doreen. 2001. *Martin's Big Words: The Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.* Illus. Bryan Collier. New York: Hyperion Books For Children.

Topic: Martin Luther King, Jr.

Teaching Features: biographical organization; direct quotations; different font size and color; list of important dates; links to books and web sites

Ryan, Pam Munoz. 1996. *The Flag We Love*. Illus. Ralph Masiello. Watertown, Massachusetts: Charlesbridge Publishing.

Topic: the American flag

Teaching Features: fact boxes; poetic text

Scillian, Devin. 2001. *A is For America: An American Alphabet*. Illus. Pam Carroll. Chelsea, Michigan: Sleeping Bear Press.

Topic: the United States of America

Teaching Features: alphabetical organization; poetic text; sidebars; maps

Simon, Seymour. 2001. *Animals Nobody Loves*. New York: SeaStar Books.

Topic: dangerous and unsightly animals

Teaching Features: table of contents; headings; colored print; photographs; writing prompt at the end

St. George, Judith. 2000. *So You Want to Be President?* Illus. David Small. New York: Philomel Books.

Topic: interesting facts about past presidents of the United States

Teaching Features: humor; illustration guide; supplemental information pages; bibliography

Wick, Walter. 1997. *A Drop of Water*. New York: Scholastic.

Topic: the properties of water

Teaching Features: photographs; magnifications; photo sequences; headings; experiments; labels; italics; size comparisons; supplemental information pages; quotation