

Top 10 books for use in science for 9-11 year olds



**Compiled by
Rose Edmondson**



Science for reading

A fantastic collection of poems celebrating our exploration of the moon.

Science objective link:

Y5: Describe the movement of the moon relative to the Earth

Cross curricular links: English, History

Science activity: Which material would be best to build a house on the moon? (using test results to make predictions and set up fair tests)

<https://www.stem.org.uk/system/files/elibrary-resources/2019/06/Mission%20to%20the%20Moon.pdf>

(Space is a fantastic context and there's lots more investigations in the booklet)

Inspiration:

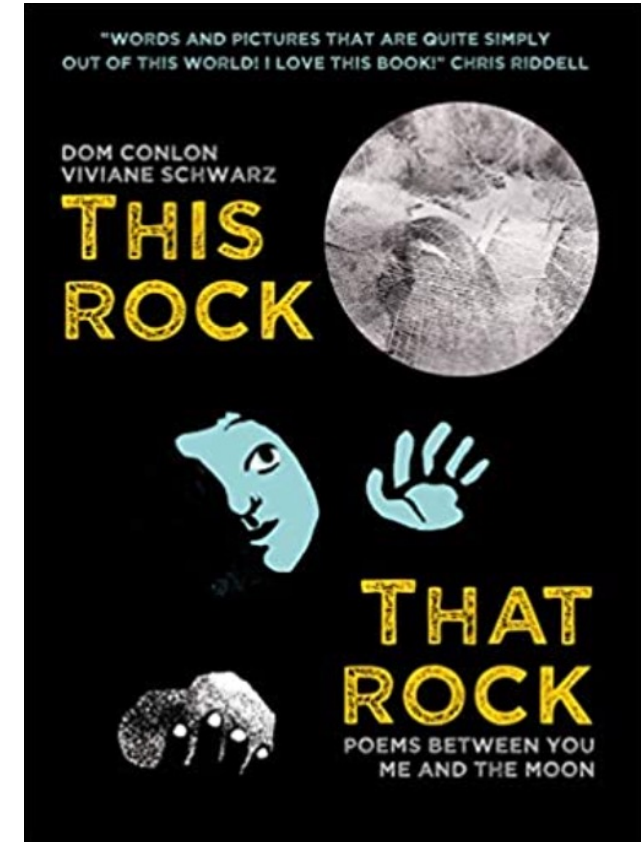
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8TssbmY-GM>

There's a range of video clips from ISS on youtube.

Title: This Rock That Rock

Author: Dom Conlon & Viviane Schwarz

ISBN 10:
1909991929





Science for reading

A beautifully illustrated non-fiction text exploring a range of life cycles on our planet

Science objective link:

Y5: describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird.

Cross curricular links: Art and Geography.

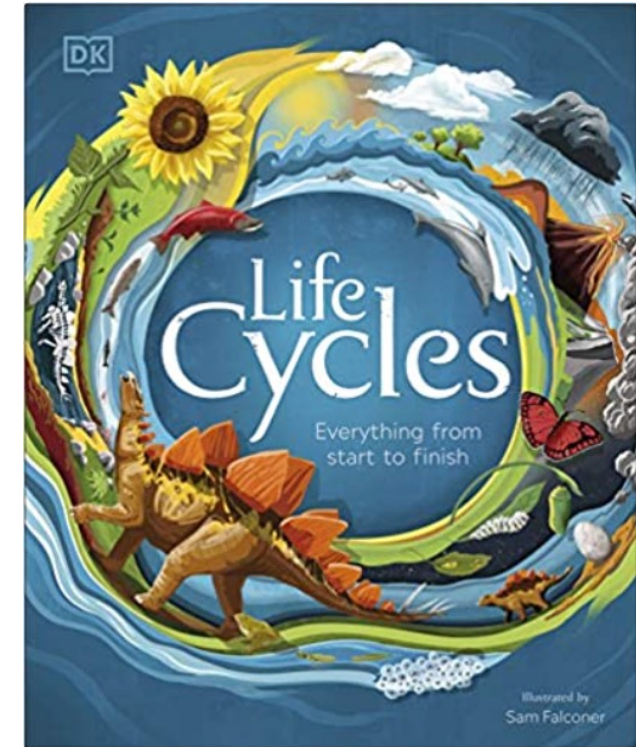
Science activity: Do dandelions grow bigger leaves further from the path? (recording data using tables and classification keys)

<https://www.saps.org.uk/primary/teaching-resources/219-dandelions-across-the-curriculum-at-ks2>

Inspiration:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjLiWy2nT7U>

Attenborough has some fascinating videos linked to the lifecycle of plants and insects easily available on youtube and iplayer.



Title: Life Cycles-
Everything from
start to finish

Author: Sam
Falconer

ISBN 10:
0241410998



Science for reading

A story told in rhyme about a young girl struggling to find her identity. Extracts could be used to discuss pregnancy (Annie's Mum is pregnant), aging, growing up and coping with change.

Science objective link:

Y5: describe the changes as humans develop to old age

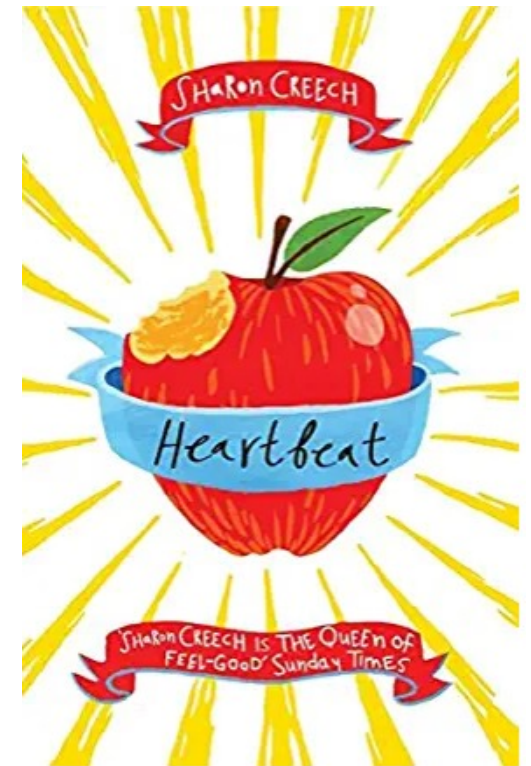
Cross curricular links: PSHE, English and Art.

Science activity: Do bigger animals have longer gestations? (reporting and presenting findings)

<https://www.stem.org.uk/resources/elibrary/resource/35389/animal-gestation-periods#&gid=undefined&pid=1>

Inspiration:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zgssgk7/articles/z2msv4j>



Title: Heartbeat

Author: Sharon Creech

ISBN 10:
0747571473



Science for reading

THE only book you will ever need to explore all of the elements in the periodic table. Children and teachers alike will discover something new about the wealth of materials around them.

Science objective link:

Y5: compare and group together everyday materials on the basis of their properties, including hardness, solubility, transparency etc.

Cross curricular links: English and History

**Science activity: Which is the strongest material?
(planning different types of scientific enquiries)**

<https://www.stem.org.uk/resources/elibrary/resource/33462/properties-materials#&gid=undefined&pid=1>

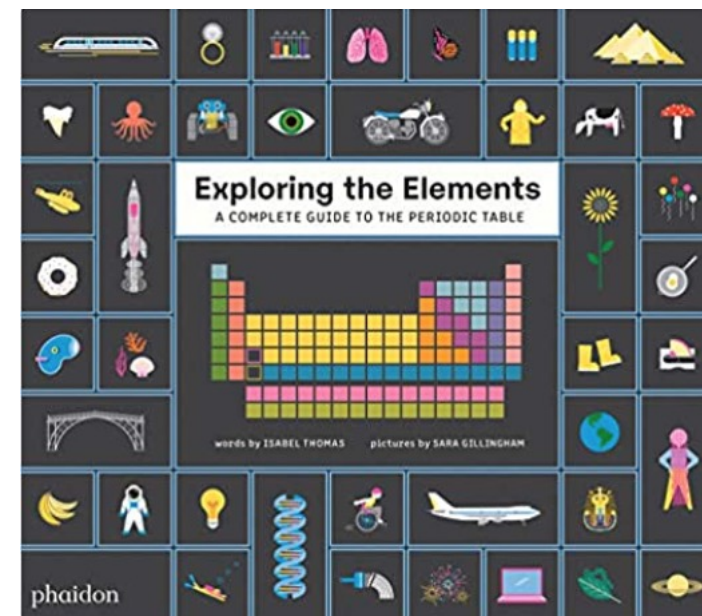
Inspiration:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zcvv4wx/resources/1>

Title: Exploring the Elements

Author: Isabel Thomas & Sara Gillingham

ISBN 10:
1838662318





Forces

Science for reading

A fantastic non-fiction book which lets children explore the magical world of machines in our everyday lives. Cleverly designed to allow children to search out the machines in the pictures there are lots of opportunities to learn more about how simple machines really influence our lives.

Science objective link: Y5

Recognise that some mechanisms including levers, pulleys and gears allow a smaller force to have a greater effect.

Cross curricular links: Technology

Science activity: Can I build a Rube Goldberg machine that works? **Taking measurements including repeat readings when appropriate**

<https://www.connectionsacademy.com/support/resources/article/build-your-own-rube-goldberg-machine>

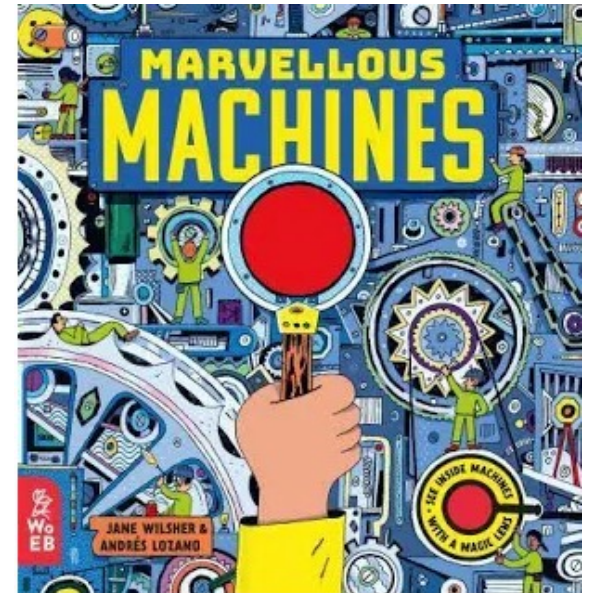
Inspiration:

<https://www.schoolsofkingedwardvi.co.uk/ks2-science-year-5-5c-forces-simple-machines/>

Title: Marvellous
Machines

Author: Jane
Wilsher & Andres
Lozano

ISBN 10:
1912920198





Science for reading

A gorgeous cutaway book which looks at the structures inside the human body including the heart and blood vessels.

Y6: identify and name the main parts of the human circulatory system, and describe the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood

Cross curricular links: English, Art and previous science topics

Science activity: Do taller people have a higher resting heart rate? (this question could be adapted)

<https://www.stem.org.uk/resources/elibrary/resource/315584/what-affects-your-heart-rate>

Y6: gathering and recording data

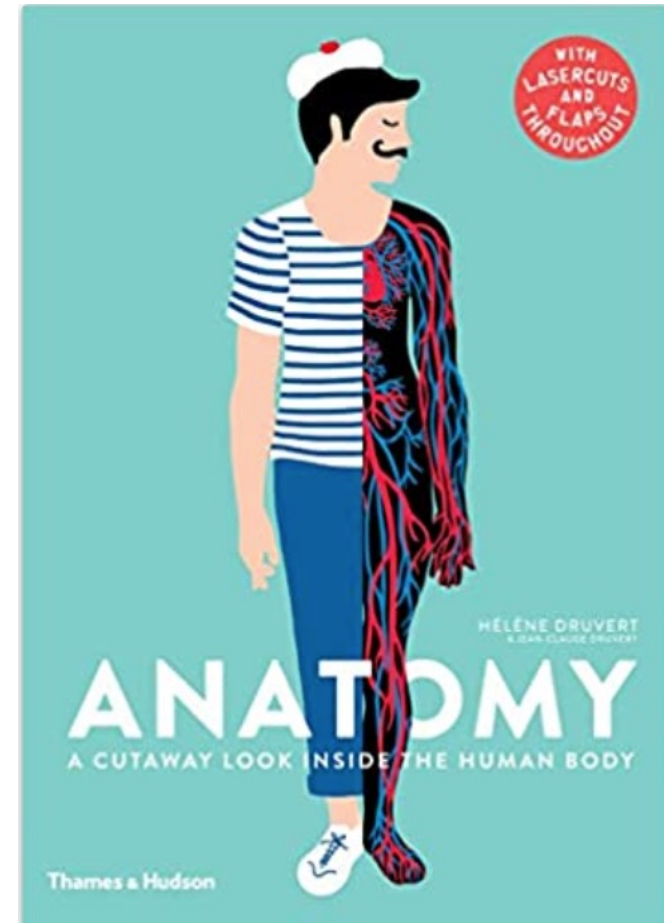
Inspiration:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yE3Y-XR8Ax4>

Title: Anatomy A cutaway look inside the human body

Author: Helene Druvert

ISBN 10:
0500651361





Science for reading

A beautifully illustrated non-fiction linked to the fantastic 'Beetle boy' series of books by the same author. The illustrations are exquisite and will transport children into the wonderful world of beetles.

Science objective link:

Y6: describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics.

Cross curricular links: Geography, English and Art

Science activity: How rich is your habitat?

<https://www.stem.org.uk/resources/elibrary/resource/32702/how-rich-your-habitat#&gid=undefined&pid=1>

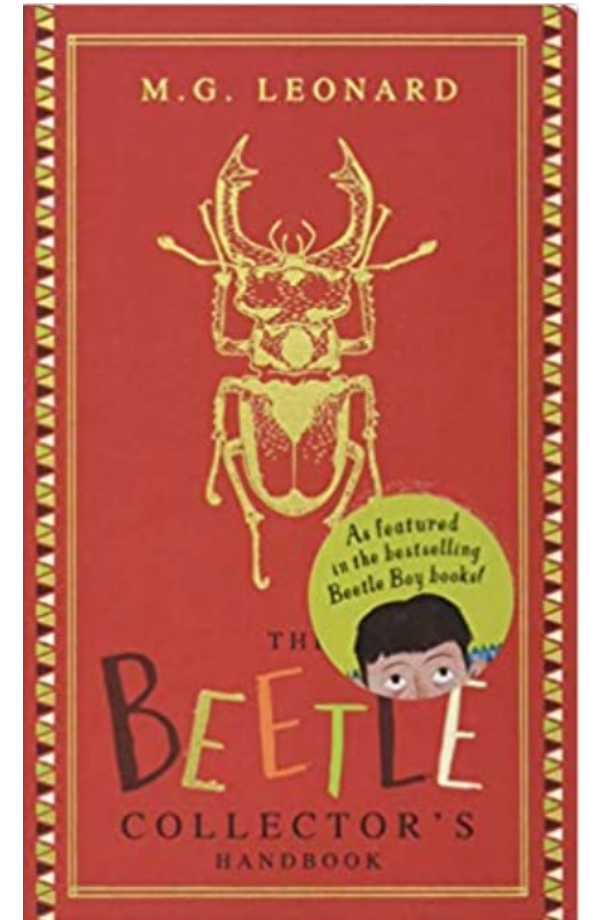
Inspiration:

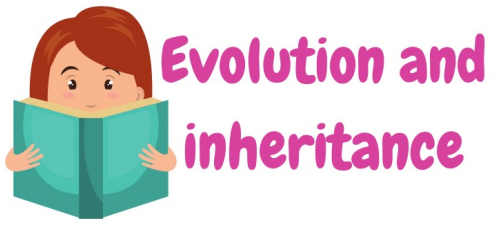
<https://www.stem.org.uk/resources/elibrary/resource/28718/classification>

Title: The Beetle Collector's Handbook

Author: M.G Leonard

ISBN:
1407185668





Science for reading

A book which will transport you back to Darwin's amazing exploration of the Galapagos. A wonderful fictional adventure which will leave your children wanting more!

Science objective link:

Y6: identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution

Cross curricular links: English, History and Geography

Science activity: Identifying scientific evidence that has been used to support or refute ideas or arguments

Does competition happen in my garden?

https://www.stem.org.uk/system/files/elibrary-resources/legacy_files_migrated/20932-02_KS2_M3_Struggle_for_life_Booklet_V5.pdf

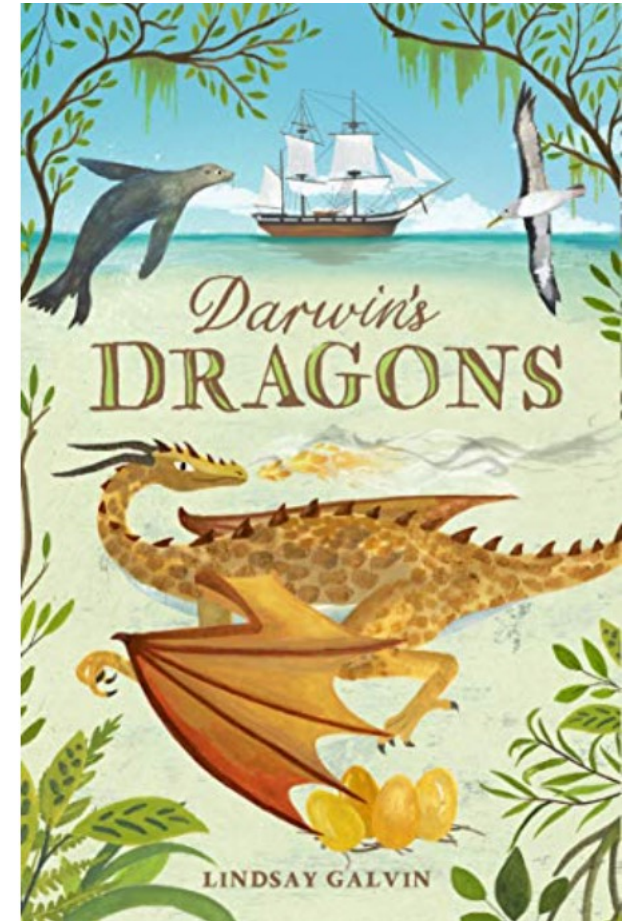
Inspiration:

https://www.comedy.co.uk/tv/horrible_histories/videos/15514/charles_darwin_natural_selection/

Title: Darwin's
Dragons

Author: Lindsay
Galvin

ISBN 10:
1912626462





Light

Science for reading

A beautifully told story about the botanist and photographer Anna Atkins. Discover how cyanotypes were used to create the first ever book of photographs.

Science objective link:

Y6: Use the idea that light travels in straight lines to explain why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them.

Cross curricular links: Art and History.

Science activity: Does a bigger object always create a bigger shadow? Y6 Taking measurements and presenting findings.

<https://www.stem.org.uk/resources/elibrary/resource/26917/light-crime-lab-investigation#&gid=undefined&pid=7>

Inspiration:

<https://www.artbarblog.com/sun-prints-with-kids/>

Title: The bluest of Blues

Author: Fiona Robinson

ISBN 10:
1419725513





A fantastic summary of how our scientific understanding has developed overtime. This books will allow older KS2 children to appreciate that science is a collaborative subject and shouldn't be treated as a list of facts but is made up of a wealth of stories and people asking important questions.

Science objective link:

Y6: identify scientific evidence that has been used to support or refute ideas or arguments.

Cross curricular links: History and previous science topics.

Science activity: Which scientist has made the biggest difference to science?

<https://www.science-sparks.com/activities-for-learning-about-famous-scientists/>

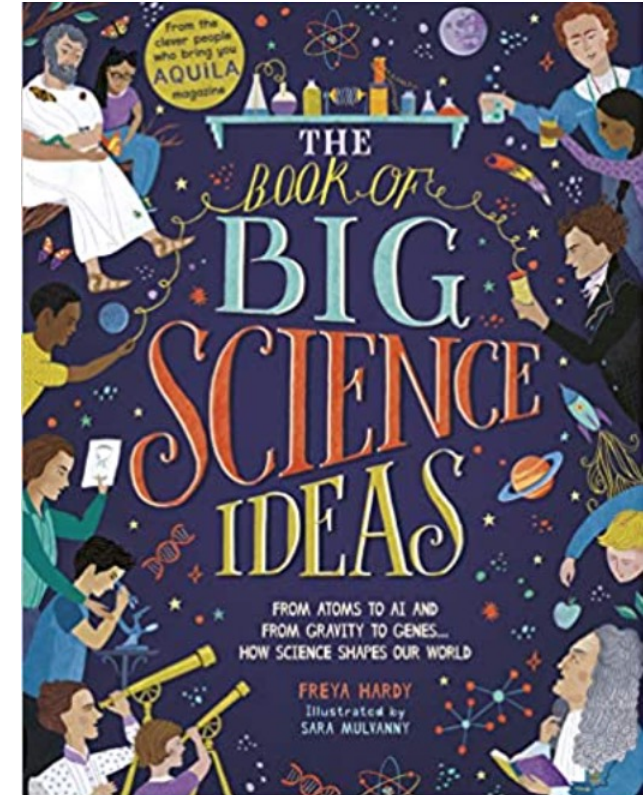
Pupils could research 1 scientist, showcase 1 activity linked to that scientist and debate who is their top scientist of all time

Inspiration: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/science-ks2-scientists-and-scientific-method/z43mbdm>

Title: The Book of Big Science Ideas

Author: Freya Hardy & Sara Mulvanny

**ISBN 10:
1782407383**





For more information and links to science literacy and vocab focused resources visit:

<https://seerih-innovations.org/just-good-stuff/science-for-reading/>

