

Top 10 books for use in science for 5-7 year olds



**Compiled by
Rose Edmondson**



A picture book celebrating the life of an oak tree. Told in lyrical form the language and illustrations will engage and inspire.

Science objective link:

Y1: identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants, including trees

Cross curricular links: Science (seasons), English, History

Science activity: Are the leaves I find in school the same as the leaves I find at home? (Y1 Identifying and Classifying)

<https://www.saps.org.uk/primary/teaching-resources/560>

(download the Making observations activity)

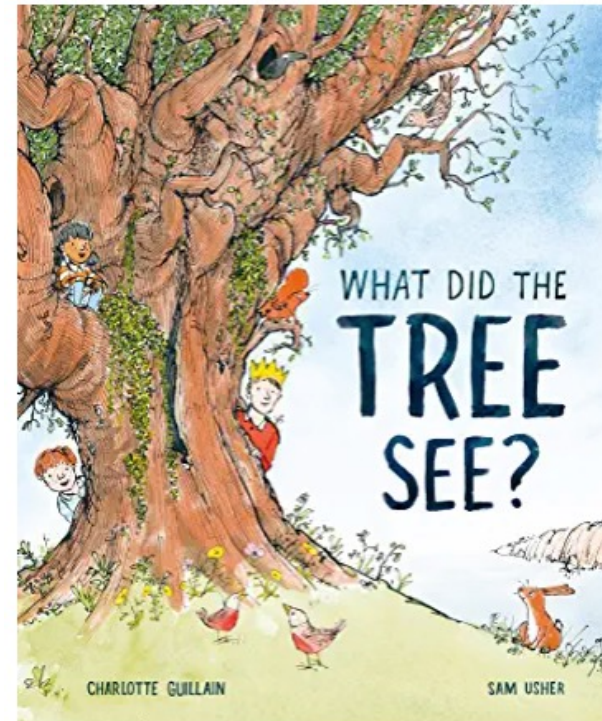
Inspiration: Explore the pages at the back of the book on being a history detective and a friend to trees:

www.nationalforest.org

Title: What did the tree see?

Author: Charlotte Guillain & Sam Usher

ISBN 10:
1913519018





Science for reading

A beautifully illustrated non-fiction text exploring the diversity of life on our planet.

Science objective link:

Y1: identify and name a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.

Cross curricular links: Art (observational drawings), Geography and English

Science activity: Do all birds look the same? (Y1 observing closely, using simple equipment)

Use binoculars or a wildlife camera could be set up in the school grounds. This could be linked to the bird watch which happens in January.

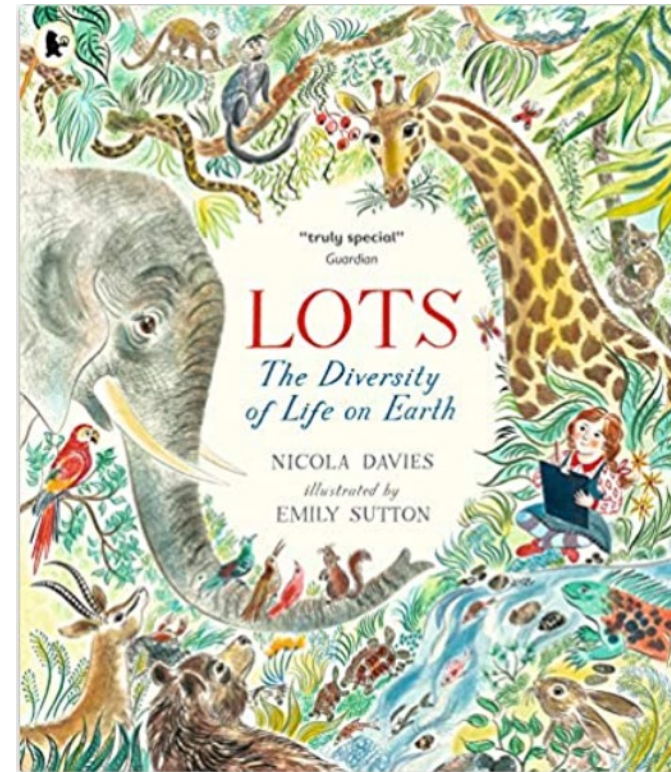
<https://www.stem.org.uk/resources/elibrary/resource/417954/birds-spotter-sheets-suitable-home-learning>

Inspiration: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>

Title: Lots The diversity of life on Earth

Author: Nicola Davies & Emily Sutton

**ISBN 10:
1406378894**





Materials

Science for reading

A beautiful story about the journey of a lonely tortoise who goes in search of the stars.

Science objective link:

Y1: distinguish between an object and the material from which it is made.

Identify and name a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, metal, water and rock.

Cross curricular links: PSHE, English and Technology

Science activity: Which material would be best for a balloon? Y1 gathering and recording data. The resource below could be adapted.

<https://www.hamilton-trust.org.uk/science/year-1-science/everyday-materials-marvellous-materials/>

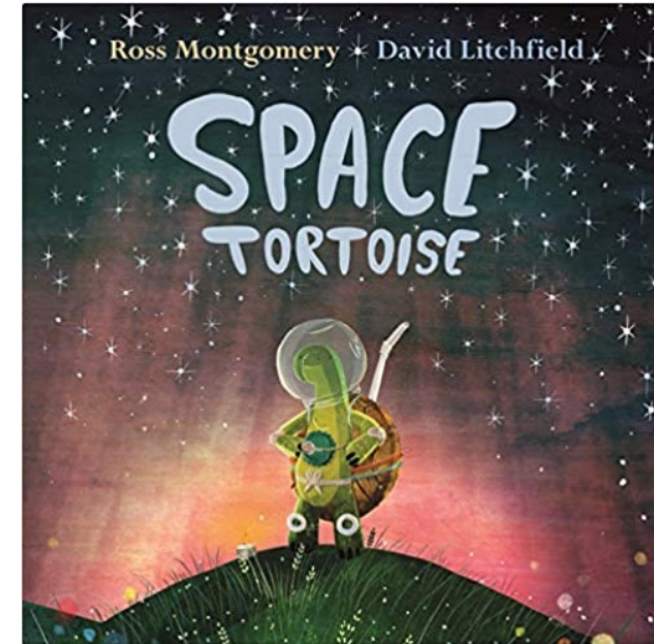
Inspiration:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOKr462HLc0>

Title: Space Tortoise

Author: Ross Montgomery & David Lichfield

ISBN 10: 0571331062





Science for reading

A 'see-through' non fiction book which engages children to learn more about their body.

Science objective link:

Y1: identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense

Cross curricular links: English

Science activity: Can I predict what I'm eating?

<https://www.stem.org.uk/resources/elibrary/resource/29287/taste-key-stage-one#&gid=undefined&pid=1>

Inspiration:

<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/poems/senses>

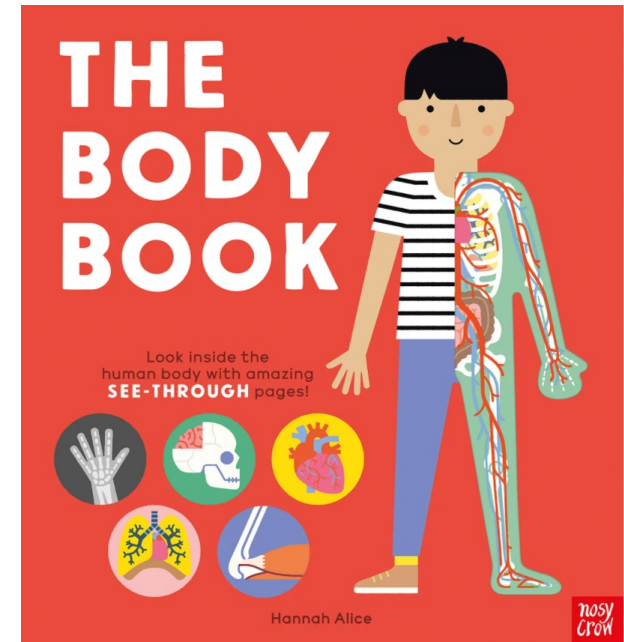
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/terrific-scientific/KS2/zbj7nrd>

(aimed at KS2 but some great areas for investigation)

Title: The Body Book

Author: Hannah Alice

ISBN 10:
1788006763





Seasons

Science for reading

A wonderful picture book to introduce discussions about changes in the seasons.

Science objective link: Y1:

Observe changes across the 4 seasons

Observe and describe weather associated with the seasons and how day length varies

Cross curricular links: English, previous Science topics (classifying animals), Art and Geography

Science activity: Does more rain fall in winter? Collect data from handmade rain gauges and compare winter months with others. **Y1 gathering and recording data**

<https://www.stem.org.uk/resources/elibrary/resource/416919/seasonal-changes-wonderful-weather>

Inspiration: Artwork from twitter (@artmember209)

<https://twitter.com/melthamceart/status/1391837625212981251>

Title: Little Bear's Spring

Author: Elli Woollard & Bryony May Smith

ISBN 10:
150980790X





Plants

SCIENCE FOR READING

A beautiful picture book detailing how seeds are dispersed with some fantastic links to plant life cycles

Y2: observe and describe how seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants

Cross curricular links: English, Geography, Art

Science activity: Does a bigger seed germinate quicker?

Y2: gathering and recording data

Inspiration:

<https://www.stem.org.uk/resources/elibrary/resource/33360/plants-ready-steady-grow>

Create a sprout house for the window:

<https://www.playdoughtoplato.com/11-plant-life-cycle-activities/>



Title: From tiny seeds

Author: Emilie Vast

ISBN 10:
0500561892



Science for reading

A book which reminds me of the 'You Choose' series where children can explore which foods they'd cook with and why. Perfect to get talking about healthy diets and where our food comes from.

Science objective link:

Y2: describe the importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food, and hygiene.

Cross curricular links: English, Technology and PSHE

Science activity: Asking simple questions and recognizing they can be answered in different ways

<https://www.stem.org.uk/resources/elibrary/resource/91781/lesson-3-how-do-you-eat-arctic-explorer>

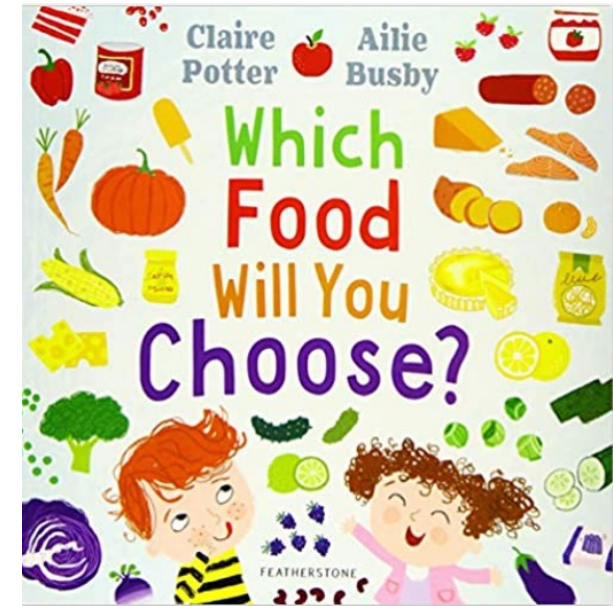
Inspiration:

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/rainbow-fruit-skewers>

Title: Which food will you choose?

Author: Claire Potter & Ailie Busby

ISBN 10:
1472973825





Materials

Science for reading

A fantastic story about how creativity and imagination can help you to build anything- especially if you have a team of friends to help you on the way.

Science objective link:

Y2: find out how the shapes of solid objects made from some materials can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching

Cross curricular links: Art, PSHE

Science activity: Which materials make the best model house? Y2 Observing closely using simple equipment

<https://inventorsof tomorrow.com/2016/10/17/if-i-built-a-house-2/>

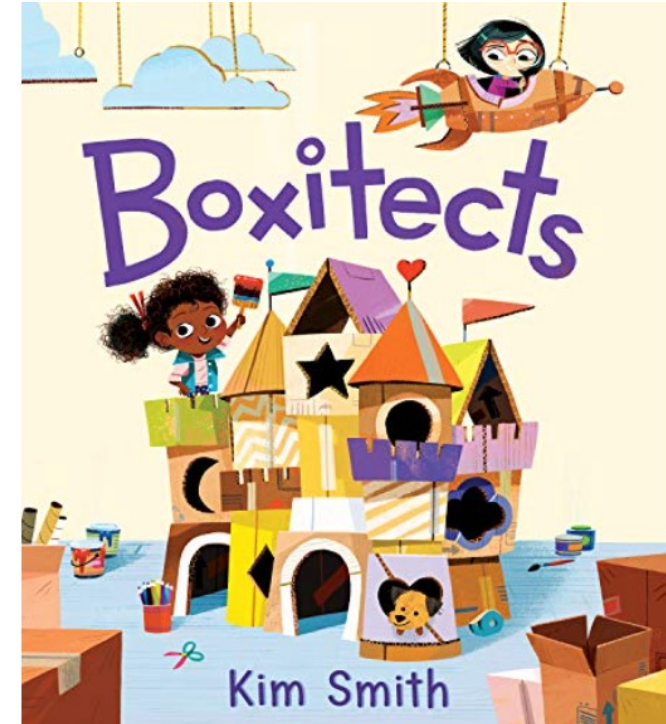
Inspiration: Showcase from Y2 building houses from different materials

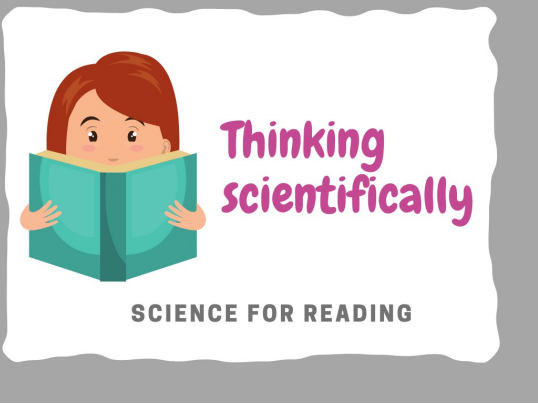
<https://www.angleseysch-bham.co.uk/building-a-model-house-using-different-materials/>

Title: Boxitects

Author: Kim Smith

ISBN 10:
1328477207





A wonderful picture book which explores using your imagination and being creative. The charming story will inspire children to look at their design projects in a totally different way and allow them to realise that perspective and perseverance can help you achieve a truly magnificent thing.

Science objective link:

Y1 & 2: perform simple tests, ask simple questions and use observations and ideas to suggest answers to questions

Cross curricular links: PSHE, Technology and Art

Science activity: Which is the best material for a toy wagon?

<https://decorcraftdesign.com/2019/04/19/how-to-make-faux-ikea-kids-wagon-from-upcycling-cardboard-boxes/>

Inspiration: <https://www.littleinventors.org/>
Inspiration for all the inventors in your classroom!!

Title: The Most Magnificent Thing
Author: Ashley Spires
ISBN 10: 1554537045





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

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

