

**Exploring our Natural World**  
Curriculum Materials Center  
Cheng Library, William Paterson University

Here's a selected list of resources for teaching about nature in the primary grades. Additional internet resources can be found at: *Education and Curriculum Resources webpage*, <http://www.wpunj.edu/library/currmats>

**Teacher Resources**

Bain, A. J., Richer, J., & Weckman, J. (2001). *Life sciences: Curriculum resources and activities for school librarians and teachers*. Englewood, CO: Teacher Ideas Press. (Grades K-8).

**Call Number: Curr.Mats. LB1585 .B236 2001**

Barrett, K., & Willard, C. (1998). *Schoolyard ecology: Teacher's guide*. Berkeley, CA: Lawrence Hall of Science, University of California. (Grades 3-6).

**Call Number: Curr.Mats. QH541.2 .B37 1998**

Butzow, C. M., & Butzow, J. W. (1998). *More science through children's literature: An integrated approach*. Englewood, CO: Teacher Ideas Press. (Grades K-3).

**Call Number: Curr.Mats. LB1585 .B843 1998**

Butzow, C. M., & Butzow, J. W. (2000). *Science through children's literature: An integrated approach*. (2nd ed.). Englewood, CO: Teacher Ideas Press. (Grades K-3).

**Call Number: Curr.Mats. LB1585 .B85 2000**

Ebenezer, J. V. (2003). *Science on the Internet: A resource for K-12 teachers*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Merrill. (Grades K-12).

**Call Number: Curr.Mats. LB1585 .E189 2003**

Gates, J. M. (1999). *Consider the earth: Environmental activities for grades 4-8*. (2nd ed.). Englewood, CO: Teacher Ideas Press. (Grades 4-8).

**Call Number: GE77 .G38 1999eb [online]**

Kohl, M. F., & Potter, J.(1993). *Science arts: Discovering science through art experiences*. Bellingham, WA: Bright Ring Pub. (Grades Pre K-5).

**Call Number: Curr.Mats. Q164 .K64 1993**

- Levine, S., Grafton, A., & Chui, T. (1992). *Projects for a healthy planet: Simple environmental experiments for kids*. New York: Wiley. (Grades K-5).  
**Call Number: Curr.Mats. TD171.7 .L48 1992**
- Livo, N. J. (2000). *Celebrating the earth: Stories, experiences, and activities*. Englewood, CO: Teacher Ideas Press. (Grades K-12).  
**Call Number: Curr.Mats. QL50 .L57 2000**
- Murdoch, K. (1993). *Ideas for environmental education in the elementary classroom*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann. (Grades K-5).  
**Call Number: Curr.Mats. GE70 .M87 1993**
- O'Brien, P. (1997). *Seasons: Cross-curriculum units for theme teaching*. Carthage, IL: Teaching & Learning Company. (Grades K-3).  
**Call Number: Curr.Mats. QB637.2 .O27 1997**
- Olien, R. (1997). *Exploring plants*. New York: Scholastic Professional Books. (Grades 2-4).  
**Call Number: Curr.Mats. QK52.55 .O58 1997**
- Petrash, C. (1992). *Earthways: Simple environmental activities for young children*. Mt. Rainier, MD: Gryphon House. (Grades K-5).  
**Call Number: Curr.Mats. GE77 .P48 1992**
- Pike, K., & Mumper, J. (1998). *Books don't have to be flat!: Innovative ways to publish students' writing in every curriculum area*. New York: Scholastic, Inc. (Grades 3-6).  
**Call Number: Curr.Mats. Z116 .A3 P55 1998**
- Raines, S. (1994). *450 more story stretchers for the primary grades: Activities to expand children's favorite books*. Mt. Ranier, MD: Gryphon House. (Grades K-5).  
**Call Number: Curr.Mats. LB1527 .R35 1994**
- Walsh, N. (1994). *Making books across the curriculum*. New York: Scholastic Professional Books. (Grades K-6).  
**Call Number: Curr.Mats. Z116 .A3 W35 1994**

## Juvenile Books

- Aardema, V. (1981). *Bringing the rain to Kapiti Plain: A Nandi tale*. New York: Scholastic Inc. (Grades K-2).  
Retold from “the Nandi House that Jack Built” the Nandi tale that relates how Kipat brought rain to the drought-stricken Kapiti Plain.  
**Call Number: [Big Book] PJ Aar** Also available as a video, **VC5387**
- Berger, M. (1996). *The mighty ocean*. New York: Newbridge Communications. (Grades 3-6).  
Discusses the importance of oceans, tides, storms, and marine life.  
**Call Number: [Big Book] j551.46 Ber**
- Cannon, J. (2001). *Stellaluna*. New York: Scholastic Inc. (Grades K-4).  
After she falls headfirst into a bird’s nest, a baby bat is raised like a bird until she is reunited with her mother.  
**Call Number: [Big Book] PJ Can**
- Cherry, L. (1990). *The great Kapok tree: A tale of the Amazon rain forest*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. (Grades K-5).  
The many different animals that live in a great kapok tree in the Brazilian rainforest try to convince a man with an ax to not cut down their home.  
**Call Number: PJ Che**
- Cherry, L. (2004). *The sea, the storm, and the mangrove tangle*. New York: Farrar Strauss Giroux. (Grades K-3).  
A seed from a mangrove tree floats on the sea until it comes to rest on the shore of a faraway lagoon where, over time, it becomes a mangrove island.  
**Call Number: PJ Che**
- Earle, S. A. (1999). *Hello, Fish!: Visiting the coral reef*. Washington, DC: National Geographic Society. (Grades K-4).  
An underwater explorer takes a tour of the ocean and introduces such fish as the damselfish, red lipped batfish, and brown goby.  
**Call Number: j597 Ear**
- Ehlert, L. (1994). *Growing vegetable soup*. New York: Scholastic Inc. (Grades K-2).  
A father and child grow vegetables and then make them into a soup. Vegetable soup recipe included.  
**Call Number: PJ Ehl**

- Ehlert, L. (2001). *Waiting for wings*. New York: Scholastic Inc. (Grades K-2).  
The life of a butterfly is traced through various sized pages with brilliant colored artwork from egg to caterpillar to chrysalis emerging as a butterfly in a garden.  
**Call Number: j 595.789 Ehl** Also available as a video, **VC5399**
- Guiberson, B. Z. (2001). *The emperor lays an egg*. New York: Henry Holt & Co. (Grades K-4).  
Cut paper collages tell about the Antarctic environment in which the emperor penguins lay and hatch their eggs.  
**Call Number: j598.47 Gui**
- Hall, Z. (1998). *The apple pie tree*. New York: Scholastic. (Grades K-2).  
Describes an apple tree as it grows leaves and flowers and then produces its fruit, while in its branches robins make a nest, lay eggs, and raise a family. Includes a recipe for apple pie.  
**Call Number: [Big Book] j634.11 Hal**
- Kudlinski, K. V. (2005). *Boy, were we wrong about dinosaurs!* New York: Dutton Children's Books. (Grades K-3).  
Examines what is known about dinosaur bones, behavior, and other characteristics and the differences between the facts and what scientists believed to be true.  
**Call Number: j567.9 Kud**
- Lasky, K. (2001). *Interrupted journey: Saving endangered sea turtles*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press. (Grades 3-6).  
Describes the efforts to protect sea turtles, particularly Kemp's Ridley turtles, helping them reproduce and replenish their once-dwindling numbers.  
**Call Number: j639.9 Las**
- Locker, T. (1984). *Where the river begins*. (1st ed.). New York: Dial Books. (Grades K-4).  
Two young boys and their grandfather go on a camping trip to find the source of the river that flows by their home.  
**Call Number: PJ Loc**
- Prelutsky, J. (1997). *Beauty of the beast: Poems*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. (Grades 3-7).  
An illustrated collection of poems about animals, insects, and birds by poets from different parts of the world.  
**Call Number: j811.008 Bea**

- Quigley, M. (2005). *Wetlands explorer*. Chicago: Raintree. (Grades 1-4).  
 Take a journey through the Florida Everglades and discover the different animals and plants that populate this habitat.  
**Call Number: j577.68 Qui**
- Ryder, J. (1991). *Winter Whale*. New York: Morrow Junior Books. (Grades K-3).  
 Transformed into a humpback whale, a child experiences life in the ocean among other whales.  
**Call Number: PJ Ryd**
- Rylant, C. (1986). *Night in the country*. New York: Bradbury Press. (Grades K-3).  
 Text and illustrations describe the sights and sounds of nighttime in the country.  
**Call Number: PJ Ryl**
- Seeger, P. (2002). *One grain of sand: A lullaby*. New York: Little, Brown. (Grades PreK -1).  
 A lullaby celebrating the fragility of the environment, the innocence of childhood, and the sense that we all are connected and part of the world's family.  
**Call Number: PJ See**
- Seuss. (1985, 1974). *The lorax*. New York: Random House. (Grades K-3).  
 The Once-ler describes the results of the local pollution problem.  
**Call Number PJ Seu**
- Silverman-Dresner, T. R. (2005). *The garbage grandma*. Milford, PA: The Print Shop. (Grades K-4).  
 This book shows children the importance of recycling to the environment.  
**Call Number: PJ Sil**
- Udry, J. M. (1956). *A tree is nice*. New York: Harper. (Grades K-4).  
 Briefly describes the value of a tree.  
**Call Number: PJ Udr**
- Yolen, J. (1987). *Owl moon*. New York: Philomel Books. (Grades K-4).  
 On a winter's night under a full moon, a father and daughter trek into the woods to see the Great Horned Owl.  
**Call Number: PJ Yol**

## Websites

### *Children's Butterfly Site:*

The Children's Butterfly Website is a resource made available by the National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) and housed with the Big Sky Institute at Montana State University. The site includes an overview of the butterfly and moth life cycle, a gallery of international butterfly photographs, coloring pages, and links to other butterfly websites. (Grades K-8).

**<http://bsi.montana.edu/web/kidsbutterfly/>**

### *Cool Science for Curious Kids:*

This site includes a variety of science activities that make science fun, practical, and realistic. For students in Kindergarten through third grade. The suggestions for parents are also appropriate for the classroom. (Grades K-3).

**<http://www.hhmi.org/coolscience/>**

### *Education World: Science Lesson Plans:*

Education World's goal is to make it easy for educators to integrate the Internet into the classroom. Educators can use their search engine to find information without searching the entire Internet. This section of the web site has numerous science lesson plans and activities, and articles written by education experts. (Grades K-12).

**[http://educationworld.com/a\\_lesson/archives/science.shtml](http://educationworld.com/a_lesson/archives/science.shtml)**

### *For Kids Only:*

A NASA kids' site that is accessible by grade levels gives information on hurricanes, why the wind blows, includes games, and many other activities. This site also includes a section for educators. (Grades K-12).

**<http://kids.earth.nasa.gov/site.htm>**

### *Science for Ohio: Choose an Inquiry:*

This web site has more than a dozen themes for the science curriculum. Each inquiry consists of a comprehensive teacher's guide with multiple activities, websites, related books, and ready to print student pages. These are hands-on investigations of real-world science inquiry including rocks, erosion, composting, recycling, hibernation and more. (Grades K-12).

**<http://casnov1.casmuohio.edu/scienceforohio/>**

### *Science NetLinks:*

Science NetLinks provides a wealth of resources for K-12 science educators, and is a guide to meaningful standards-based Internet experiences for students. Lessons covering numerous science topics are arranged by grade range, and include the AAAS "Benchmark for Science Literacy" standards. (Grades K-12).

**<http://www.sciencenetlinks.com/>**