



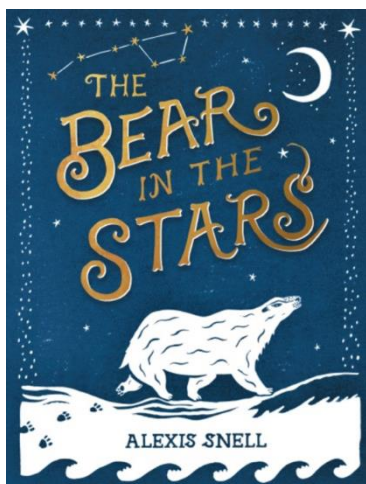
22 Children's books about biodiversity, nature and the environment

All around the world, a plethora of environmental changes are happening on local and global scales. As we continue to experience these phenomena, it is crucial to educate current and future generations of youth about the importance of biodiversity in our everyday lives.

One of the most important things that we can teach children is how to care for and protect our planet. In addition to experiencing the natural world by physically being outdoors, another way to allow children of all ages to experience nature is through books. Whether a toddler or pre-teen, reading about nature is a wonderful way to encourage children to love and respect the outdoors. This will help kids of all ages learn and better understand the importance of the environment and provide them with the knowledge to live sustainable and environmentally friendly lives.

We encourage parents, educators, legal guardians, and role models of all kinds to promote reading, whether that is at home or school. An environmental education can help build critical thinking and literacy skills while inspiring young readers to become more engaged in their communities. Please note that the selection of books provided within this list is meant to create engagement and participation in the Biodiversity Day campaign and is limited to children's books in the English language. As such, this list is by no means exhaustive or fully representative of all the engaging and informative children's books around the world that promote biodiversity, nature, and the environment. [Disclaimer](#).

1. The Bear in the Stars



- **Author:** Alexis Snell
- **Illustrator:** Alexis Snell
- **Recommended age group:** All Ages, Not Specified
- **Description from publisher:** A stunning, lyrical picture book - a timely fable about climate change and the transformative power of kindness.

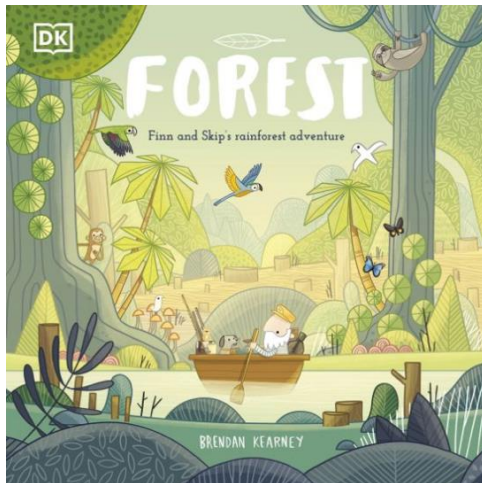
There was once a bear, a great, white bear - Queen of Beasts. Her kingdom was a beautiful, cold, glistening place. But over the years the ice disappeared, slipping away like sand through an hourglass. Slowly, slowly, one by one, the other animals moved on.

The Great Bear has no choice but to leave her snowy realm to search for food, friends and a new home. She soon discovers a world that is growing hotter whilst hearts grow colder - until one small act of kindness changes everything. The Bear in the Stars is a story about loss, kindness and new beginnings.

A striking modern fable and an original and uplifting response to the issue of climate change. A beautiful and inspirational gift for readers of all ages.

- **Link:** <https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/316224/the-bear-in-the-stars/9780241441909.html>

2. Forest



- **Author:** Brendan Kearney
- **Illustrator:** Brendan Kearney
- **Recommended age group:** 3-5 years
- **Description from publisher:** Introduce children to the importance of protecting the environment with this illustrated story book about deforestation and its effect on animals.

Join fisherman Finn and his dog, Skip, on their second adventure in this illustrated story book for young children, which teaches them about deforestation and what they can do to help.

Finn and Skip are on an adventure vacation, cycling through the towering rainforests of central America, when they notice that large patches of trees seem to have disappeared. The plot thickens when an unexpected guest arrives at their campsite—a lonely baby tapir. They feed their new friend, but the next morning they wake up to even more hungry animals. It seems something is afoot in the forest, and Finn and Skip set out to discover what's going on...

This book is the ideal introduction to the environmental concerns facing our forests, featuring colorful illustrations and an engaging, light-hearted storyline, drawn and written by Brendan Kearney. Grown-ups and children will enjoy reading together and following the story of Finn and Skip, with its ups and downs, and pointing out all the different animals that Finn meets in the rainforest. They'll also learn about how using ethical products can help save the animals.

With its fun, quirky illustrations, Forest is the perfect addition to a child's bookshelf. Young readers will love this picture book with a timely and ultimately uplifting message about protecting the world around us.

- **Link:** <https://www.dk.com/us/book/9780744063110-forest/>

3. My Friend Earth



- **Author:** Patricia MacLachlan
- **Illustrator:** Francesca Sanna
- **Recommended age group:** 3-5 years
- **Description from publisher:** Celebrate Earth Day with this valentine to our wonderful planet from the Newbery Award-winning author of *Sarah, Plain and Tall*.

Our friend Earth does so many wonderful things! She tends to animals large and small. She pours down summer rain and autumn leaves. She sprinkles whisper-white snow and protects the tiny seeds waiting for spring.

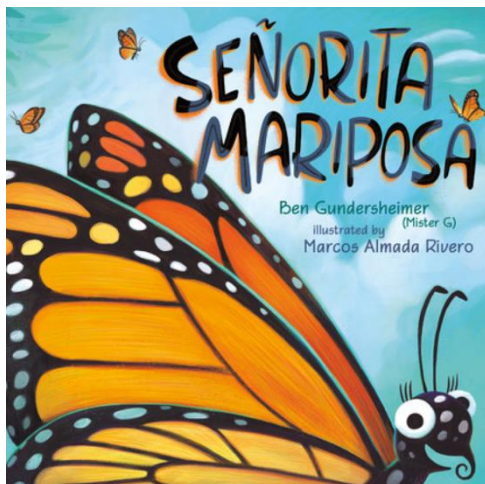
Readers of all ages will pore over the pages of this spectacular book. Its enticing die-cut pages encourage exploration as its poetic text celebrates everything Earth does for us, all the while reminding us to be a good friend in return.

- Interactive format and kid-friendly art will engage both toddlers and young readers.
- A celebration of the natural world and rallying cry for positive action for Planet Earth
- Great opportunities to share life science concepts and amazing facts about the environment with children

This beautiful and innovative ode to our natural world will appeal to readers of *Here We Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth*, *The Poet's Dog*, and *Thank You, Earth*.

- **Link:** <https://www.chroniclebooks.com/products/my-friend-earth>

4. **Señorita Mariposa**

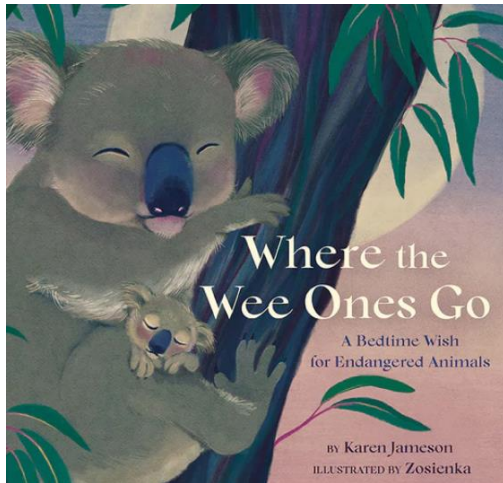


- **Author:** Ben Gundersheimer (Mister G)
- **Illustrator:** Marcos Almada Rivero
- **Recommended age group:** 3-5 years
- **Description from publisher:** A captivating and child-friendly look at the extraordinary journey that monarch butterflies take each year from Canada to Mexico; with a text in both English and Spanish.

Rhyming text and lively illustrations showcase the epic trip taken by the monarch butterflies. At the end of each summer, these international travelers leave Canada to fly south to Mexico for the winter—and now readers can come along for the ride! Over mountains capped with snow, to the deserts down below. Children will be delighted to share in the fascinating journey of the monarchs and be introduced to the people and places they pass before they finally arrive in the forests that their ancestors called home.

- **Link:** <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/556837/senorita-mariposa-by-ben-gundersheimer-mister-g-illustrated-by-marcos-almada-rivero/>

5. **Where the Wee Ones Go: A Bedtime Wish for Endangered Animals**



Author: Karen Jameson

Illustrator: Zosienka

Recommended age group: 3-5 years

Description from publisher: Wee readers will connect with wee endangered-animals in this mesmerizing bedtime book by Karen Jameson (Woodland Dreams, Farm Lullaby), promoting environmental awareness and encouraging the very sweetest of dreams!

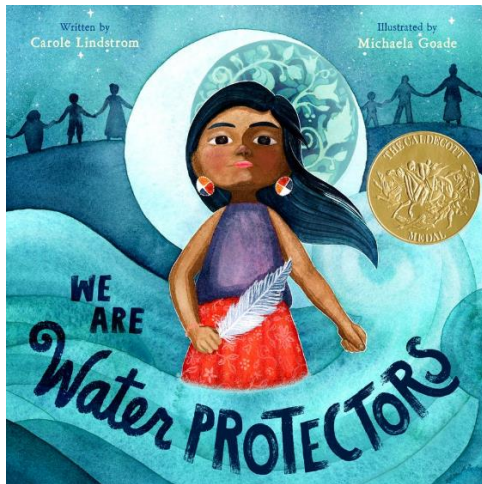
When stars are out and the moon's above,
where do the wee ones go, my love?
Where do the wee ones go?

Where do endangered animals go to sleep? Immerse yourself in the lush beauty of this bedtime picture book and find out. From the Pacific Ocean to China's mountains, the Australian outback, and beyond, each baby animal has a warm, safe place to fall asleep.

With a variety of baby endangered animals and their mamas gracing each gorgeous spread, readers will be transfixed by richly-illustrated scenes that span the globe and capture each creature's unique habitat. Snuggle close like a sweet panda, curl up like a cozy koala, and drift off like a drowsy elephant, letting the sweeping environments and soothing bedtime rituals of this gentle animal lullaby lull even the most restless little dreamers into a deep and peaceful sleep.

Link: <https://www.chroniclebooks.com/products/where-the-wee-ones-go>

6. We Are the Water Protectors



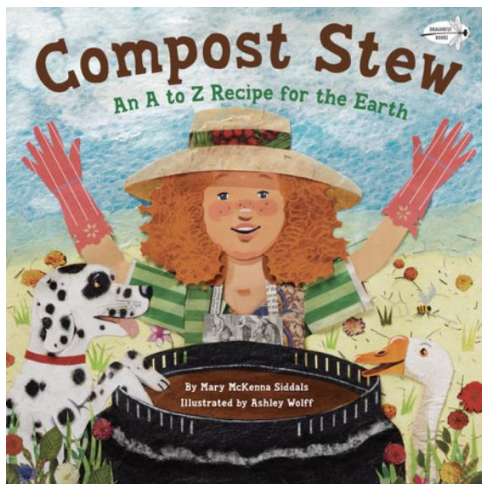
- **Author:** Carole Lindstrom
- **Illustrator:** Michaela Goade
- **Recommended age group:** 3-6 years
- **Description from publisher:** Inspired by the many Indigenous-led movements across North America, We Are Water Protectors issues an urgent rallying cry to safeguard the Earth's water from harm and corruption—a bold and lyrical picture book written by Carole Lindstrom and vibrantly illustrated by Michaela Goade.

Water is the first medicine.
It affects and connects us all . . .

When a black snake threatens to destroy the Earth
And poison her people's water, one young water protector
Takes a stand to defend Earth's most sacred resource.

- **Link:** <https://us.macmillan.com/books/9781250203557/wearewaterprotectors>

7. Compost Stew: An A to Z Recipe for the Earth

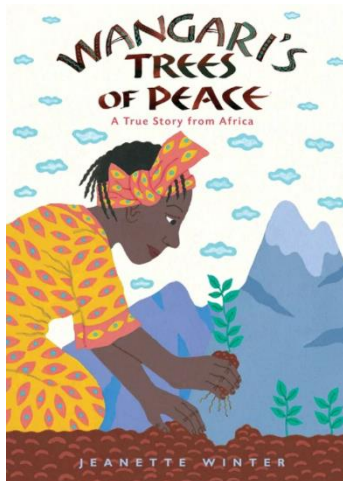


- **Author:** Mary McKenna Siddals
- **Illustrator:** Ashley Wolff
- **Recommended age group:** 3-7 years
- **Description from publisher:** Teach kids to compost and help them develop life-long habits to protect the Earth. From apple cores to zinnia heads, readers will discover the best ingredients for a successful compost pile in this fun picture book perfect for Earth Day!

Kids everywhere are seeking knowledge about the environment and climate change. Not only is composting becoming more common in households and residential gardens, but many school gardens feature compost piles, too. But how do you start a compost pile? What's safe to include? Perfect for an Earth Day focus or year-round reference, this inviting book provides all the answers for kids and families looking for simple, child-friendly ways to help the planet.

- **Link:** <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/198739/compost-stew-by-mary-mckenna-siddals-illustrated-by-ashley-wolff/>

8. Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa



- **Author:** Jeanette Winter
- **Illustrator:** Jeanette Winter
- **Recommended age group:** 4-7 years
- **Description from publisher:** A paperback picture book based on the true story of Wangari Maathai, an environmental and political activist in Kenya and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004.

As a young girl growing up in Kenya, Wangari was surrounded by trees. But years later when she returns home, she is shocked to see whole forests being cut down, and she knows that soon all the trees will be destroyed. So Wangari decides to do something—and starts by planting nine seedlings in her own backyard. And as they grow, so do her plans . . .

This true story of Wangari Maathai, environmentalist and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, is a shining example of how one woman's passion, vision, and determination inspired great change.

Includes an author's note.

- **Link:** <https://www.harpercollins.com/products/wangaris-trees-of-peace-jeanette-winter>

9. Our Planet! There's No Place Like Earth



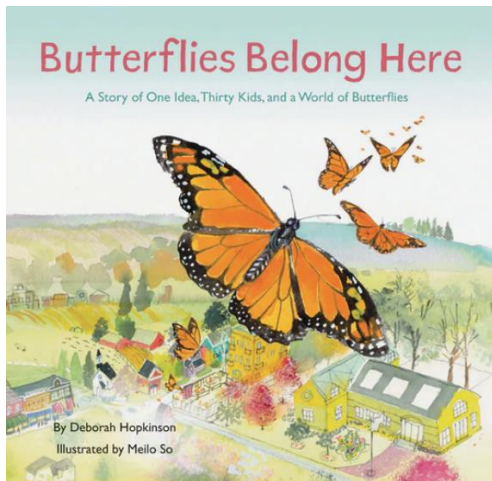
- **Author:** Stacy McAnulty
- **Illustrator:** David Litchfield
- **Recommended age group:** 4-8 years
- **Description from publisher:** From writer Stacy McAnulty and illustrator David Litchfield, *Our Planet! There's No Place Like Earth* is a nonfiction picture book about the Earth, told from the perspective of Earth herself.

Meet Earth. Planet Awesome! And your awesome home! Actually, Earth is home to all the plants and all the animals in the solar system, including nearly eight billion people. Humans have accidentally moved Earth's climate change into the fast lane, and she needs your help to put on the brakes. Earthlings need Earth, and Earth needs Earthlings, so let's save Earth together!

With characteristic humor and charm, Stacy McAnulty channels the voice of Earth in this next celestial "autobiography" in the *Our Universe* series. Rich with kid-friendly facts and beautifully brought to life by David Litchfield, this is an equally charming and irresistible picture book.

- **Link:** <https://us.macmillan.com/books/9781250782496/ourplanettheresnoplacelikeearth>

10. Butterflies Belong Here: A Story of One Idea, Thirty Kids, and a World of Butterflies



- **Author:** Deborah Hopkinson
- **Illustrator:** Meilo So
- **Recommended age group:** 5-8 years
- **Description from publisher:** Butterflies Belong Here is a powerful story of everyday activism and hope.

In this moving story of community conservation, a girl finds a home in a new place and a way to help other small travelers.

This book is about the real change children can make in conservation and advocacy—in this case, focusing on beautiful monarch butterflies.

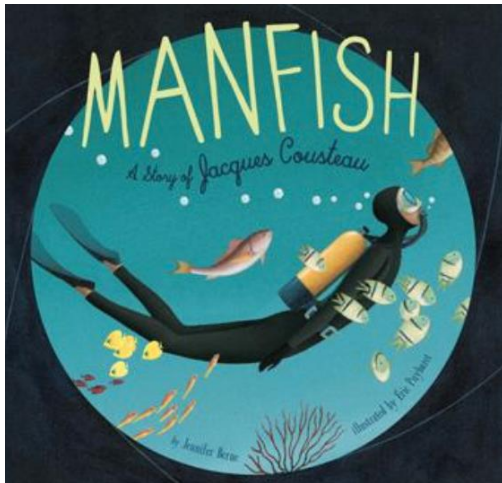
- From Deborah Hopkinson and Meilo So, the acclaimed team behind Follow the Moon Home
- An empowering, classroom-ready read
- The protagonist is a girl whose family has recently immigrated to the United States.

I know what to look for: large black-and-orange wings with a border of small white specks, flitting from flower to flower, sipping nectar. But though I looked hard, I couldn't find even one. I wondered if monarch butterflies belonged here. I wondered if I did, too.

Butterflies Belong Here is proof that even the smallest of us are capable of amazing transformations.

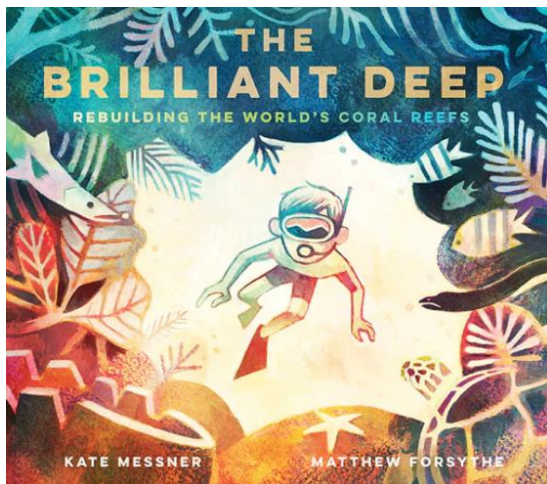
- **Link:** <https://www.chroniclebooks.com/products/butterflies-belong-here>

11. Manfish: A Story of Jacques Cousteau



- **Author:** Jennifer Berne
- **Illustrator:** Éric Puybaret
- **Recommended age group:** 5-8 years
- **Description from publisher:** Once upon a time in France, a baby was born under the summer sun. His parents named him Jacques. As he grew, Jacques fell in love with the sea. He dreamed of breathing beneath the waves and swimming as gracefully as a fish. In fact, he longed to become a manfish. Jacques Cousteau grew up to become a champion of the seas and one of the best-known oceanographers in the world. In this lovely biography, now in paperback, poetic text and gorgeous paintings come together to create a portrait of Cousteau that is as magical as it is inspiring.
- **Link:** <https://www.chroniclebooks.com/products/manfish-paperback>

12. The Brilliant Deep: Rebuilding the World's Coral Reefs



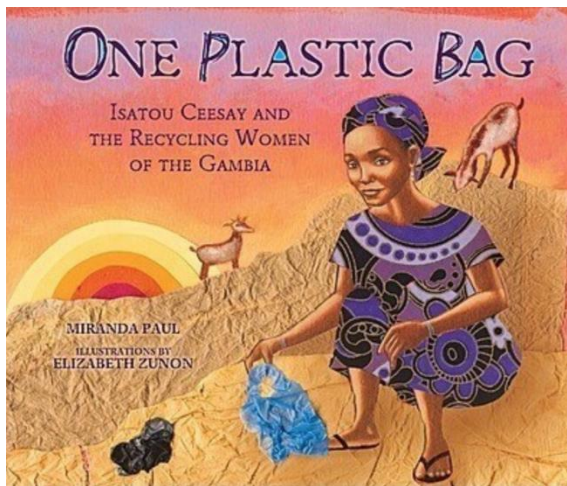
- **Author:** Kate Messner
- **Illustrator:** Matthew Forsythe
- **Recommended age group:** 5-8 years
- **Description from publisher:** The Brilliant Deep is the proud recipient of the ALA Notable Children's Books Award, the NSTA-CBC Best STEM Trade Books Award, the Junior Library Guild Selection and the ILA Teacher's Choices.

All it takes is one: one coral gamete to start a colony in the ocean, one person to make a difference in the world, one idea to help us heal the earth. The ongoing conservation efforts to save and rebuild the world's coral reefs—with hammer and glue, and grafts of newly grown coral—are the living legacy of environmental scientist Ken Nedimyer, founder of the Coral Restoration Foundation.

In telling the story of this sea conservation pioneer and marine life protector, Kate Messner and Matthew Forsythe create a stunning tribute to the wonders of nature and the power of human hope—a power even the smallest readers can access in their quest to aid our extraordinary planet.

- **Link:** <https://www.chroniclebooks.com/products/the-brilliant-deep>

13. One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia



- **Author:** Miranda Paul
- **Illustrator:** Elizabeth Zunon
- **Recommended age group:** 5-9 years
- **Description from publisher:** The inspiring true story of how one African woman began a movement to recycle the plastic bags that were polluting her community.

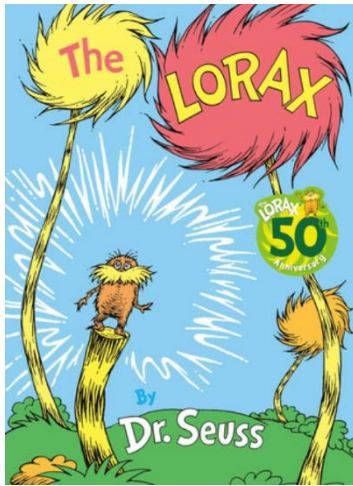
Plastic bags are cheap and easy to use. But what happens when a bag breaks or is no longer needed? In Njau, Gambia, people simply dropped the bags and went on their way. One plastic bag became two. Then ten. Then a hundred.

The bags accumulated in ugly heaps alongside roads. Water pooled in them, bringing mosquitoes and disease. Some bags were burned, leaving behind a terrible smell. Some were buried, but they strangled gardens. They killed livestock that tried to eat them. Something had to change.

Isatou Ceesay was that change. She found a way to recycle the bags and transform her community. This inspirational true story shows how one person's actions really can make a difference in our world.

- **Link:** <https://lernerbooks.com/shop/show/13378>

14. The Lorax



- **Author:** Dr. Seuss
- **Illustrator:** Dr. Seuss
- **Recommended age group:** 5-9 years
- **Description from publisher:** Celebrate Earth Day with Dr. Seuss and the Lorax in this classic picture book about sustainability and protecting the environment!

I am the Lorax. I speak for the trees.

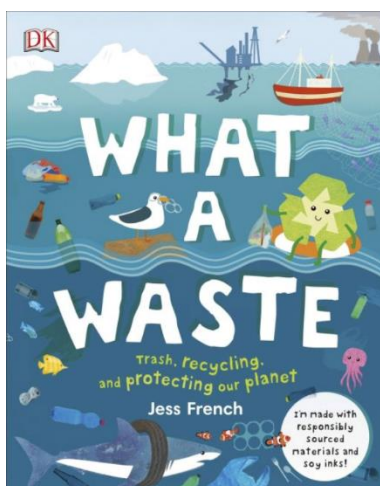
Dr. Seuss's beloved story teaches kids to treat the planet with kindness and stand up and speak up for others. Experience the beauty of the Truffula Trees and the danger of taking our earth for granted in a story that is timely, playful, and hopeful. The book's final pages teach us that just one small seed, or one small child, can make a difference.

Printed on recycled paper, this book is the perfect gift for Earth Day and for any child—or child at heart—who is interested in recycling, advocacy, and the environment, or just loves nature and playing outside.

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.

- **Link:** <https://www.seussville.com/book/43157/the-lorax/>

15. What a Waste: Trash, Recycling, and Protecting Our Planet



- **Author:** Jess French
- **Illustrator:** Jess French
- **Recommended age group:** 6-9 years
- **Description from publisher:** In this informative book on recycling for children, you will find everything you need to know about our environment. The good, the bad and the incredibly innovative. From pollution and litter to renewable energy and plastic recycling.

This educational book will teach young budding ecologists about how our actions affect planet Earth and the big impact we can make by the little things we do.

Did you know that every single plastic toothbrush ever made still exists? Or that there is a floating mass of trash larger than the USA drifting around the Pacific Ocean?

It is not all bad news though. While this is a knowledge book that explains where we are going wrong, What a Waste also shows what we are getting right! Discover plans to save our seas. How countries are implementing green projects worldwide, and how to turn waste into something useful. The tiniest everyday changes can make all the difference to ensure our beautiful planet stays lush and teeming with life.

It is a lively kid's educational book with fabulous illustrations and fun facts about the world broken into easy to digest bite-sized bits. Each page can be looked at in short bursts or longer reads for more detail, making it a great children's book for a range of age groups.

Get Involved – Make A Difference!

Almost everything we do creates waste, from litter and leftovers to factory gases and old gadgets. Find out where it goes, how it affects our planet and what we can do to reduce the problem.

From how to make your home more energy and water efficient, to which items can be recycled and tips for grocery shopping, this book is packed full of ideas on how you can get involved to make our planet a better place to live.

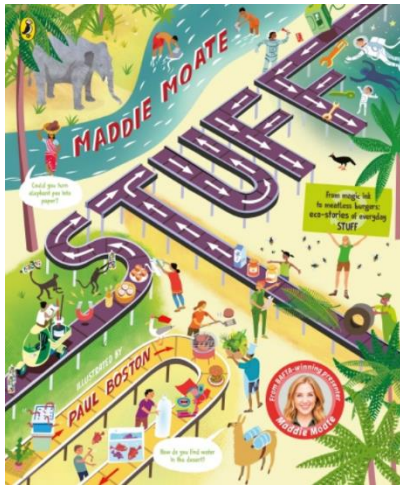
This environment book for children has a wealth of ideas for becoming a planet-defending hero:

- Discover shocking facts about the waste we produce and where it goes
- Learn where about our Earth's limited resources and how to take some pressure off
- Your trash is another man's treasure
- Small changes to take your home from wasteful to super resource efficient
- Dive into saving our oceans and super recycling
- And much, much more

What a Waste is one of several nature books for kids written by Jess French, a passionate conservationist and veterinarian committed to protecting the beautiful world we live in.

Link: <https://www.dk.com/us/book/9780241366912-what-a-waste/>

16. Stuff



- **Author:** Maddie Moate
- **Illustrator:** Paul Boston
- **Recommended age group:** 7-9 years
- **Description from publisher:** Do you ever wonder where your stuff comes from, and what happens to it when you're finished with it?

From CBBC presenter Maddie Moate: a collection of incredible stories about STUFF!

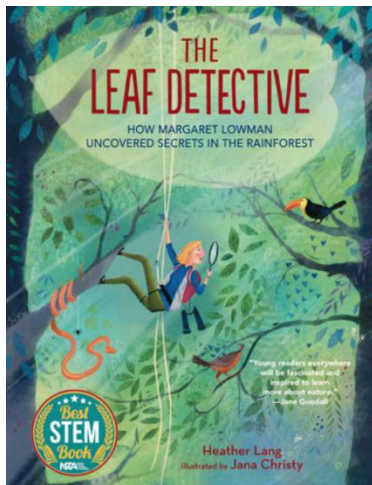
Did you know that you can make paper out of elephant poo? And plastic packaging out of seaweed? And did you know that if you throw away an old T-shirt, it can take 200 years to break down?

This book is full of mind-bursting facts and EXTRAORDINARY stories of the ingenious ways people around the world, and across history, have made, used and reused the stuff around them.

Packed with incredible facts about everyday objects, this book will keep young readers busy for hours!

- **Link:** <https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/319454/stuff/9780241489437.html>

17. The Leaf Detective: How Margaret Lowman Uncovered Secrets in the Rainforest



- **Author:** Heather Lang
- **Illustrator:** Jana Christy
- **Recommended age group:** 7-10 years
- **Description from publisher:** This picture book biography tells the story of Meg Lowman, a groundbreaking female scientist called a “real life Lorax” by National Geographic, who was determined to investigate the marvelous, undiscovered world of the rainforest treetops.

Meg Lowman was always fascinated by the natural world above her head — the colors, the branches, and, most of all, the leaves and mysterious organisms living there. Meg set out to climb up and investigate the rain forest tree canopies — and to be the first scientist to do so. But she encountered challenge after challenge. Male teachers would not let her into their classrooms, the high canopy was difficult to get to, and worst of all, people were logging and clearing the forests. Meg never gave up or gave in. She studied, invented, and persevered, not only creating a future for herself as a scientist, but making sure that the rainforests had a future as well. Working closely with Meg Lowman, author Heather Lang and artist Jana Christy beautifully capture Meg's world in the treetops.

- **Link:** <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/652020/the-leaf-detective-by-heather-lang-illustrated-by-jana-christy/>

18. Blue Planet II



- **Author:** Leisa Stewart-Sharpe
- **Illustrator:** Emily Dove
- **Recommended age group:** 8-11 years
- **Description from publisher:** This is our Blue Planet: a beautiful blue marble suspended in a sea of stars.

Unlike billions of other worlds in the Milky Way, 71 percent of our Blue Planet is covered by ocean. It's home to the greatest diversity of life on Earth but is our least explored habitat; we've better maps of Mars than of the ocean floor.

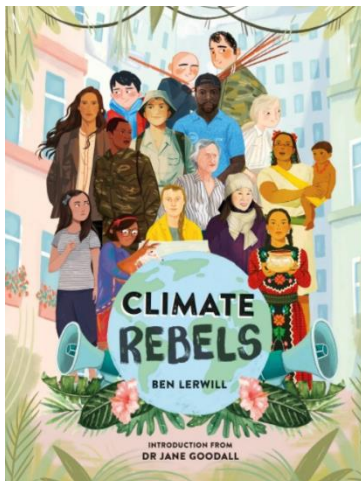
With so much more to discover, take a deep breath . . . and dive into a wondrous world beneath the waves. Explore coral reefs that shimmer in a kaleidoscope of colours. Venture to the bottom of the ocean where creatures beyond your wildest imagination live in the dark. Chase sea otters through kelp forest seas, and glide the open ocean with humpback whales.

Discover all there is to love about our Blue Planet, the stories of its inhabitants, and realise how you can help protect this wilderness beneath the waves.

In collaboration with BBC Earth, this illustrated non-fiction book will capture the wonder, beauty, and emotion of the iconic BBC Blue Planet II TV series.

- **Link:** <https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/315409/blue-planet-ii/9781405946605.html>

19. Climate Rebels



- **Author:** Ben Lerwill
- **Illustrator:** Ben Lerwill
- **Recommended age group:** 8-11 years
- **Description from publisher:** On the outskirts of the Milky Way, floating slowly through space, there hangs a planet unlike any other. It has oceans, deserts, jungles and mountains. It has life that swims, life that soars and life that swings through the trees. It is a place of dazzling variety and infinite wonder - and it's the only world we've got.

Climate change is happening, now. But it's not too late to change the story.

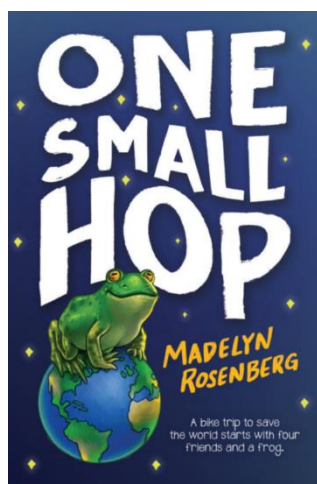
Meet the humans, from around the world, who are fighting to save our planet. This is your call to arms. Featuring 25 hopeful stories including Greta Thunberg, David Attenborough, Jane Goodall, Wangari Maathai - as well as lesser-known heroes, such as turtle-protector Len Peters, the guardians of the Amazon rainforest, and the poacher patrollers The Black Mambas.

This book will transport you from the poles, to the oceans, to the rainforests, with iconic illustration. These are true stories to make you think, make you cry, make you hope - and these are stories to make us all stand together and protect our home. These stories are the proof that one person's small changes can grow into something big, and powerful, and world-changing.

So read on to be inspired, as we take our future in our own hands, and together save Planet Earth - for all the living things that call it their home.

- **Link:** <https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/316093/climate-rebels/9780241440421.html>

20. One Small Hop



- **Author:** Madelyn Rosenberg
- **Recommended age group:** 8-12
- **Description from publisher:** When Ahab and his friends find a bullfrog in their town -- a real, live bullfrog, possibly the last bullfrog in North America -- they have several options:

A. Report it to the Environmental Police Force. Too bad everyone knows the agency is a joke.

B. Leave it be. They're just a bunch of kids -- what if they hurt it by moving it?

C. Find another real, live bullfrog on the black market. Convince their parents to let them bike to Canada. Introduce the two frogs. Save all of frogkind.

Ahab convinces the rest of the group that C is their only real option. Because if they don't save this frog, who will? Their quest, which will involve fake ice cream, real frog spawn, and some very close calls, teaches Ahab that hope is always the logical choice and that science is always better with friends.

With humor and empathy, acclaimed author Madelyn Rosenberg builds an all-too-imaginable future ravaged by climate change, where one kid can still lean on his friends and dream up a better tomorrow.

- **Link:** <https://shop.scholastic.com/parent-ecommerce/books/one-small-hop-9781338565614.html>

21. Strange Birds: A Field Guide to Ruffling Feathers



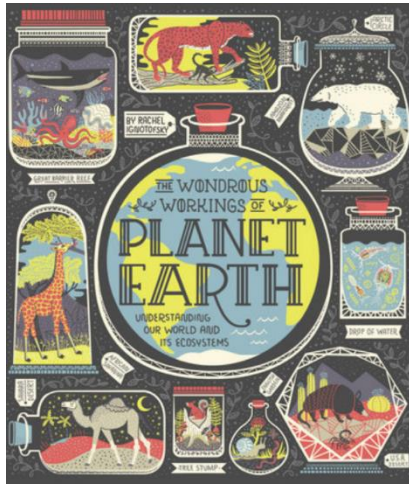
- **Author:** Celia C. Pérez
- **Recommended age group:** 9-12
- **Description from publisher:** From the award-winning author of *The First Rule of Punk* comes the story of four kids who form an alternative Scout troop that shakes up their sleepy Florida town.

* "Writing with wry restraint that's reminiscent of Kate DiCamillo... a beautiful tale." —Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

When three very different girls find a mysterious invitation to a lavish mansion, the promise of adventure and mischief is too intriguing to pass up. Ofelia Castillo (a budding journalist), Aster Douglas (a bookish foodie), and Cat Garcia (a rule-abiding birdwatcher) meet the kid behind the invite, Lane DiSanti, and it isn't love at first sight. But they soon bond over a shared mission to get the Floras, their local Scouts, to ditch an outdated tradition. In their quest for justice, independence, and an unforgettable summer, the girls form their own troop and find something they didn't know they needed: sisterhood.

- **Link:** <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/553181/strange-birds-by-celia-c-perez/>

22. The Wondrous Workings of Planet Earth: Understanding Our World and Its Ecosystems



- **Author:** Rachel Ignotofsky
- **Illustrator:** Rachel Ignotofsky
- **Recommended age group:** 10 years and up
- **Description from publisher:** An illustrated tour of the planet exploring ecosystems large and small, from reefs, deserts, and rainforests to a single drop of water—from the New York Times bestselling author of *Women in Science*.

Making earth science accessible and entertaining through art, maps, and infographics, *The Wondrous Workings of Planet Earth* explains how our planet works—and how we can protect it—from its diverse ecosystems and their inhabitants, to the levels of ecology, the importance of biodiversity, the cycles of nature, and more. Science- and nature-loving readers of all ages will delight in this utterly charming guide to our amazing home.

- **Link:** <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/558374/the-wondrous-workings-of-planet-earth-by-rachel-ignotofsky/>

Propose your own list of 22 actions for biodiversity (guidelines) >

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