



Rourke Fall 24 New Titles

Relevance, Representation, Respect

Relevance

Kids want to read our books.

Representation

Kids see themselves and others.

Respect

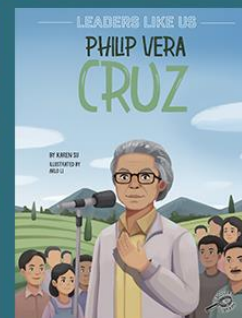
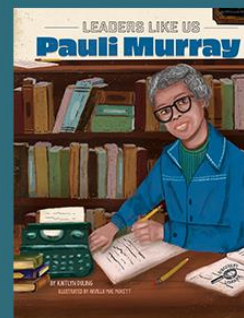
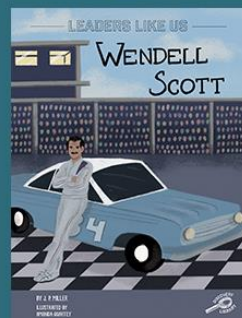
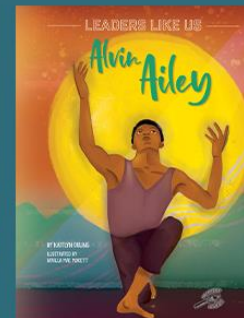
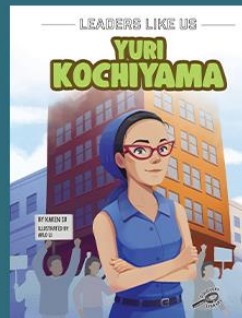
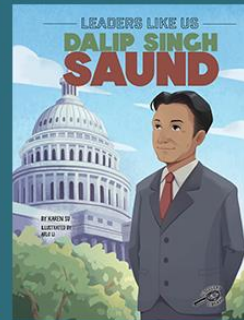
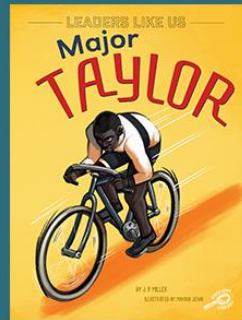
Reader identities are valued.

Leaders Like Us...Booklist Top Ten Continuing Series Nonfiction 2022-2024!

27 titles and counting!

“While certain series make a splash with their newness, others prove reliable resources with each new addition to their ranks.”

-Booklist



“These picture-book biographies...focus on noteworthy individuals who have been less widely covered due to their race or gender.”

-Booklist



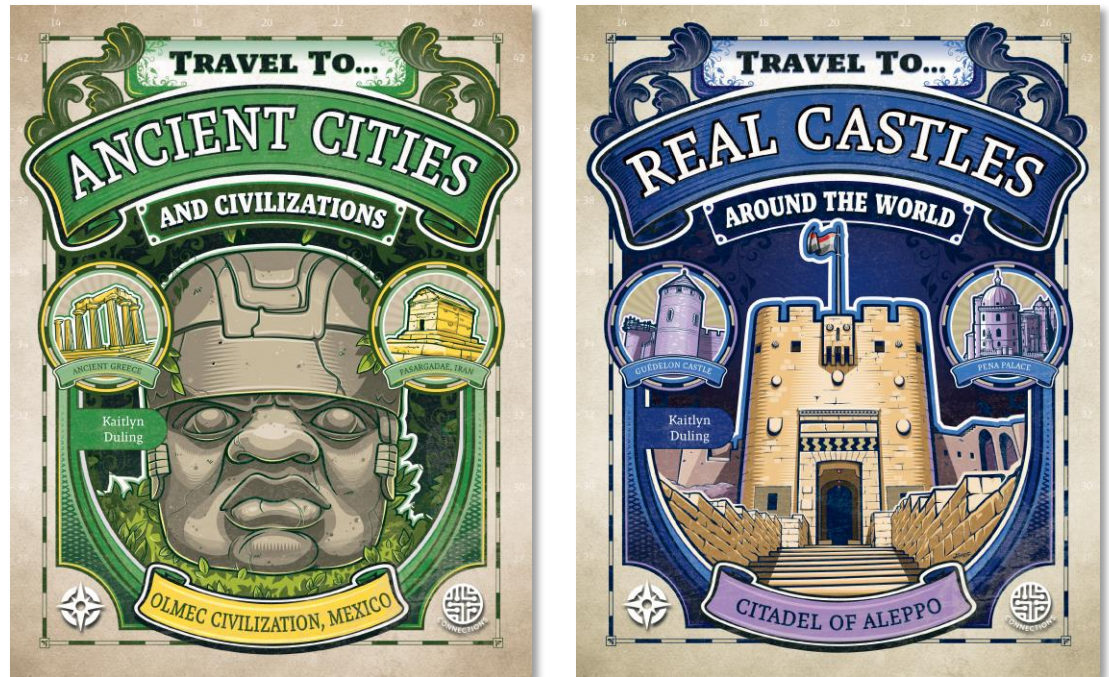
24pp, 7.5 x 10
Elementary

Travel To...Booklist Top Ten Nonfiction Series of the Year 2022-2023!



“Kids like armchair travel, too, and this series uses unexpected themes to present significant places around the world (e.g. artifacts from history (via museum collections)). This highly illustrated series is well sourced, and curiosity driven”

- Booklist



48 pp, 7" x 9"
Middle/Upper Grades

REAL CASTLES AROUND THE WORLD

Picture a castle in your mind. What do you see? Perhaps a mighty fortress with a drawbridge, or a palace with towers that seem to touch the sky. These buildings don't just live in our fairy tales and imaginations. *Real* castles dot the globe, from Europe's **medieval** walls to Japan's great palaces, and everywhere in between. In fact, castles can be found on nearly every continent!

For hundreds of years, these enchanting structures have been built with different residents in mind. Some were—and still are—elaborate homes for royalty. Others were designed to keep enemies out. Still others were monasteries or showpieces for colonial powers.

Whether citadel, chateau, court, or keep, castles have captured our collective imagination. Let's go! It's time to travel to . . . real castles around the world.



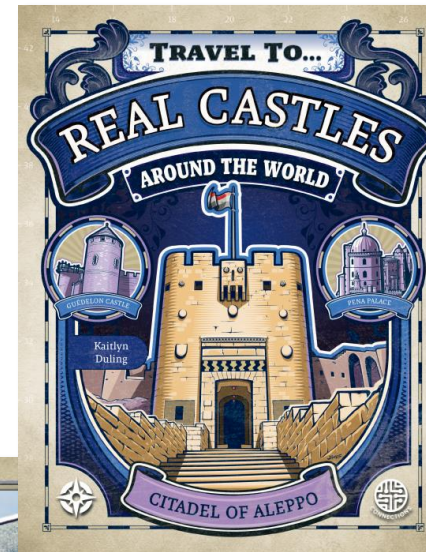
Neuschwanstein Castle, Germany



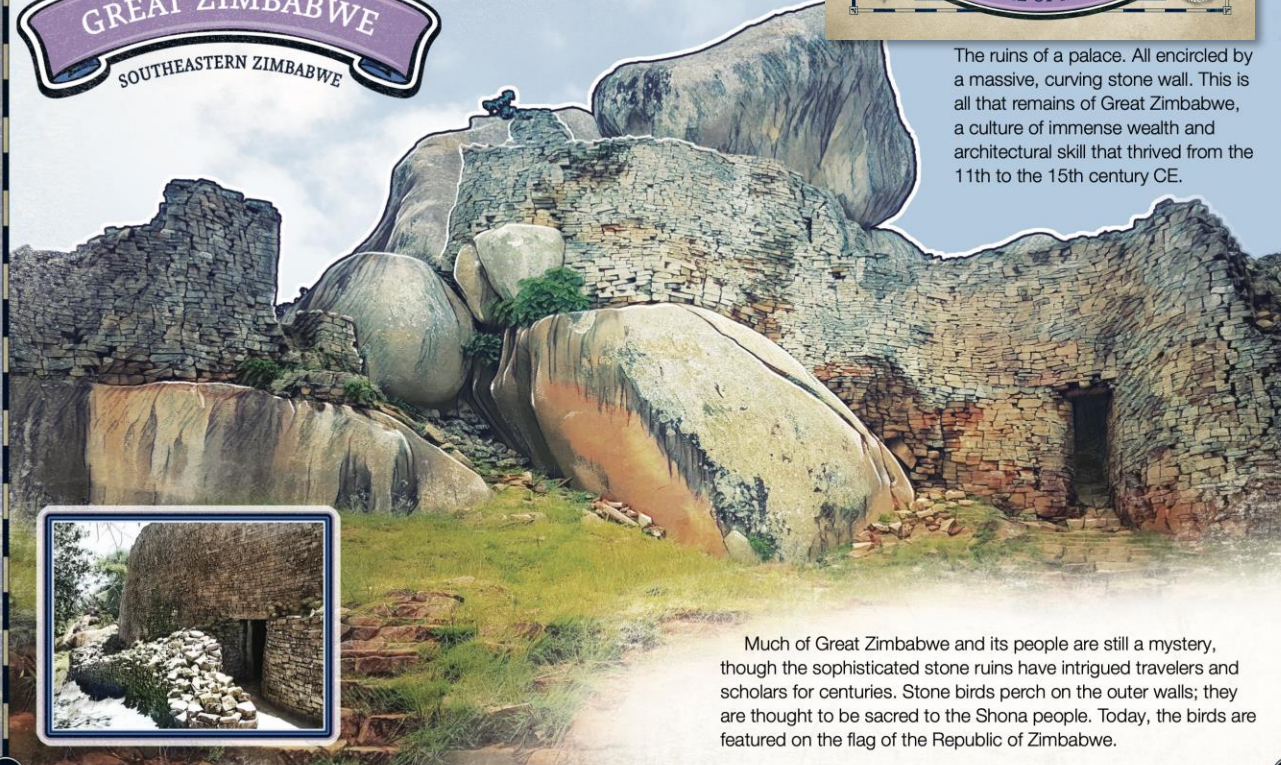
Château de Chenonceau, France

Castle of the Moors, Portugal

Stand-out images



GREAT ZIMBABWE SOUTHEASTERN ZIMBABWE



The ruins of a palace. All encircled by a massive, curving stone wall. This is all that remains of Great Zimbabwe, a culture of immense wealth and architectural skill that thrived from the 11th to the 15th century CE.



Much of Great Zimbabwe and its people are still a mystery, though the sophisticated stone ruins have intrigued travelers and scholars for centuries. Stone birds perch on the outer walls; they are thought to be sacred to the Shona people. Today, the birds are featured on the flag of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

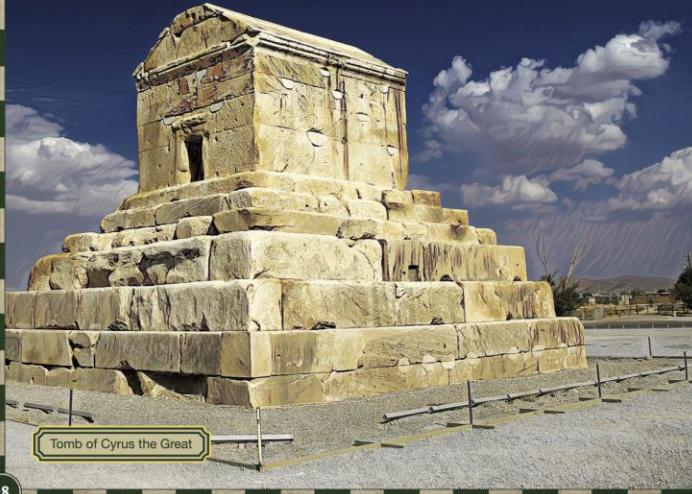
Both familiar and lesser-known castles

PASARGADAE

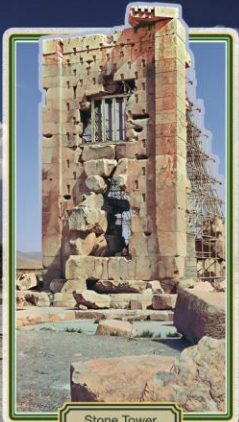
IRAN

Just northeast of the modern city of Shiraz, Iran, sits an ancient capital city: Pasargadae. In the 6th century BCE, Pasargadae was the center of the great and powerful Achaemenid Empire. Its palaces were surrounded by elaborate gardens. The buildings at Pasargadae were one of the first examples of distinctly Persian architecture.

Today, all that's left to visit are the city's ruins, now an active archaeological site. Broken columns stand where a palace used to tower. One stone wall is a reminder of a royal prison. To the southwest, atop stone steps, sits the Tomb of Cyrus. This is the final resting place for Cyrus the Great, the founder of this ancient empire and city.



Tomb of Cyrus the Great

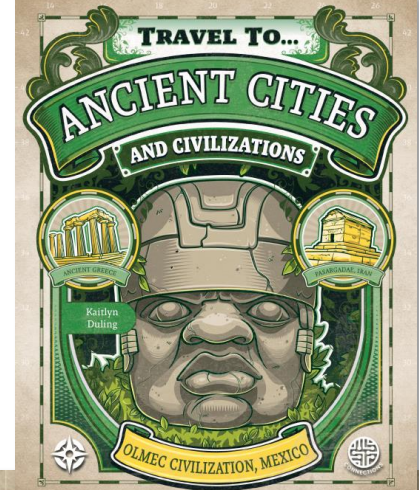


Stone Tower



Each across... celeb... know... or Iran... ancie... spring... During... across... to the... come... to Cy...

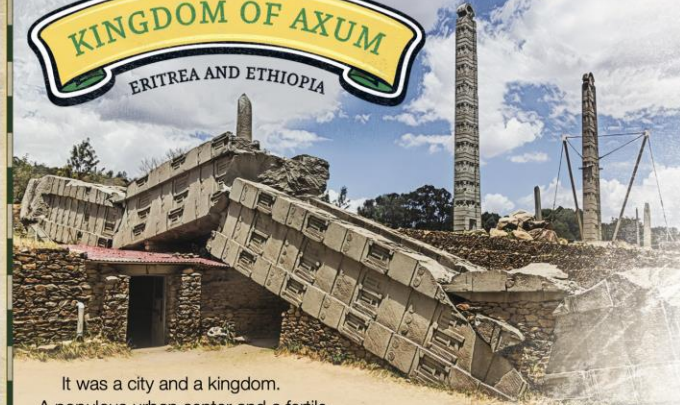
Design supports browsable reading



MASSIVE MONUMENTS

KINGDOM OF AXUM

ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA

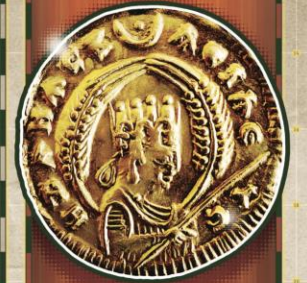


It was a city and a kingdom. A populous urban center and a fertile agricultural region. A crossroads of trade routes and a major naval power on the Red Sea. Between the 1st and 7th centuries CE, the Kingdom of Axum (also spelled Aksum) was a powerful, wealthy civilization that thrived in northeastern Africa.

Giant obelisk, or stelae

Residents of the ancient kingdom lived among royal tombs, castles, monuments, and eventually Christian churches. They developed a written script, known as Ge'ez, that is still used in some of the region's churches. Today, visitors to Axum can explore the city's massive ruins and walk in the footsteps of long-ago kings.

The city is known for its giant obelisks, or stelae, many of which still stand.

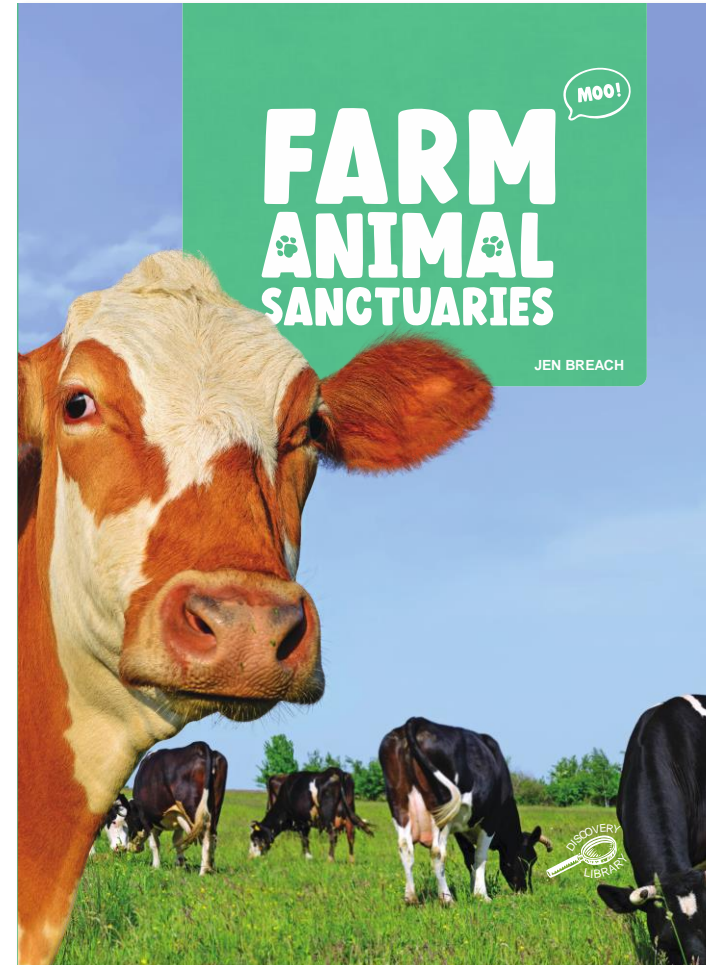
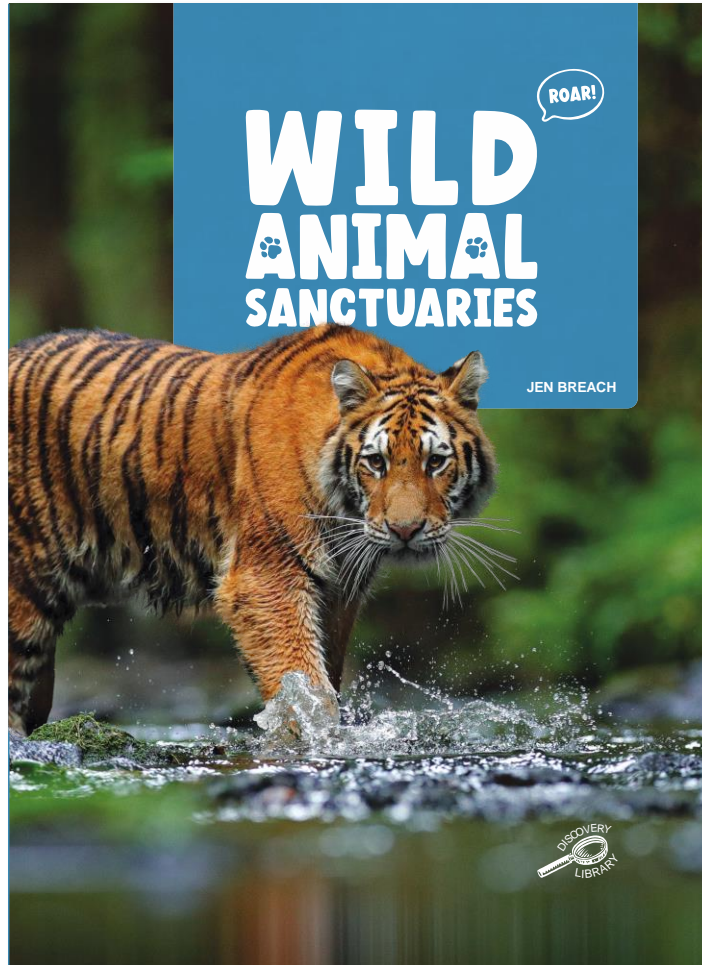


A VALUABLE INVENTION

The Kingdom of Axum was the first sub-Saharan kingdom to have its own mint: a place where money is coined. Thousands of gold, silver, and bronze coins have been discovered at the Axum site. Most feature portraits of kings, and are often historians' primary source of information about Axumite royalty.

Complex content for middle grade audiences

Animal Sanctuaries



24pp, 7.5" x 10"
Elementary

HELPING HANDS



At a wild animal sanctuary, only professionals work with the animals. They might be conservationists, zoologists, biologists, veterinarians, or skilled animal caregivers.

20

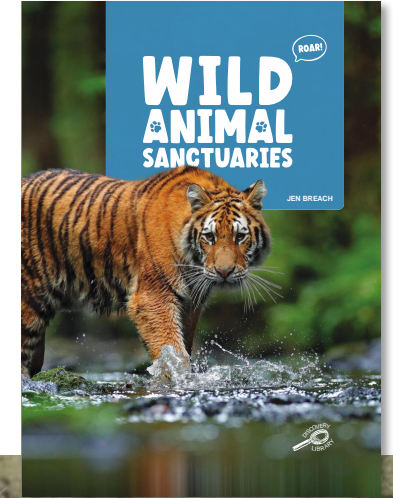


Wild animal sanctuaries rely on volunteers to raise money and awareness for the sanctuaries.

Many sanctuaries also allow people to **sponsor** an animal. The sanctuary will send you updates and photos of your animal, safe in its forever home. Who would you want to sponsor?

21

Correlated to NGSS



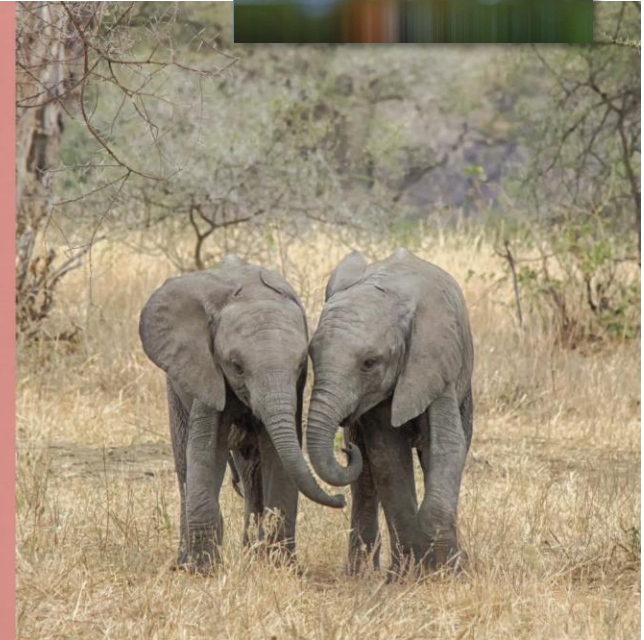
OPERATION: RESCUE!



Wild animal sanctuaries help animals of all ages. Some might be very young. Some might be very old.

If an animal is very young, it might be raised in a sanctuary's nursery. Nurseries have around-the-clock care.

16



At one elephant sanctuary in Africa, orphans are raised in nursery herds. They bond for life, making new families.

Elephants that were once orphans often bring their wild-born babies to meet the humans who raised them.

17

High-interest content in support of reading skills

THE SANCTUARY LIFE



At dawn, animals wake up in cozy straw beds. Rise and shine! It's breakfast time!

Afterwards, pigs will snuffle in wooded areas or wallow in mud. Chickens will scratch and peck up juicy worms. Sheep will graze in wide-open fields.

12

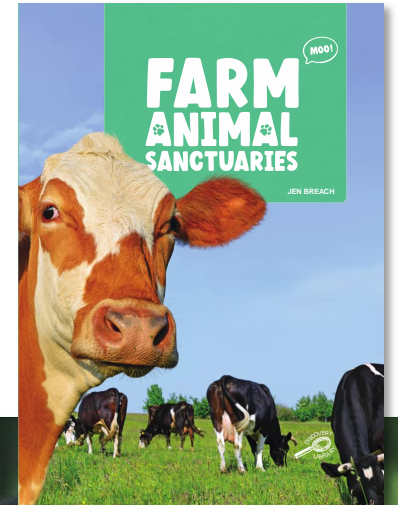
Cows will have a good scratch on a post or nudge a ball around with their head. Goats will climb and leap and wag their tails happily.

At dusk, it's dinnertime. Then, it is time for bed. Another peaceful day at the sanctuary is done.



13

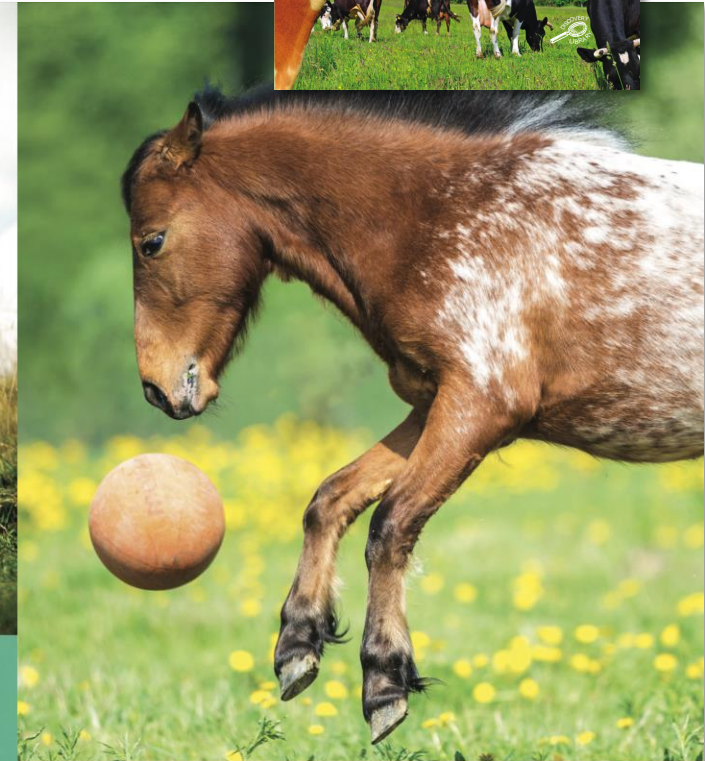
Adorable vibrant images



On hot summer days, there are cool treats. Animals might lick vegetables frozen in ice, play in sprinklers, or nap in the sunshine.

On cold winter days, they might not even leave their warm barn. They might doze in deep, cozy hay and enjoy a hug or a belly rub.

14

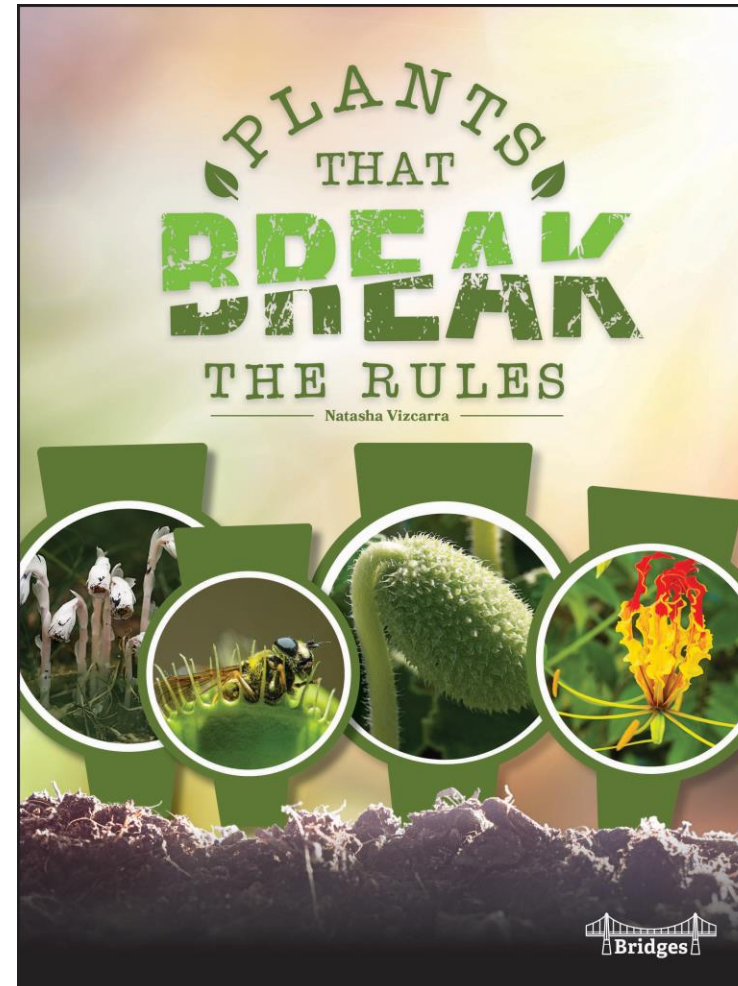
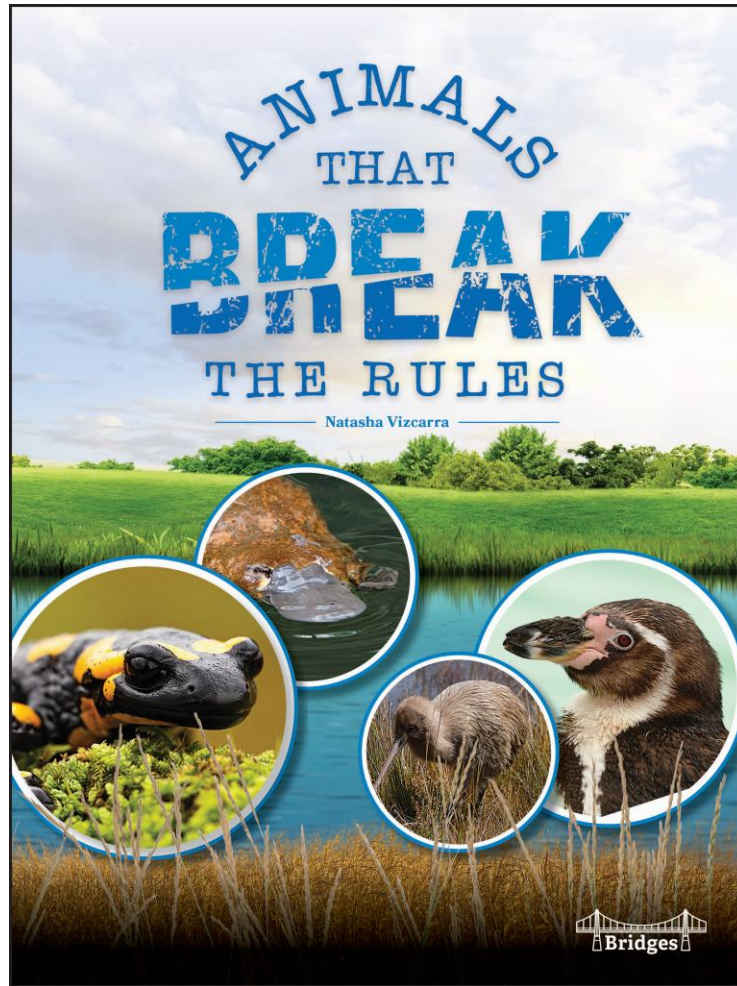


At sanctuaries, animals are never kept in kennels or cages. They have room to stretch, roam, and play freely.

15

Colorful inviting design

Nature's Rule Breakers



32pp, 7.5" x 10"
Middle/Upper Elementary



Flightless Birds & Walking Fish



TAKAHĒ

RULES:
BIRDS FLY. FISH SWIM.

BIRDS THAT DIDN'T GET THE MEMO:
CASSOWARY, TAKAHĒ, KĀKĀPŌ, KIWI, OSTRICH, WEKA, STEAMER DUCK, AND PENGUIN

FISH THAT PRETEND:
RED-LIPPED BATFISH, SPOTTED HANDFISH, FROG FISH, FLYING GURNARD, AND WEST AFRICAN LUNGFISH

OVERACHIEVING FISH:
FLYING FISH

12

Meanwhile, some fish can swim but would rather walk. Sort of. The red-lipped batfish, spotted handfish, frog fish, and flying gurnard waddle across the ocean floor. Water mostly holds them up. They don't need to swim to catch prey on the sea bottom. They just poke around for small fish, shrimp, or worms.

Wings For Flirting

Flying gurnards have wing-like fins. The males use them to attract females.



RED-LIPPED BATFISH

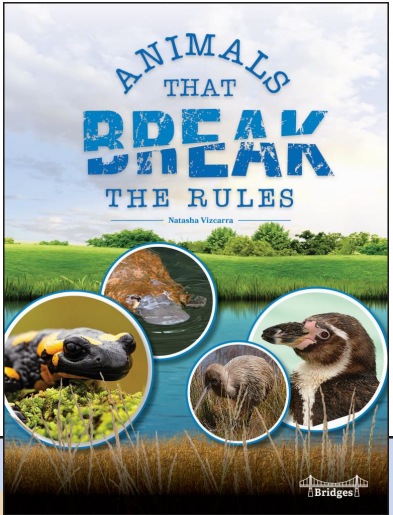
Kiwis can only be found in New Zealand. There are only about 70,000 kiwis left.



HAIRY FROG FISH

13

Unique and humorous nature comparisons



Powered

RULE:
ANIMALS EAT OTHER ORGANISMS TO SURVIVE.

THE RULE BREAKERS:
PEA APHID, SACCOGLOSSAN SEA SLUG, MARINE FLATWORM, SPOTTED SALAMANDER, AND ORIENTAL HORNET

Biologists describe animals as living things that eat other living things to survive. They are different from plants which make their own food out of sunlight, water, and nutrients from soil. But what have we here? Animals that use photosynthesis the way plants do?

The process by which plants make their own food is called photosynthesis. In this process, plants take in carbon dioxide from the air and use sunlight to produce glucose and oxygen.

The *Costasiella kuroshimae* sea slug is also called a "leaf sheep." Can you see why?




6

Sea slugs munch on algae. Marine flatworms eat diatoms. Like plants, algae and diatoms can make their own food using photosynthesis. This is thanks to something called chloroplasts. When the sea slugs and flatworms eat them, the chloroplasts make energy in the animals' guts. Ta da! Free energy!

The *Elysia chlorotica* sea slug lives off the East Coast of the United States. It "recharges" the chloroplasts in its gut by sunbathing.



7

Standards-aligned science content

Plants That Eat Animals

RULE:
PLANTS NEED WATER, SUNLIGHT, AND SOIL NUTRIENTS TO MAKE THEIR FOOD.

Some plants feed on animals like insects, salamanders, and small frogs. These are called **carnivorous** plants. They have clever ways to trap unlucky little critters. The bladderwort's pouches open like trap doors when water flies swim by. This aquatic plant can suck in **prey** in less than one millisecond!



The bladderwort grows floaters to send its yellow flowers above the water.



6

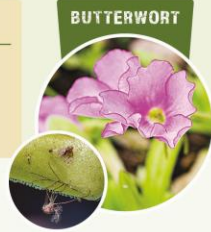
THE RULE BREAKERS:
BLADDERWORT, BUTTERWORT, PITCHER PLANT, SUNDEW, VENUS FLYTRAP, WATERWHEEL PLANT

Butterworts and sundews have tiny hairs covered in sticky goo. Insects can't resist the sweet nectar on these parts. Once the plants snag a prey, they secrete chemicals to dissolve it. Then they absorb the insect goo as food.

Pitcher plants release a nectar-like scent to attract prey. Critters crawl into their "pitchers" looking for food. But the plant's waxy walls keep the prey from crawling out. The insect is turned into tasty goo.

Nature's Mouse Trap

The Rajah is the largest pitcher plant in the world. It can grow up to 4 feet (1.2 meters) tall and can digest mice! This species is found only in Malaysia.

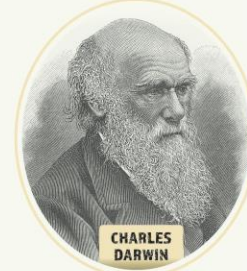
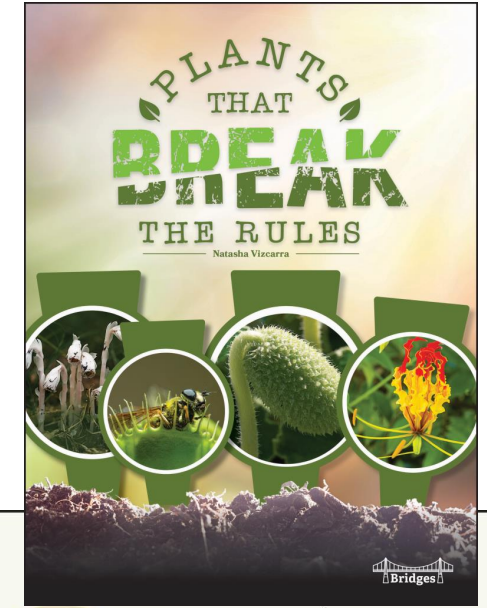


7

Call-outs and sidebars

A Most Wonderful Plant!

Ask anyone to describe a plant and they'll probably tell you that it's green, it has leaves, stems, and roots, it loves the sun, and it grows in soil. They might say that big plants are called trees. These are all correct! But did you know that there are weird plants that break the rules of what we think normal plants should be like?



CHARLES DARWIN

breaking plants. In 1860, Darwin studied sundews and Venus flytraps. These little plants catch and eat insects! He wrote in a letter to a friend that the Venus flytrap is one of "the most wonderful plants in the world."

What makes these plants so fascinating? What are they like? And how did they become so weird? Read on to learn more about these plants that break the rules of nature.

Browsable layouts with point-of-use vocabulary



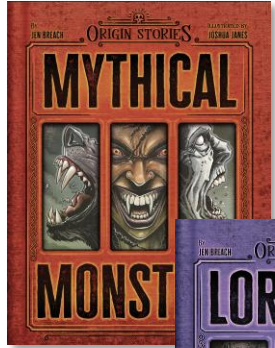
Scientific illustration of a sundew



4

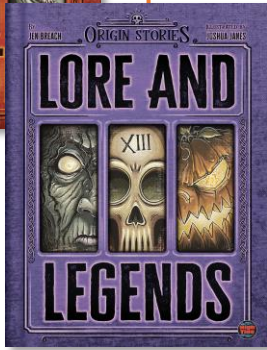
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Spring 24 Reviews



Both concise volumes are fast paced and narrated in a dramatic, suspenseful storytelling voice. Cartoonish illustrations are comically frightening...

-School Library Journal



This entry in the Origin Stories series (2 titles) guides readers through haunting myths with appealing, vintage-flavored cartoon illustrations and reading comprehension tools.

-Booklist

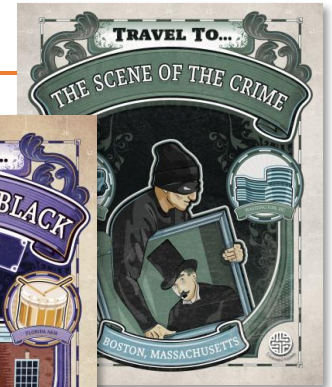
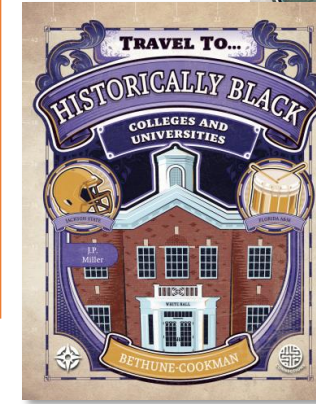
Readers will find the subjects' journeys inspiring and those whose interests are piqued will seek out more facts about their lives. Verdict: These interesting and informative biographies offer solid introductions to lesser-known but noteworthy people.

-School Library Journal



...takes a unique approach to its subject matter of travel via specific topics...sure to intrigue readers invested in location-significant history.

- Booklist



Appealing graphics, photos, and text boxes bounce off the page...this high/low offering has multiple curricular applications and an eye-catching cover sure to attract browsers.

-Booklist

...this series informs readers about concepts like resilience, having boundaries and self-compassion, the importance of failure, and strategies for coping with rejection and obstacles...Great for classroom libraries.

- School Library Journal



Relevance, Representation, Respect



Rourke™