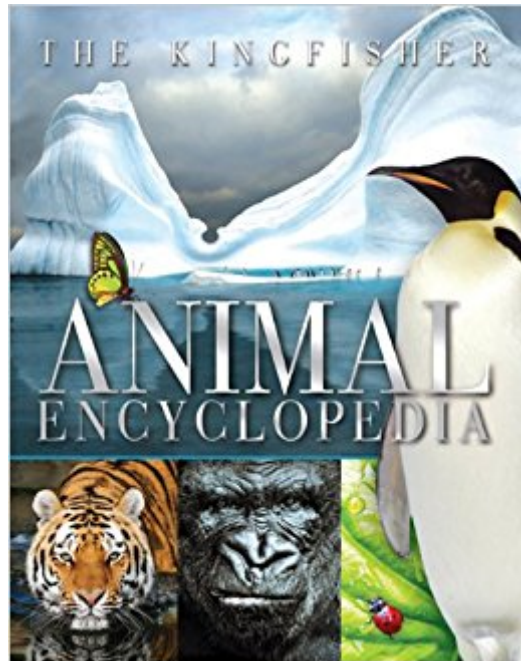


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# The Kingfisher Animal Encyclopedia (Kingfisher Encyclopedias)



## Synopsis

Meet an amazing menagerie of creatures on this breathtaking safari through the animal kingdom. Written by an award-winning author, The Kingfisher Illustrated Animal Encyclopedia by David Burnie spans the earth from pole to pole, covering 2,000 animals from the tiniest protozoan to the mightiest mammal. Each entry describes the animal's characteristics, behavior and distribution, and gives Latin names. The meticulously researched information is highlighted by clear, authoritative writing and more than 1,000 photographs and illustrations. Throughout the book, special feature panels focus on various aspects of animal behavior such as camouflage, migration, and hibernation. With comprehensive back-matter including a glossary, alternative name index, and general index, this one-stop reference is perfect for research or for browsing by animal-lovers of all ages.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Reviewed with Dorling Kindersley Animal Encyclopedia. These two single-volume animal encyclopedias are designed for the upper-elementary level and up. In both, the color photographs practically leap off the page and are accompanied by brief descriptions that will activate one's curiosity to look further. The DK volume begins with a lengthy presentation called "Animal Life" covering such general topics as classification, communication, habitats, and migration. This is followed by "Animal A-Z," where animals are treated in segments of up to three pages. As one expects from DK, the emphasis is on the illustrations, which are accompanied by captions, and

short chunks of text and fact boxes that list family, habitation, food, life span, size, and other data. There are almost 150 A-Z entries, many including full-page photographs that show animals in their natural habitats. More than 2,000 species are covered, although the majority are represented only by a photograph. Animals were presumably selected because of their interest to children (and British children at that, because there is a full-page entry for hedgehogs). The text concludes with a glossary and an index. The Kingfisher volume takes a more scientific approach. Noted naturalist Burnie sets a nice background in his introduction about the characteristics of animals. He includes a couple of pages that depict the classification of animals, followed by two pages that clearly show how all the animals fit into the animal kingdom. Instead of the alphabetical format used in the DK volume, information on animals is arranged by class, from simple animals to mammals. These divisions are further broken down by phylum and subphylum. Within these sections, there is a paragraph devoted to each selected species (more than 2,000 in all) providing scientific name, distribution, and size, as well as a brief description. Sidebars treat topics such as metamorphosis and symbiosis. A glossary and index complete the text. Photographs and illustrations abound. Each bewitching photo attracts the reader to read the description, and Burnie's descriptions are interesting. He tells us, for example, that most pipe fish swim horizontally, but some swim vertically. The males carry the eggs until they hatch, as do male seahorses. (Could this get a discussion going on the division of labor around a home?) There are several pictures of copulating animals, such as the toads in the section on amphibians. Most adults (parents and teachers) should not find this objectionable and will recognize the natural scientific tone. In both volumes, the strong visual presentation is likely to attract readers. The DK volume may be more accessible to children in younger grades, while the Kingfisher volume will be appreciated by students who are ready for a more sophisticated approach. Both books are recommended for homes, schools, and public libraries. RBBCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

• Burnie dazzles readers with the number and variety of animal species still on this planet (at present two million). . . . the title is ideal for ready-reference collections. • School Library Journal

I had bought this book many years ago when my son was much younger since he loves to learn about animals. Well this book is so informative that i ordered it again since our last one was lost during moving. My son is now 24 and was asking about it for his younger siblings because of the value he found in this book. This book is being read constantly by my younger children, it is a easy and good read. They enjoy the images as well.

Love the Kingfisher books. We now have 3 and they have all been very informative and interesting to my children and myself.

Great investment for our eager learners! We pick this up and read it like a story book! The pictures are gorgeous... very high quality reference book that we will keep in our family library forever!

This is an amazing book. We bought the original edition for our son about 15 years ago. He loved it so much he still has his. I purchased this edition for my granddaughter & she seems to love it too.

This is a great gift for my kids. I know they will enjoy it very much with their homeschool curriculum. Pictures are beautiful.

It has made a great science resource in our homeschool library. My eight and five year old daughters enjoy reading it.

Our nature loving nine year old loves this Animal Encyclopedia! He loves to share the facts he learns. We strongly recommend!

This book has been a great addition to our library. It provides short, concise blurbs about a variety of animals. It is also filled with amazing photographs of the animals discussed. Great reference!

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