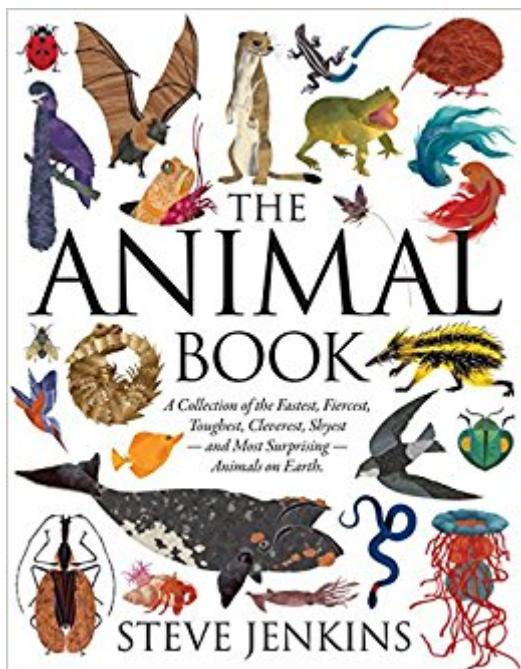


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# The Animal Book: A Collection Of The Fastest, Fiercest, Toughest, Cleverest, Shyest and Most Surprising Animals On Earth (Boston Globe-Horn Book Honors (Awards))



## Synopsis

Animals smooth and spiky, fast and slow, hop and waddle through the two hundred plusÂ pages of the Caldecott Honor artist Steve Jenkinsâ ™s most impressive nonfiction offering yet. Sections such as â œAnimal Senses,â • â œAnimal Extremes,â • and â œThe Story of Lifeâ • burst with fascinating facts and infographics that will have trivia buffs breathlessly asking, â œDo you knowÂ a termite queen can produce up to 30,000 eggs a day?â • Jenkinsâ ™s color-rich cut- and torn-paper artwork is as strikingly vivid as ever. Rounding out this bountiful browsersâ ™ almanac of more than three hundred animals is a discussion of the artistâ ™s bookmaking process, an animal index, a glossary, and a bibliography. A bookshelf essential!

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: IG1030L (What's this?)

Series: Boston Globe-Horn Book Honors (Awards)

Hardcover: 208 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (October 29, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 054755799X

ISBN-13: 978-0547557991

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.8 x 10.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 64 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #85,130 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #62 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Biology #132 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Zoology #1483 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

Gr 2-6-Jenkins draws from his earlier books to craft this richly detailed work with handsome cut- and torn-paper illustrations. Numerous animal facts are organized into seven topical chapters. A few extinct animals are included. Chapters offer information about animal families, senses, predators, defenses, and extremes, and about life from an evolutionary perspective. Material within each chapter is presented in segments that average two pages in length and consist of a descriptive

paragraph, several colorful illustrations that vary in size, and detailed captions. Each chapter concludes with a related chart or graph. Some text in the "Timeline of animal life" is lost in the book's gutter, and the "How many eyes do animals have?" chart notes that wasps have five eyes but the corresponding illustration only shows four. Jenkins's artwork is recognizable from earlier works; for example, the giant squid eye and Siberian tiger spreads found in *Actual Size* (Houghton Harcourt, 2004) are replicated here. A lengthy alphabetically arranged, appended section includes even more animal details paired with tiny artwork. The book has a useful table of contents. Tucked between the glossary and bibliography, which includes materials published between 1951 and 2010, is a welcome section on Jenkins's bookmaking process. The closing page showcases the works from which material included here has been taken. With so much to look at, this attractive browsing book will fascinate children thirsty for animals facts. Students doing reports on a specific animal will need to consult other resources.-Lynn Vanca, Freelance Librarian, Akron, OH (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

**\*Starred Review\*** The author of more than 30 books about the natural world offers here a compendium of the animal kingdom arranged in thematic chapters touching on family, senses, predators, defenses, extremes, and evolution. Chapters (signaled by colored tabs running along page tops) contain multiple spreads addressing subtopics (for example, the topic of "Family" breaks down into "Attracting a Mate," "Eggs," and "Born Alive"). Each of these sections includes a brief introduction and multiple captioned illustrations, and the chapters close with an infographic that summarizes the section's most important points. As always, Jenkins' cut-paper collages are a highlight and demonstrate great use of vibrant color, attention to detail (particularly sizes), and an overall sense of design. The back matter is rich as well; the index of animals contains thumbnail illustrations and notations about size, habitat, and diet, while an appended section on "Making Books" explains Jenkins' process "from ideas and research to illustrations and publication. Much of this artwork has appeared previously, but it is repurposed to superb effect, with new captions and organization. This is a beautiful book that belongs in most collections; it will engage browsers for hours, and the many textual features make it an excellent choice for classroom curricula. Grades 1-5. --Kay Weisman

The Animal Book is a groundbreaking work that sets a high bar for natural science books for children (and adults) of any age. Steve's incessant curiosity and broad knowledge of the natural

sciences has allowed him to create a book that far exceeds the standard non-fiction children's book. The Animal Book contains hundreds of critters, from very tiny insects and reptiles like the recently discovered Amau frog, to the huge fifty-foot long oarfish and now extinct Shastasaurus. The book is divided into 8 unique sections, each covering various themes such as animal senses, family, animal defenses, and a brief explanation of how these creatures evolved. The pages are filled with gorgeous illustrations comprised of collages made (amazingly) of cut and torn paper. Take a close look at the cover above or click on the look inside link above to see samples of his painstaking illustrations. They come with captions containing fascinating and sometimes-unexpected information that will maintain a young child's attention, and are intelligent and unusual enough to keep an adult hooked. This is a big book, with more than 200 8.5x11" pages. Each chapter is followed with a chart that shows, graphically clear and clean, a lot of information at once. The charts remind one of the works from the brilliant chart maker, Edward Tufte. An illustrated index contains even more animal facts. This book is packed with so much information--a reader can open it up anywhere and get sucked in. Steve also included an unusual chapter that reveals the process of creating a children's book. He's been making books for more than two decades, and is an expert at his craft--The New York Times has recognized Steve as an important children's book author and illustrator dealing with natural science. The Animal Book really is THE animal book for kids--the kind of book that could have an impact on the life of a child, the kind of book that might stay with a child for many years. Full disclosure: I have known Steve since high school, and have watched Steve's illustrations and writing skills grow exponentially from his very first book two decades ago to this amazing work.

Best book the kids and I have ever come across! I learned tons of new animal facts! All kids ages 3,7,10, and 12 loved it. Including mom and dad! Great buy!

A fascinating book full of illustrations and concise explanations, great for my eight year old granddaughter as well as her grandmother, who always wondered why some snakes have a forked tongue, for instance!

This book was perfect for my 7 year old animal lover daughter. The illustrations are beautiful, and it is filled with such a variety of animals. We both learned some very interesting things. I think I enjoyed it just as much as she did.

Ã¢ÂœThe Animal Book: A Collection of the Fastest, Fiercest, Toughest, Cleverest, Shyest Ã¢Â

and Most Surprising --- Animals on Earthâ€ is a beautifully illustrated, very informative book that both children and adults will love. Steve Jenkins has created an outstanding, easy-to-read book that provides an overview of the animal kingdom; the family structure of different species; animal senses; predators; animal defenses; and animal extremes â€œ in size, life spans, etc. Jenkins also includes a brief section on the theory of evolution and Charles Darwin. Timelines and chronological depictions of the progression of species are very interesting. The artwork of â€œThe Animal Bookâ€ alone makes this book worth purchasing. Many of the illustrations appear to be cut-paper and are visually rich in texture and perspective. The book is printed on heavy, shiny paper stock. Colors are bright and clear. A different color marker at the top of the page indicates a different section of the book; this makes navigating â€œThe Animal Bookâ€ easier for younger readers. Steve Jenkinsâ€™ â€œThe Animal Bookâ€ is now a favorite of my four-year old grandson. As a long-time reader, I particularly liked the concluding portion of â€œThe Animal Bookâ€ in which Jenkins discusses how he gets his inspiration for a book and the process he goes through to create a work. If you are looking for a wonderful, beautifully illustrated book for a gift - or for yourself - I recommend this fact-filled, fun-to-read book.

My four year old son loves this book. It started out as a book we found at the library and became such a staple at bedtime that I had to buy a copy for us to have. The illustrations are fantastic and the information is super interesting.

My kids love this, but we don't really like the first few pages. Nice artwork.

My older nephew was kept entertained for hours reading this, and it actually maintained the attention of the younger one for quite a while as well. He sat with his brother just looking at all the pictures.

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