

Title of book: Alive: The Living, Breathing Human Body Book

Author's name: Richard Walker

Publisher: DK Publishing

Copyright year: 2007

Reading Level: 5th Grade

Genre: Non-Fiction

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:

This book is an amazing, creative way to learn about the human body. The human body literally comes to life off and on the page. The book travels through the body's systems using pop-ups, flaps, sound clips, pull-tabs, and fiber optics to illustrate, inform, stimulate and entertain. Labels, captions, and text are in various sizes and shapes to keep the reader attention. There are many images of body parts and schematic views, along with occasional small color photos. There are also several acetate overlays, and pop-ups of the chest cavity, a skull, and the digestive system. Smaller flaps even lift to show closed and open vocal cords.

Theme: Human Body

ACTIVITY ONE: Internet website activity

- Indicate origination of idea: Original idea but uses an educational website made by MyHealthScore.com
- Objective(s): To learn more about the human body
- Description of activity: Have the students explore the human body more by going to this website <http://www.innerbody.com/tutorial1/tutorial.html>. Have them work through this website and complete a worksheet so you know what they have completed.

ACTIVITY TWO: Experiment

- Indicate origination of idea: The Web Portal For Educators
 - <http://www.teach-nology.com/worksheets/science/bio/lab3/>
- Objective(s): Students will learn different elements to a scientific experiment and learn how to collect data
- Description of activity: Are certain nerves in our body better at the sense of touch than others and why? Is the problem the students will be solving in a science experiment on using your sense of touch to be able to identify an object. Students will be ask to touch and object while blindfolded and then guess what the object is. The students that are not blindfolded will collect the data and find out if their hypothesis is correct.

Title of book: My Big Book of Wild Animals

Author's name: No author (In partnership with San Diego Zoo)

Publisher: Ideals Children's Books

Copyright year: 2007

Reading Level: 4th Grade

Genre: Non-Fiction

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:

My Big Book of Wild Animals is a fun informational fact book. This book is easy to read and in a kid friendly format. This book is filled with vibrant photos and short blocks of fast facts about the size, location, and habitat of different animals. It includes more than 65 of the world's most popular wild animals. The information and photographs are all from the world-famous San Diego Zoo. This book has many different categories or chapters such as insects, spiders, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, habitats, and animal group names.

Theme: Animals

ACTIVITY ONE: Lost Animal Poster

- Indicate origination of idea: Original Idea
- Objective(s): To have the students restate recently learned information
- Description of activity: Have your students act as if they were working in the San Diego Zoo and one of their animals escaped. Have the students make a poster for their missing animal. You want the students to include as much information on their animal as possible. You can tell your students to include as much information as they can so that they have a better chance of getting their animal back.

ACTIVITY TWO: Make a small dictionary

- Indicate origination of idea: Original Idea
- Objective(s): Helps students to learn new vocabulary words
- Description of activity: As the students are reading through this book there will be many new words. Have the student write down the unknown words. Then have them look up the definition and write them in a cute little booklet. That way the students can keep the booklet for later reference.

Title of book: Pink Snow and Other Weird Weather

Author's name: Jennifer Dussling

Publisher: Grosset and Dunlap

Copyright year: 1998

Reading Level: 1st Grade

Genre: Non-Fiction

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:

Sometimes weather is very weird! This book is filled with many facts and most of them are very hard to believe, but all of them are true. This book is all about real-life weird weather. Have you ever hear of pink snow? Can a snowflake be as big as a dinner plate? Not only can these things happen, they actually have. Pink Snow and Other Weird Weather is full of wonderful wacky weather facts.

Theme:

ACTIVITY ONE: Water Cycle/ Rain

- Indicate origination of idea: Original idea
- Objective(s): Have the students learn about the water cycle
- Description of activity: Create our own water cycle in your classroom. Have your students construct their own water cycle. Using heat lamps, clear trash bags, and a small water dish. The heat lamps will make the water evaporate and then collect on the top of the trash bag. Then it will turn back into water drops and drip from the top back into the water bowl.

ACTIVITY TWO: Poster

- Indicate origination of idea: Original idea
- Objective(s): Use creative ways to portray the information in the book
- Description of activity: Have your students get in groups and create a poster for the book. Have the students use at least three different facts from the book in their poster.

Title of book: How Mountains are Made

Author's name: Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld

Publisher: Harper Trophy

Copyright year: 1995

Reading Level: 1st Grade

Genre: Non-Fiction

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:

This book is an excellent starting point for young children to grasp the basic understanding that the earth is a lot more complex than one can see on the surface. The book covers 4 main theories about mountain; folded, dome, fault-block, and volcanic. This book also introduces fossils and erosion; it even explains the term Lithosphere and shows a simple diagram of such. The diagram is then followed up by a more complex diagram that includes the Lithosphere, the Magma, and the Rocky Mantle. This book is great for early learners to understand some basic concepts about what might be going on underneath the earth's surface.

Theme: Mountains

ACTIVITY ONE: Fossils

- Indicate origination of idea: Taken from one of my elementary teachers
- Objective(s): Have the students better understand fossils and how they are found.
- Description of activity: Pair the students up and each student should have a tray and different picking tools in front of them. Each plastic tray will be filled with hardened mud. Randomly put throughout the mud will be little shells or fake bones. The students will use their tools to dig up the different shells and bones.

ACTIVITY TWO: Make fossils

- Indicate origination of idea: Taken from one of my elementary teachers
- Objective(s): Show your students how fossils are made
- Description of activity: mix salt, flour, coffee, and coffee grounds. Then press your object you wish to make a fossil of into your dough. Carefully remove the object and let your dough dry into stone overnight. Explain to your students what you are doing is very much like the way real fossil prints were created. "Along time ago plants, bug, or animals left impressions in soft mud, which dried out and eventually became rock. This is what we call today fossils."

Title of book: Rainbows

Author's name: David Whitfield

Publisher: Weigl Publishers

Copyright year: 2006

Reading Level: 4th Grade

Genre: Non-Fiction

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:

This book is in the "Science Matters" series. It provides beginning information for both high and low readers. Readers learn about the optical effects that cause single, double, and lunar bows. This book provides references to relevant folklore as well as scientific information, profiles on important scientist, and closes with review questions, simple craft activity, and a glossary. This chapter book provides young readers with interesting information about rainbows, light refractions, the best time and place to find rainbows, and unique historical facts about rainbows.

Theme: Rainbows

ACTIVITY ONE: Breaking Light

- Indicate origination of idea: Science Fair project I did as a 4th grader
- Objective(s): To show students how a rainbow is made.
- Description of activity: Show the students many different prisms and show how when light goes in one side of the prism is it broken up and creates a rainbow on an adjacent side. Also talk about rain drops and condensation in the air that can cause the prism affect and create rainbows that way.

ACTIVITY TWO: Bending Light

- Indicate origination of idea: Science Fair project I did in 5th grade
- Objective(s): To show the students that light can also be bent to create different rainbow affects.
- Description of activity: Take different convex and concave lenses, an aquarium filled with water, a splash of milk to tint the water, and a flashlight. Lower the different lenses into the water and shine the flashlight at the lenses. Let the students play around with the different lenses and see what they can come up with. They should notice the different ways light reacts to the different shapes of the lenses.