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# **Book Kits for the 2021 Beehive Book Awards Informational Book Nominees**

***Borrowing Bunnies: A Surprising True Tale of Fostering Rabbits***

***Crayon Man: The True Story of the Invention of Crayola Crayons***

***Flower Talk***

***I'm Trying to Love Math***

***Just Ask: Be Different, Be Brave, Be You***

***Just Like Beverly: A Biography of Beverly Cleary***

***Volcano Dreams: A Story of Yellowstone***

***Wait, Rest, Pause: Dormancy in Nature***

***When Sparks Fly: The True Story of Robert Goddard, the Father  
of US Rocketry***

***The Wonders of Nature***



## Title: **Borrowing Bunnies**

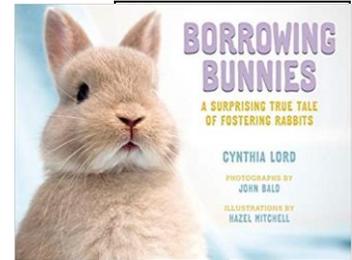
**Author:** Cynthia Lord, John Bald, Hazel Mitchell

**Publisher:** Farrar, Straus and Giroux

**Publication Date:** February 12, 2019

**ISBN:** 978-0374308414

**Grade Level:** Preschool – 1 (appropriate for up to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)



### Description

Newbery Honor author Cynthia Lord likes fostering rabbits—or, as she fondly calls it, “borrowing bunnies.” This is the heartwarming true story of the author’s own journey with two very special rabbits.

In the spring of 2016, Peggotty and Benjamin were saved by Maine’s Cottontail Cottage Rabbit Rescue after their previous owners had neglected them. But before the two Netherland Dwarf rabbits could be adopted, Cynthia had to help them learn to trust people and feel safe inside a home. The bunnies slowly settled in, enjoying their clean pens, nibbling new foods, and playing with fun toys, while Cindy’s husband, John Bald, photographed Benjamin and Peggotty’s every step toward adoption. At that time, hundreds of viewers were drawn to Cindy’s Facebook page to watch their progress. Now, she has adapted the rabbits’ true story into a picture book that explores love, responsibility, empathy, and letting go—along with fostering’s many surprises, both big and small.

Young readers will delight in watching these bunnies thrive while also learning a few fun animal facts. With Cindy’s pitch-perfect blend of warmth and real-life experience, *Borrowing Bunnies* is a new classic in narrative nonfiction.

### Themes

Animal Rescue, Baby animals, Foster care of animals, Pets, Pet responsibility, Rabbits

### Author Information

**Cynthia Lord** is the Newbery Honor author of *Rules* and other middle-grade novels. Her first picture book, *Hot Rod Hamster*, inspired a bestselling series about a speed-loving hamster that also includes four early readers. Her chapter-book series, Shelter Pet Squad, appeared on the American Booksellers Association’s ABC Best Books for Children list. Cindy lives in Maine with her husband, John Bald, their children, and a collection of beloved animals, including three rabbits (so far!).

**John Bald** is best known for his stunning photographs of landscapes and seascapes throughout New England, particularly along Maine’s rocky coastline. When he and Cindy fostered the family of rabbits featured in this book, he couldn’t resist documenting each precious moment—happy, sad, or silly—with his camera.

**Hazel Mitchell** is the author and illustrator of *Toby*, as well as the illustrator of several other picture books. When Fezzi and Dodger were old enough to have visitors, Cindy invited Hazel and other artists over to sketch and handle them. Hazel used those early drawings as inspiration for the illustrations in *Borrowing Bunnies*. She is originally from Yorkshire, England, and currently resides in Maine.

### Discussion Questions

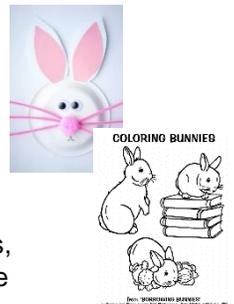
1. Foster care for pets (and people) is a place for a pet (or person) who doesn’t have a home but can be helped by a caring family to find food, shelter and love until a permanent place to live is found! What does it mean to be a foster parent? Do you know of any kids in foster care? Do you know of any pets in foster care?
2. Some of the newborn bunnies in this book died. Dying is a part of living. Have you ever lost a pet to old age, illness or accident? Do you think you and your family would be able to deal with a tragic loss of a pet?



3. Would you, your family, or your classroom be eligible to foster a pet? Do you have the time, money, space and resources to foster a pet? What would be the good and bad things about having a bunny living in your classroom?
4. Bringing a pet into a home is a big commitment. Why or why not would your family be a good/bad foster family to a pet?
5. The author and her family fostered bunnies for an animal rescue center. She states that some bunnies have never lived inside a home. What is the difference between domesticated bunnies and wild bunnies? Do you think bunnies and other animals should be fostered in a home by humans or should they be released to live in the wild?

### Activities

1. Visit a local animal shelter, pet adoption event or even the Utah Humane Society. Visit the rabbit sections. Interact with the critters. Most shelters will let you see and handle the rabbits to see if they are a good fit for you and your family. <https://www.utahhumane.org/blog-tags/rabbit>
2. Contact Intermountain Therapy Animals (located in Salt Lake City, Utah). They have several volunteers who, along with dogs, visit schools, libraries and events. The bunnies visit older people at assisted living centers, hospitals, and kids at school. They bring joy and comfort to patients. These bunnies are so well trained you can read to them! If they don't have any bunnies available to visit, see if another type of pet can come to your school. <http://www.therapyanimals.org/Home.html>
3. Bunnies have very strong back legs and are very quick. In the 1950s a dance was made up called the Bunny Hop by band leader Ray Anthony. The dance is a variation on a conga line. Participants dance in a line or a circle, holding on to the hips of the person in front of them. They tap the floor two times with their left foot, then with their right foot, then they hop forwards, backwards, and finally three hops forward to finish the sequence. This continues throughout the tune. The first person in the line or the open circle leads the group around the floor. This is a fun way to get the wiggles out of younger students. <https://youtu.be/DjFd-Wj0OSs>. For older students, watch the Ray Anthony creator of the dance. <https://youtu.be/EmC1KyxhEJU>
4. Make a paper plate Bunny! Directions at <https://www.thebestideasforkids.com/paper-plate-easter-bunny-craft/>
5. A paper plate, a pom-pom, google eyes, pipe cleaners, construction paper, and glue.
6. Coloring Page <http://cynthialord.com/pdf/Borrowing-Bunnies-coloring-page.pdf>
7. Pflu.org - Paws for Life Utah, The Utah Humane Society, and other pet rescue centers, always need foster parents for cats, dogs and sometimes bunnies. This is because the shelter can get full and the staff and volunteers cannot devote the time and provide space to help animals in need.
8. People and families in the community are asked to take pets into their homes to help the animals out. The shelters won't let just anyone be a foster pet family. There needs to be a good fit. Find out what it takes to be a foster pet parent! Does your family rent or own where you live? Some rentals, apartment buildings and condos won't allow pets so that is something to consider when deciding if you want to be a foster family. Complete the application. Are you a good fit? <https://pflu.org/get-involved/fostering/> <https://www.utahhumane.org/blog-tags/foster>



### More Resources

- <http://cynthialord.com/borrowing-bunnies.html>
- <https://rabbitwelfare.co.uk/rabbit-care-advice/think-you-want-a-rabbit/>
- <https://rabbit.org/faq-orphaned-baby-bunnies/>
- <https://youtu.be/Ev-5T3xEe9k>

• [www.lopsoflove.com](http://www.lopsoflove.com)



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- [www.riseandshinerabbitry.com/2013/01/06/fostering-kits/amp/](http://www.riseandshinerabbitry.com/2013/01/06/fostering-kits/amp/)
  - [http://florida4h.org/projects/rabbits/MarketRabbits/ActivityRP\\_Fostering2.html](http://florida4h.org/projects/rabbits/MarketRabbits/ActivityRP_Fostering2.html)

### **Similar Books**

- *My First Look at Rabbits*: by Valerie Bodden
- *Do you Really Want a Rabbit?* by Bridget Heos
- *Bunny's Guide to Caring for Your Rabbit (Pets' Guides)* by Anita Ganeri
- *Rabbits (My First Pet)* by Cari Meister
- *Because of the Rabbit* by Cynthia Lord

### **Related Non-fiction**

- *Moto and Me: My Year as a Wildcat's Foster Mom* by Suzi Eszterhas
- *Kitten Lady's Big Book of Little Kittens* by Hannah Rene Shaw,
- *Tails Are Not For Pulling* by Elizabeth Verdick,
- *Saving Yasha: The Incredible True Story of an Adopted Moon Bear* by Lia Kvatum
- *Rabbit* by Aaron Carr



# The Crayon Man: the true story of the invention of Crayola crayons

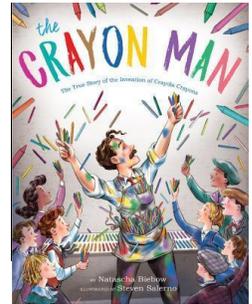
**Author:** Natascha Biebow, Steven Salerno (illustrator)

**Publisher:** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

**Publication Date:** March 19, 2019

**ISBN:** 9781328866844

**Grade Level:** K-3



## Description

Celebrating the inventor of the Crayola crayon! This gloriously illustrated picture book biography tells the inspiring story of Edwin Binney, the inventor of one of the world's most beloved toys.

## Themes

1900s, Binney, Binney & Smith Co, Biography, Chalk, Clay, Color, Crayons, Edwin, Flowers, Garden, History, Industrialists, School Kids, Slate, United States

## Author Information

Natascha Biebow's favorite crayon color is periwinkle blue because it makes her heart sing. She loves to draw and make stuff, just like Edwin Binney. She lives in London, where she writes, edits, coaches and mentors children's book authors and illustrators at Blue Elephant Storyshaping, and is the long-time Regional Advisor of SCBWI British Isles. The Crayon Man is her first non-fiction picture book. Find her at [nataschabiebow.com](http://nataschabiebow.com).

## Discussion Questions

1. Many people tried to get Edwin to create better writing utensils. Some said the ones from Europe are too expensive and they can even be poisonous. What other poisonous items have been used in the past because they were the only available product or the general public didn't realize how dangerous they were? Are there products today that we need to be careful using because they could cause dangerous side effects? Learn about toxic versus non-toxic.
2. Lapis is mentioned as a mix to make blue crayons. What other similar items have been used to create a needed color? Learn about lapis and other rocks, minerals and even gems.
3. Make slime or any project where you have to follow a recipe. Use science to talk about substituting different products, when you have to follow the recipe exactly, and when you can use more intuition (such as cooking versus baking).
4. Color mixing can be a fun program as well as candy science (look at more resources for a video). How does heating and cooling affect colors? Some minerals glow a different color when introduced to flames. Find out what they are and why they change colors.
5. Learn about the color wheel. Talk about primary, secondary, tertiary and how different colors compliment and contrast. This could lead to talks about art, fashion and design if the age is appropriate.
6. Crayola got its name from French origins. *Craie* for stick of chalk and *ola* from *oleaginous*, for oily texture of the crayon wax. What languages are you interested in learning about and can you combine key words of that language to make a new word for something, especially something you may have invented?
7. The first box of eight Crayola crayons was sold for one nickel. Look at the prices of other items the year you were born, when your parents were born or when your grandparents were born. Why do prices go up over time? Learn basic economic tips as appropriate for the age group.
8. By the 1900s, inventors figured out how to make cheaper paper from wood pulp. What was paper made of before that? Have a discussion about saving the planet and how to recycle. This would especially be great around Earth Day.



## **Activities**

1. Author Activities: <https://www.nataschabiebow.com/for-kids/>
2. Crayola coloring and crafts: <https://www.crayola.com/featured/free-coloring-pages/>
3. Crayola Alive Augmented Reality: <https://www.crayola.com/splash/products/coloralive>
4. Oriental Trading has great Magic Scratch products that are a little more affordable. What as your art changes from black to color. <https://www.orientaltrading.com/craft-and-hobby-supplies/crafts-for-kids/magic-scratch-a1-550183-1.fltr?categoryFromSearch=true&rd=magic%20color%20scratch>
  - i. DIY Scratch Art product: <https://www.craftprojectideas.com/make-your-own-scratch-art-2/>
5. Take a virtual tour of the Crayola factory or see how color changes something. The following are a few YouTube examples.
  - i. Crayola Factory Experience: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCMR8QsN-7w>
  - ii. The Today Show did an inside the factory video: <https://www.today.com/video/inside-the-crayola-factory-see-how-the-iconic-crayons-are-made-893853251852>
6. Learn about other inventors, including children. <https://greatbusinessschools.org/10-great-inventions-dreamt-up-by-children/>
7. If you have the resources, have your students write only using slate pencils or chalk on blackboards.

## **More Resources**

- Author: <https://www.nataschabiebow.com/>
- Illustrator: <https://www.stevensalerno.com/>
- Candy Science can be found in multiple websites and videos. This YouTube video has 10 different STEAM experiments. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3EcFyf0zWo>
- Crayola: <https://www.crayola.com/>; check out the crafts and educations tabs.
- Color Wheel:
  - Printables: Great for Classrooms <https://mrprintables.com/printable-color-wheel.html>
  - A little more in depth: [https://kids.kiddle.co/Color\\_wheel](https://kids.kiddle.co/Color_wheel)
- Pantone: Color of the Season/Year: <https://www.pantone.com/> You can also find out how a specific color may affect you.
  - Check out the Color with Confidence section: <https://www.pantone.com/color-intelligence/articles/product-spotlight/color-with-confidence>
- World's Fair:
  - <https://www.britannica.com/topic/worlds-fair>
  - <http://www.expomuseum.com/history/>

## **Similar Books**

- *Andrew Draws* by David McPhail
- *The Day the Crayons Quit* (and the rest of the series) by Drew Daywalt
- *Eraser* by Anna Kang
- *Frankencrayon* by Michael Hall
- *Harold and the Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson
- *Red: A crayon's story* by Michael Hall
- *What We Found in the Sofa (and how it saved the world)* by Henry Clark (chapter book)

## **Related Non-fiction**



- 
- *Balloons Over Broadway* by Melissa Sweet
  - *Drawing with Crayola!: animals, robots, monsters, cars, and more* Illustrated by Emily Golden
  - *Just Like Rube Goldberg* by Sarah Aronson
  - *Turning Wax into Crayons* by Herald McKinley
  - *You are My Friend: the story of Mister Rogers and his neighborhood* by Aimee Reid
  - *When Sparks Fly: the true story of Robert Goddard, the father of US Rocketry* by Kristen Fulton



# Flower Talk: How Plants Use Flowers to Communicate

**Author:** Sara Levine

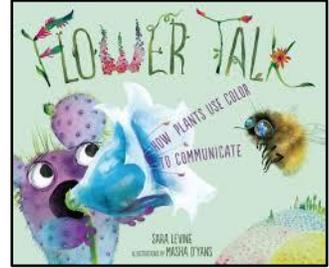
**Illustrator:** Masha D'Yans

**Publisher:** Millbrook Press

**Publication Date:** March 5, 2019

**ISBN:** 9781541543782

**Grade Level:** 2-6



## Description

A cantankerous talking cactus reveals the significance of colors in flowers. Each different color means something to pollinators—bees, bats, birds, and more—to help them navigate and pollinate easily! This fun nonfiction presentation of science combines beautiful colors and our favorite pollinators and flowers to present new information that may surprise even some adults! (Amazon.com)

## Themes

Animal-plant relationships, Flowers, Pollination, Wildlife Attracting

## Author Information

Sara Levine is an author, educator and a veterinarian. Her science books for children include *Bone by Bone: Comparing Animal Skeletons*; *Tooth by Tooth: Comparing Fangs, Tusks and Chompers*; *Fossil by Fossil: Comparing Dinosaur Bones*; and *Flower Talk: How Plants Use Color to Communicate*. Her book awards include AAAS/Subaru SB&F Prize for Excellence in Science Books, Utah Beehive Book Award, Bank Street College Best Children's Book of the Year, and Cook Prize finalist for best STEM picture book.

Website: <http://www.saralevinebooks.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/saralevinebooks/>

Twitter: @saraclevine

## Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think the author chose a grouchy cactus to be the narrator of the book?
2. This book explains some reasons why plants need animals. Why do animals need plants?
3. People are animals too—why do we need plants?
4. What kinds of animals have you seen in flower gardens? Do you think they were helping the flowers? How?
5. If you were planning a garden, which color of flowers would you want to plant? Why?
6. At the end of the book, the author tells us three things we can do to help protect pollinators. Which of these things could you do? How would you do it?
7. In the section called “More about Pollination,” the author says that any food that has seeds inside of it is a fruit—including pumpkins and peanuts (the peanut IS the seed!). How many foods can you think of with seeds inside of them? Why do you think some of these fruits—like tomatoes and squash—are called “vegetables,” even though they are really fruits?
8. What did you already know about flowers and pollinators before you read this book? What did you learn from the book? What do you want to learn more about now that you have read the book?

## Activities

1. **COLORING PAGES:** Students can color flowers to attract certain kinds of animals (or to attract no animals at all). Many free, printable coloring pages are available online (see examples). More complex flower patterns are also available for older students, or you can also have students draw or craft flowers. Older students could



write sentences or paragraphs about their choices to show their understanding of the book's information. All students could share their pictures and their color choices verbally.

2. **MUSICAL FLOWERS:** Depending on the amount of space you want to use, hang flowers of different colors\* around your room or on chairs/the floor in a circle. The rules work like musical chairs: play music while students circle and occasionally stop the music. When the music stops, say BIRDS! BEES! MOTHS (or BATS)! FLIES! Or NO ONE! Students should find a flower that would be attractive to what you called.
  - i. \*OPTION 1: Display one color match for each possible pollinator for each student so everyone can find his or her own place to stand.
  - ii. OPTION 2: Display color matches for each pollinator but display one less of each color than the number of students for a competitive game (the student left without a match is "out"). Take down flowers as you go to adjust for the number of students playing.
  - iii. OPTION 3 (best for very young kids): Have only one color-match for each possible pollinator predominantly displayed. All students should go to the one match that would attract the pollinator called
3. **PLAN A GARDEN:**
  - i. OPTION 1: Students will get a scenario from the leader (see examples). On their own or in small groups, they would plan a garden to meet the requests. This plan could be simple (draw a diagram and make a shopping list) to complex (use math formulas to determine space and layout, choose specific flowers from a catalog or store website, stay within a budget, etc.)
  - ii. OPTION 2: Starting with a picture of a garden (from a magazine or website, for example), students analyze what pollinators would be attracted to the garden and make suggestions to renovate the garden to bring more pollinators in.
  - iii. OPTION 3: (Adaptation for lower or younger learners): Students receive a picture with a garden space and pictures of pollinators above certain sections. They draw, place stickers, color, or otherwise indicate what flowers match the area of the pollinator
4. **DISSECT A FLOWER:** Probably best for small groups. Students receive a flower (larger, less delicate flowers like a lily may work best.). First, they observe the flower and record anything they know just from looking at it (pollinators it may attract) They then dissect the flower to see if they can find the parts of a flower as shown in the back of the book. (Older kids may be able to make a cross-section cut of the flower; younger kids may need to have this cut already made by an adult. Adjust to fit your students' needs.) Students should then draw a diagram of what they see or take a photograph of their flower. On the diagram (or printed copy of their photo) they should label the parts of the flower.
5. **FRUIT RESEARCH:** Small teams of students are given a different fruit to research (apple, orange, peach, grapes, etc.). Using other books and/or the Internet, students will work "backward" from the fully formed fruit to find out how it became a fruit (information like what flower/blossom became this fruit, what pollinators usually pollinate the plant, then using information about the steps of pollination as described in the back pages to show the progression. They may report by making a poster, a slide show (Google Slides, PowerPoint, Prezi, Adobe Spark, etc.), writing a report with diagrams, creating an infographic (Canva, Adobe Spark, Piktochart, etc.), or any other format that fits the objectives of the teacher and the age and development of the students.
6. **IS IT A FRUIT?** Students sort produce into categories: "fruit" or "not a fruit." They will use the strict botanical definition by looking for seeds inside the item. They may use pictures, but real fruit would be more fun. If cutting seems too dangerous, cut the food in half ahead of the activity. Small groups might have a selection of produce at their table, a selection of fruit can be displayed like a buffet where students walk along making decisions then heading back to their tables to discuss, or they could even take a quick trip to a grocery store if that is convenient/possible.



7. **PROTECTING OUR POLLINATORS:** The last page of the book describes the threat to some insect pollinators and generally explains why that matters. Students could take the subject on a create a campaign to raise awareness and/or educate the public about the problem. Posters, television commercials, letters to politicians or manufacturers, TED talks, blog posts, etc.—many different projects would work. For older students, this could also become a research and/or project-based learning assignment where they brainstorm or design solutions.

### **More Resources**

- [Bee and Pollinator Activities for Kids \(Edmonton & Area Land Trust\)](#)
- *Bill Nye the Science Guy*. Season 10, Episode 4, “Flowers”
- [Cool Kid Facts: Pollination for Kids](#)
- [DK Find Out: How a Plant is Pollinated](#)
- [VIDEO: The Beauty of Pollination \(Moving Art\)](#)

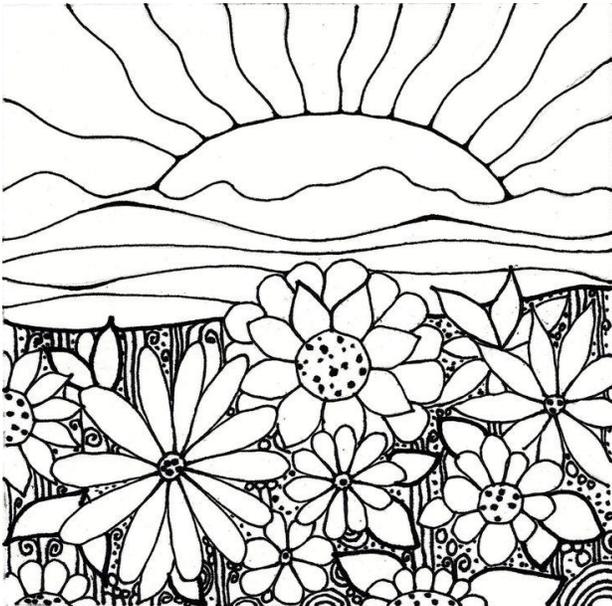
### **Similar Books**

- Gray, Rita. *Flowers are Calling*. Boston. HMH Books for Young Readers, 2015.
- Hirsch, Rebecca. *Plants Can't Sit Still*. Minneapolis: Millbrook Press, 2016.

### **Related Non-fiction**

- Anthony, Joseph. *In a Nutshell*. Nevada City, CA: Dawn Publications, 1999.
- Barton, Bethany. *Give Bees a Chance*. New York: HarperCollins, 2017.
- Brenner, Barbara. *One Small Place in a Tree*. New York: HarperCollins, 2004.
- Brown, Ruth. *Ten Seeds*. New York: Knopf, 2010.
- Chin, Jason. *Redwoods*. New York: Flashpoint, 2009.
- Griffin Burns, Loree. *The Hive Detectives: Chronicle of a Honey Bee Catastrophe*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2010.
- Jose, Sarah, and Chris Clennett. *Trees, Leaves, Flowers & Seeds: A Visual Encyclopedia of the Plant Kingdom*. DK Publishing, 2019.
- Stewart, Melissa. *A Seed is the Start*. Washington, DC: National Geographic, 2018.

Sample Coloring Pages (click for links):



### Sample Scenarios:

You are assigned to design a garden for a family with a long, rectangular garden spot in their backyard where they love to sit and watch the birds and butterflies. Their youngest daughter is allergic to bees, though, and they don't want bats flying through the yard at night.

The Johnson family would like you to plan three small flower gardens for them: 1) a small, round space near their apple and cherry trees, 2) potted and hanging plants for their porch where they love to watch for hummingbirds, and 3) the long narrow area along their pool where they would rather not have insects or birds nearby.



# I'm Trying To Love Math

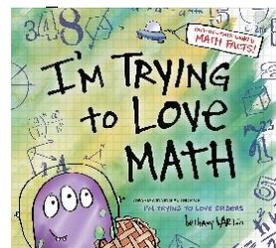
**Author:** Bethany Barton

**Publisher:** Viking Books for Young Readers

**Publication Date:** July 02, 2019

**ISBN:** 978-0451480903

**Grade Level:** Preschool - 3



## Description

Do multiplication tables give you hives? Do you break out in a sweat when you see more than a few numbers hanging out together? Then *I'm Trying to Love Math* is for you! In her signature hilarious style, Bethany Barton introduces readers to the things (and people) that use math in amazing ways -- like music, and spacecraft, and even baking cookies! This isn't a how-to math book, it's a way to think differently about math as a necessary and cool part of our lives

## Themes

Applied Mathematics –Juvenile Literature, Creative Nonfiction, Humor (Nonfiction), Juvenile Nonfiction, Mathematics, Picture Books

## Author Information

Bethany Barton is an author and illustrator who celebrates life with painting, laughter, and as much time on her snowboard as possible. She lives and works (making art and painting sets) in Los Angeles.

<https://www.bethanybarton.com/>

## Discussion Questions

1. What do you like about math?
2. Why is math important to learn?
3. How do you use math in everyday life?
4. What would your life be like if you couldn't do math?
5. What type of math do you want to learn?

## Activities

1. Go on a math scavenger hunt in your house: Starting with the number '1', find 1 object in a room of your house. Then find 2 objects, etc. See how far you can go.
2. Do a number "I Spy" game while driving in the car: First find the number '1', then '2', etc. See how high you can go.
3. Play the Subtraction War card game: This game is similar to the familiar "War" card game, with a few differences. 1. Subtract your lowest number from your highest number. 2. The lowest difference wins and that player gets all of the cards.  
[https://www.education.com/activity/article/subtraction\\_war/](https://www.education.com/activity/article/subtraction_war/)
4. Exercise Math (A fun way to do math and get exercise): Choose 4 activities and see how many times you can do each one. Then add them together to see if you reached 100. Ex. Jump rope and count how many times you jumped before you missed. Then hop on one foot until you have to stop. Now do as many jumping jacks as you can. Finally, bounce a basketball until it gets away from you. Add the total of each activity. Did you reach 100?
5. Count how many different shapes you can find in your bedroom.

## More Resources



- 
- <http://www.mathblaster.com/>
  - <https://frugalfun4boys.com/hands-on-math-activities-elementary/>
  - <https://www.slcolibrary.org/kidzone/kzhc/hcMath.htm>

### **Similar Books**

- Anno's Magic Seed by Mitsumatsa Anno
- I'm Trying to Love Spiders by Bethany Barton
- Millions, Billions & Trillions: Understanding Big Numbers by David A. Adler
- The Odd One Out by Britta Teichentrup
- Shark Swimathon by Stuart J. Murphy

### **Related Non-fiction**

- Let's Explore Math by Joseph Levit
- Math You can Munch by Megan Borgert-Spaniol
- The School of Numbers: learn about mathematics with 40 simple lessons by Emily Hawkins



# Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You

**Author:** Sonia Sotomayor  
**Illustrator:** Rafael Lopez  
**Publisher:** Philomel Books  
**Publication Date:** 2019  
**ISBN:** 978-0-525-51412-1  
**Grade Level:** K-3



## Description

A story in which friends who have different abilities, work together to build a community garden.

## Themes

Autobiographical, Community gardens, Disabilities and special needs, Diverse abilities, Friendship, Individuality, Questions and answers

## Author Information

Sonia Maria Sotomayor is an American lawyer and jurist who serves as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. She was appointed by President Barack Obama and confirmed in August 2009. She was the first Hispanic and Latina Justice.

## Discussion Questions

1. Though we all do not need special tools or medicines to help us function from day to day, we are all special and unique. What is special or unique about yourself?
2. Think about a person you know who has a special need. How do you know them? How are they the same as you and how are they different? What are some things you like to do together, or what are some things they like to do?
3. Think of the special needs mentioned in the book. Which one would you like to learn more about? What questions do you have about it?
4. The book is structured in a question-and-answer format. Why do you think the author chose this style? What does it add to the story? How would the story be different without the questions?
5. The setting of the story is a community garden. Why do you think the author chose this setting? What does it add to the story?
6. Imagine this story in a different setting. How does that change the story?
7. The book ends: "... each of us has unique powers to share with the world and make it more interesting and richer. What will you do with your powers?" How would you answer that question?
8. The book suggests that you "just ask" if you see someone different than yourself and have questions about it. How do you feel about that advice? What are potential positive and negative consequences to following that advice?

## Activities

1. Pick one of the special needs from the book and find out more about it.
2. Sonia Sotomayor is a Supreme Court justice who had childhood diabetes. Research to find another prominent or famous adult that had a challenging childhood disability or illness.
3. Create some centers where children can experience how it might feel to not have the use of one of their senses. For example, they need to navigate an obstacle course blindfolded, or they watch a video with no sound.
4. Help children see how we often take our functioning bodies for granted, and to help develop empathy for those with special needs. Offer some craft or playdough activity where children are asked to create something using only one hand.



5. The book ends: "... each of us has unique powers to share with the world and make it more interesting and richer. What will you do with your powers?" Create a picture or a story that shares something you can imagine yourself doing one day.
6. Have children color or decorate the same picture of a flower or floral pattern using different colors and supplies (crayons, color pencils, watercolors, markers, tissue paper, glitter, etc) and display all the amazing variety and beauty of the pictures that resulted from something that started out exactly the same.

### **More Resources**

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKhuoz9XP7Y> Students help read aloud from the book.
- [https://abcnews.go.com/GMA/Strahan\\_and\\_Sara/video/sonia-sotomayor-reads-kids-65598046](https://abcnews.go.com/GMA/Strahan_and_Sara/video/sonia-sotomayor-reads-kids-65598046) Sonia Sotomayor reads from the book to children
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nztz3yuF3IY> Interview with Sonia Sotomayor on The Daily Show where she discusses the book
- <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/09/01/755845325/just-ask-says-sonia-sotomayor-she-knows-what-its-like-to-feel-different> Interview with Sonia Sotomayor that includes an experience that inspired this story. Also includes some conversation with the illustrator.
- <https://www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?tid=65507> TeachingBooks resource page with various resources about the author, illustrator, and extension activities

### **Similar Books**

- All the Way to the Top: How One Girl's Fight for Americans with Disabilities Changed Everything by Annette Bay Pimentel
- Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah by Laurie Ann Thompson
- How to Build a Hug: Temple Grandin and Her Amazing Squeeze Machine by Amy Guglielmo
- Not So Different: What You Really Want to Ask About Having a Disability by Shane Burcaw
- Pebble Plus: Understanding Our Differences series by Lola Schaefer
- Six Dots: A Story of Young Louie Braille
- Turning Pages: My Life Story by Sonia Sotomayor

### **Related Fiction**

- Antonio's Impossible Dream by Tim McGlen - (main character befriends a blind girl, picture book)
- El Deafo by Cece Bell – (main character is deaf, graphic novel)
- A Friend for Henry by Jenn Bailey (main character has autism, picture book)
- Hello Goodbye Dog by Maria Gianferrari - (main character used wheelchair, picture book)
- Maybe Something Beautiful by Isabel Campoy (illustrated by Rafael Lopez)
- Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper (main character has cerebral palsy, chapter book)
- Rescue & Jessica: A Life-Changing Friendship by Jessica Kensky (main character has amputated legs, picture book)
- Zoom! by Robert Munsch (main character uses a wheelchair, picture book)



# Just Like Beverly

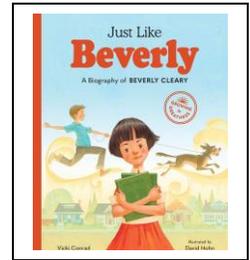
**Author:** Vicki Conrad

**Publisher:** Little Bigfoot

**Publication Date:** August 13, 2019

**ISBN:** 978-1632172228

**Grade Level:** K-4



## Description

*Just Like Beverly* follows the life of beloved children's author Beverly Cleary from her early years in Oregon to her career as a successful writer who wrote stories, including the wildly popular Ramona and Henry Huggins series, for kids just like her.

As a young girl, Beverly Cleary struggled to learn to read and found most children's books dull and uninteresting. She often wondered if there were any books about kids just like her. With hard work, and the encouragement of her parents and a special teacher, she learned to read and at a young age discovered she had a knack for writing.

Beverly Cleary's story comes to life in this narrative nonfiction picture book as she grows to follow her dreams of writing the books she longed for as a child, becoming an award-winning writer and one of the most famous children's authors of all time.

Beautiful illustrations capture Cleary's sense of humor, struggles, and triumphs, and are filled with Easter eggs throughout for fans to discover.

## Themes

Author, Biography, Growing up, Librarian, Reading, Writing

## Author Information

Amazon.com: "VICKI CONRAD is a teacher with a passion for literacy development and inspiring students to love reading just as much as she did as a child. Growing up, she was always found with a book in her hand, and she has stayed that way ever since."

Penguin Random House author page: <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/591576/just-like-beverly-by-vicki-conrad-illustrated-by-david-hohn/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/vickiconrad2?lang=en>

## Discussion Questions

1. When Beverly was small, her town library didn't have any books for children until her mother wrote an article about it for the newspaper. What would it be like to grow up without books?
2. How did Beverly learn to read? Was it easy? How did she learn to love books?
3. Beverly wrote books that children could relate to. Why is that important?
4. What is one of your favorite books and why do you love it?
5. When Beverly was young she won \$2 for an essay about the Oregon Beaver. She learned that anyone can talk about writing, but only those who try it will succeed. What is something you have tried, or want to try? How will you succeed?



## **Activities**

1. When Beverly was born, her family lived on a farm. There were no kids her age around, so she played with the animals. Go on a nature walk and see how many birds, bugs, and animals you can find and identify.
2. Have the kids try writing or drawing with their non-dominant hand. You can have them do the same thing with their dominant hand and compare them. Talk about different ways to do other activities that may be challenging.
3. Have the kids make a timeline of something they know well. Their life, a vacation, a day at school, etc. The kids can draw pictures to accompany the events on their timeline, cut pictures out of magazines, or anything else they like.
4. Make stilts or perfume like Beverly and her friends did.  
<https://premeditatedleftovers.com/naturally-frugal-mom/homemade-tin-can-stilts/>,  
<https://www.fragrancex.com/blog/perfume-kids-craft/>
5. Do some fun writing activities, such as Mad Libs, Matching Games with Onomatopoeias, etc. (25 Ways to Get Kids Writing: <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/25-ways-get-kids-writing/>)

## **More Resources**

- The World of Beverly Cleary: <http://www.beverlycleary.com/> Author interview & video, teacher's guide, "Drop Everything and Read" materials, fun and games

## **Similar Books**

- *A Girl from Yamhill: a Memoir* by Beverly Cleary
- *A Boy, a Mouse, and a Spider: the story of E.B. White* by Barbara Herkert
- *Imagine That! How Dr. Seuss wrote The cat in the hat* by Judy Sierra
- *Balderdash! John Newbery and the boisterous birth of children's books* by Michelle Markel
- *Beatrix Potter and Her Paint Box* by David McPhail

## **Related Fiction**

- *Henry & Ribsy* by Beverly Cleary
- *Ramona and Her Father* by Beverly Cleary
- *Write This Book: a do-it-yourself mystery* by Pseudonymous Bosch
- *Stella by Starlight* by Sharon M. Draper
- *Clementine* by Sara Pennypacker



# Volcano Dreams: a Story of Yellowstone

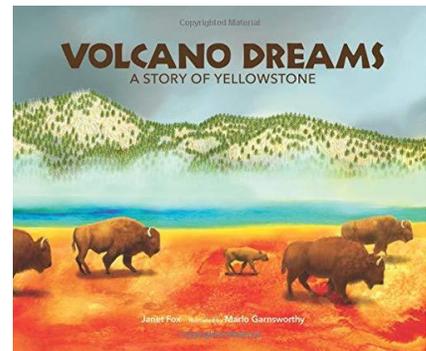
**Author:** Janet Fox

**Publisher:** Web of Life Children's Books

**Publication Date:** September 25, 2018

**ISBN:** 97809888330382

**Grade Level:** Kindergarten - 4th



## Description

Lyrical prose and luminous paintings lead readers on a tour of the Yellowstone super volcano, from the wolves, elk, bears, and mountain goats that roam its surface to the fiery depths of its magma chamber. *Volcano Dreams* knits together the vibrancy of the Yellowstone ecosystem with its explosive history, placing the everyday lives of its creatures within the context of geological time. Janet Fox's poetic text takes us to the root of it all – the 'sleeping giant' of magma responsible for the Yellowstone landscape – and Marlo Garnsworthy's evocative paintings capture the awe of natural forces at work in our nation's oldest national park.

## Themes

Animals, Biotic Communities, Caldera, Geology, Volcanoes, Yellowstone National Park

## Author Information

Janet Fox is an author, mom, outdoor enthusiast, and former teacher. She has an MS in marine geology and an MFA in Writing for Children. Her award-winning books, written for children and young adults, have won her fans of all ages. She's been to the bottom of the ocean in a submersible and has spent many years in Yellowstone National Park "geyser gazing" with her son and geophysicist husband. She lives in Bozeman, Montana. For a more detailed bio: <http://janetsfox.com/about-me/>

## How to contact Janet:

Website: <http://janetsfox.com/>

For Skype or class visits: <http://janetsfox.com/speaking/>

## Discussion Questions

1. What was it that was sleeping in Yellowstone?
2. Do you think the animals are aware that an ancient volcano exists deep beneath the surface of the earth?
3. What is a habitat? Identify ways the natural world provides a habitat for a particular animal within Yellowstone.
4. What type of volcano lives beneath the ground in Yellowstone?
5. What was formed when the volcano collapsed so many years ago?

## Activities

1. Make a volcano anatomy puzzle. <https://happytotshelf.com/parts-of-a-volcano-diy-cardboard-puzzle/>
2. Make a volcano out of construction and tissue paper!
3. Create a look inside volcano and watch it blow!  
[https://www.123homeschool4me.com/volcano-project-look-inside-volcano\\_84/](https://www.123homeschool4me.com/volcano-project-look-inside-volcano_84/)
4. Learn all about geysers with this interactive guide.  
<https://www.alsc.ala.org/blog/2013/11/geyser-science-for-the-school-age-crowd/>





5. Soda pop geysers! <https://www.glitteronadime.com/soda-geyser-eruption-experiment/>
6. Volcano eruption painting in a bag! [https://happytotshelf.com/volcano-eruption-painting-in-a-ziploc-bag/?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=pinterest&utm\\_campaign=tailwind\\_tribes&utm\\_content=tribes&utm\\_term=627878410\\_24224654\\_3921](https://happytotshelf.com/volcano-eruption-painting-in-a-ziploc-bag/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=pinterest&utm_campaign=tailwind_tribes&utm_content=tribes&utm_term=627878410_24224654_3921)
7. Watch Old Faithful on the live webcam!  
<https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/photosmultimedia/webcams.htm>

### **More Resources**

- Follow the link for an Educators Guide on the author's website!  
<http://janetsfox.com/books/volcano-dreams/fox-janet-volcano-dreams-v2-1/>
- For a complete set of classroom lesson plans and experiments provided by the author: <http://www.curiouscitydpw.com/download/21766/>
- This educator's guide would be useful on its own, but was created to partner with a specific show about volcanoes.  
[https://imaxmelbourne.com.au/images/uploads/images/Volcanoes3D\\_Educator\\_Guide.pdf](https://imaxmelbourne.com.au/images/uploads/images/Volcanoes3D_Educator_Guide.pdf)



### **Similar Books**

- *Mountains of the World* by Dieter Braun
- *The Street Beneath My Feet* by Charlotte Guillain
- *Canyons* by Sara Gilbert
- *Yellowstone* by Marion Dane Bauer
- *Geothermal Energy* by M.M. Eboch

### **Related Non-fiction**

- *Volcanoes: Fire and Life* by Jon Chad
- *Dear Katie, the Volcano is a Girl* by Jean Craighead George
- *The Seismic Seven* by Katie Slivensky
- *Can You Survive a Super Volcano Eruption? An Interactive Doomsday Adventure* by B.A. Hoena
- *The Pup Who Cried Wolf* by Chris Kurtz



## Wait, Rest, Pause: Dormancy in Nature

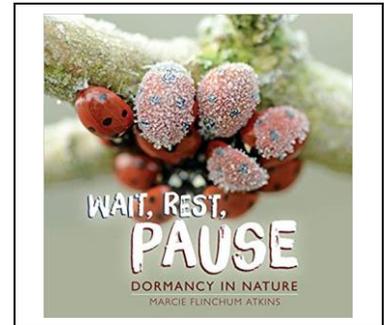
**Author:** Marcie Flinchum Atkins

**Publisher:** Millbrook Press (Tm)

**Publication Date:** September 3, 2019

**ISBN:** 1541561929 (ISBN13: 9781541561922)

**Grade Level:** Kindergarten+



### Description

Captivating photos of animals accompany simple, engaging text to explain dormancy in nature. This highly curricular book teaches young readers about different kinds of dormancy and which animals do what. Featuring creatures like ladybugs, chickadees, squirrels, and even alligators, this book won't put curious kids to sleep!

### Themes

Animal behavior, Animals – Wintering, Brumation, Diapause, Dormancy (Biology), Estivation, Hibernation, Plant Dormancy, Torpor

### Author Information

<https://www.marcieatkins.com/about-me/>

Skype Visit (20 min) - Includes a read aloud of *Wait, Rest, Pause: Dormancy in Nature* and a brief Q&A session.

### Discussion Questions

1. If you needed to go dormant for the winter, how would you do it and why?
2. How do you survive the cold? How do you survive the heat?
3. Can all animals go dormant? Which ones cannot? Which ones can?
4. What plants survive the winter and which ones do not? What are the ones that can called? What are the ones that can't called? How do plants reproduce based on their life cycle?
5. What animals survive extreme cold the best and how? What animals survive extreme heat the best and how?
6. Do all insects go dormant over winter? How do the different insects go dormant over winter? What do the insects do to survive winter that don't go dormant? How do the insects reproduce based on their life cycle and dormancy/overwintering?

### Activities

1. **Frozen Food:** In winter, food becomes harder to find and eat for animals. Place a piece of fruit (pineapple, grape, apple, banana, etc.) in an ice cube tray and cover with water. Freeze. Once frozen, give each child an ice cube and let them see how hard it is to smell (find), and eat the piece of fruit in winter. Talk about how during the warmer seasons, animals will eat to fatten themselves up so that that fat can be used as fuel for their bodies during the colder seasons. And how that stored fat can help them survive for as long as six or seven months.
2. **Classroom Hibernation:** Consider having a day where students can bring pillows, blankets, stuffed animals, etc. and



“hibernate” for a time. Students can bring their favorite snack to help store fuel for the long winter’s nap. They can also enjoy their favorite book or board game while they enjoy this calm, restful time.

3. **Body Temperature:** Fill a large bowl with warm water that can be read on a thermometer, at/close to 99°F, or average body temperature. Allow students to place their hand(s) in warm water. Then start adding ice until the water reads at/close to 43°F or the average body temperature of a hibernating/dormant animal. Discuss if they think they could sleep comfortably at this temperature for an extended period of time.
4. **Preparing Winter Beds:** Have each student pick a different animal to get ready for dormancy. Have them do research to find out what way that animal sleeps through winter. Using different materials, have students make a den, nest, burrows, etc. for their chosen animal. Use organic material, craft material, recyclable material, food, etc. to help student recreate a place that will house their animal all winter long.
5. **Conserving Energy Yoga:** Have students exercise to raise their heart rates (a simple lap around the gym or jumping jacks is enough). Have students stop and take their pulse marking how many beats per minute. Point out how their breath has quickened and how they may feel tired. Turning on some meditation music, have the students start to calm their bodies through simple stretches and basic yoga poses. Then have them rest and relax on the floor, lying down. After a time, have the students check their pulse rate again, and compare their breathing to before and if they are still tired or feel relaxed. Compare this to the way animals slow their heart rate and relax their bodies to conserve energy during the winter dormancy.
6. **Bursting Buds:** Using dried seeds, such as peas, beans, corn, pumpkin, sunflower, etc. soak seeds as directed for planting. Discuss how in some places, weather can cause seeds to become dormant due to cold or dry seasons. Once those seasons change, and warmer, more wet seasons return, those seeds wake up from their dormancy and begin to grow. Plant the soaked seeds in gardening soil and watch it grow. (You can also plant the dry seeds and then chose a different environment for the seed to see how it will grow best. Such as in the freezer, in the dark, without water, in the hot sun, etc. Have the students predict what the best growing condition is for a dormant seed.)
7. **Bird Feeder Observation:** Hang a filled bird feeder of your choice outside where it can be observed. Keep a journal of the different types of birds that visit the bird feeder during the different seasons. Compare data on what birds are most common in what seasons. Discuss and research why your findings are the way they are. Is it too cold for some birds? Is it too hot? Did some birds migrate while others hibernate for short periods of time? What season, or weather conditions contributed to the feeding pattern of the birds? etc.
8. **Groundhog Day:** Create a groundhog seasonal/hibernation cycle wheel craft using research on the life and habitat of a groundhog. Divide the wheel into as many sections as you’d like to document; summer, fall, winter, spring; habitat, diet, behaviors, etc. Can be used in tandem or in preparation for other Groundhog Day activities.
9. **How Would You Prepare For Winter?** Discuss with students how they would prepare for winter dormancy. Make a check list of all the things they’d do in preparation for their hibernation. Discuss which type of hibernation they would have. Have students present their lists together to see what is similar and what is least common in their choices. Create a graph to show your results. Also, discuss what would happen if you didn’t prepare for winter.



## **More Resources**

- Animals – Ladybugs  
<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/invertebrates/insects/ladybug/>
- Hibernation  
<https://whyfiles.org/187hibernate/>
- Birds in winter  
<https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-do-birds-survive-the-coldest-winters>
- Worms in winter  
<https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/where-do-worms-go-in-winter>
- Animals – Mammals  
<https://www.discoverwildlife.com/animal-facts/what-is-hibernation/>
- Animals – Reptiles & Amphibians  
<https://animals.howstuffworks.com/amphibians/weird-ways-reptiles-and-amphibians-survive-winter.htm>
- Animals in winter  
<https://www.sciencemadesimple.com/animals.html>
- Groundhog Day  
<https://nhpbs.org/wild/groundhog.asp>  
<https://animals.mom.me/groundhog-hibernation-3613.html>

## **Similar Books (Non-fiction)**

- *The Worm* – Elise Gravel
- *Animals in Winter* – Martha E. H. Rustad
- *Summer Green to Autumn Gold: Uncovering Leaves' Hidden Colors* – Mia Posada
- *The Greenwich Guide to the Seasons* – Graham Dolan
- *Groundhog Day Book of Facts and Fun* – Wendie Old
- *Over and Under the Snow* – Kate Messner
- *Snack, Snooze, Skedaddle: How Animals Get Ready for Winter* – Laura Purdie Salas
- *Frozen Frogs and Other Amazing Hibernators* – Mary Lindeen
- *Do Frogs Drink Hot Chocolate? How Animals Keep Warm* – Etta Kaner
- *Animals Hibernating: How Animals Survive Extreme Conditions* – Pamela Hickman

## **Related Fiction**

- *Weeds Find a Way* – Cindy Jenson-Elliott – Juvenile Picture
- *Waiting* – Kevin Henkes – Juvenile Picture
- *City Dog, Country Frog* – Mo Willems – Juvenile Picture
- *Hibernation Hotel* – John Kelly – Juvenile Picture
- *Bear Snores On* – Karma Wilson – Juvenile Picture
- *A Stone Sat Still* – Brendan Wenzel – Juvenile Picture
- *White Snow Bright Snow* – Alvin Tresselt – Juvenile Picture
- *The Big Snow* – Berta and Elmer Hader – Juvenile Picture
- *The Great Hibernation* – Tara Dairman – Juvenile Fiction
- *the Acadia Files: Book Three, Winter Science* – Katie Coppens – Juvenile Fiction
- *Beardance* – Will Hobbs – Juvenile Fiction



# When Sparks Fly: the True Story of Robert Goddard, Father of U.S. Rocketry

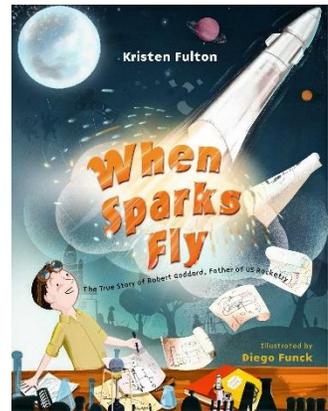
**Author:** Kristen Fulton

**Publisher:** Margaret K. McElderry Books

**Publication Date:** July 2018

**ISBN:** 978-1481460989

**Grade Level:** Preschool – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade



## Description

Blast off with this bright, energetic nonfiction picture book from Kristen Fulton and Diego Funck all about Robert Goddard, the inventor of US rocket science! Robert Goddard may be known as the father of US rocketry, but back in the 1880s, he was just a kid in Worcester, Massachusetts. Even as a youngster, his eyes glimmered with scientific interest and the thrill of discovery. With *BAMS!* *POPS!* *BANGS!* he experimented time and time again with one mission: make his rockets fly! Join Kristen Fulton and Diego Funck as they take you on one *explosive* journey about a young kid who shot for the moon, never gave up, and let his creative sparks of curiosity burn bright.

## Themes

Biography, Experiments, Inventions, Rocketry, Rockets, Science, Technology

## Author Information

Nonfiction picture book author Kristen Fulton is happiest wearing her favorite set of pearls and carrying a notebook into any museum or history center where she could spend hours researching. Wafting through old books or around dusty artifacts, Kristen believes that is where she will find her next story hiding. As a lifelong student, Kristen is always on an adventure to learn something new, from a foreign language to veterinary science, her love for education has given her the discipline to do the research and bring pure nonfiction stories to children with the ability to entertain. She calls central Florida home, but spends the majority of her year traveling across America.

## How to contact Kristen Fulton:

Website: [kristenfulton.org](http://kristenfulton.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kristenfulton.net>

Email: [kristen@kristenfulton.net](mailto:kristen@kristenfulton.net)

## Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever had a dream that you worked really hard to accomplish like Robert Goddard did? What was your dream?
2. Why is it important that he tried multiple times with multiple styles of rockets?
3. Do you like learning and expanding your curiosity?
4. Has reading ever caused you to think about new ideas? What ideas have been sparked by your reading?
5. Robert was a young boy when he built his first rocket, and 43 years old when his first successful rocket flew. What if he had given up when his first rocket didn't work? Is it good to keep working even when we fail?
6. Do you think it's important to write down our dreams/ideas and how we plan on accomplishing them? What if Robert Goddard hadn't written down his first experiment with hydrogen, oxygen and flame?



## **Activities**

1. Build a fizzy rocket! <https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/pop-rocket/en/>
2. Try several of the fun and easy activities about static electricity in this fun guide!  
[http://www.mysciencesite.com/Static Electricity Easy and Quick Activities.rtf](http://www.mysciencesite.com/Static%20Electricity%20Easy%20and%20Quick%20Activities.rtf)
3. Make an easy straw rocket craft!  
<https://buggyandbuddy.com/straw-rockets-with-free-rocket-template/>
4. Try this balloon rocket STEM activity. Try racing multiples!  
<https://happybrownhouse.com/balloon-rocket-stem-activity/>
5. Make a flying swishy rocket. <https://picklebums.com/make-a-flying-rocket/>
6. Search Pinterest for “kids rocket experiments” and find a plethora of fun activities!
7. For more activities for older ages be sure to take a look at NASA’s educator’s guides provided below!



## **More Resources**

- NASA has put together an educator’s guide that focuses on activities about rockets and the role they play with the International Space Station. Find the entire guide here:  
[https://www.nasa.gov/pdf/58149main\\_3.2.1.Liftoff.pdf](https://www.nasa.gov/pdf/58149main_3.2.1.Liftoff.pdf)
- Learn about launching a rocket from a spinning planet with this fun activity at your local park!  
<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/launch-windows/en/>
- NASA rocket educator’s guide with activities in science, engineering, technology, and mathematics.  
[https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/rockets\\_guide.pdf](https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/rockets_guide.pdf)
- Rocketry Lesson Plans of all kinds.  
<https://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/rocketry/lessonplans/index.html#.XkMERzJKjIX>

## **Similar Books**

- *Rocket Science* by Deborah Lock
- *This is Rocket Science: True Stories of the Risk Taking Scientists Who Figured Out Ways to Explore Beyond Earth* by Gloria Skurzynski
- *This is Rocket Science: an activity guide* by Emma Vanstone
- *The Apollo Missions for Kids* by Jerome Pohlen
- *Rocketry: Investigate the science and technology of rockets and ballistics* by Carla Mooney
- *Astronaut, Aquanaut* by Jennifer Swanson
- *Space Exploration* by Carole Stott

## **Related fiction**

- *Lucy and the Rocket Dog* by Will Buckingham
- *Rocket Out of the Park* by Andrea Cascardi
- *The Jamie Drake Equation* by Christopher Edge
- *Three...Two...One...Blastoff!* By Marty Kelley
- *Project Blastoff* by Mark E. Kelly
- *Roaring Rockets* by Tony Mitton



# Wonders of Nature

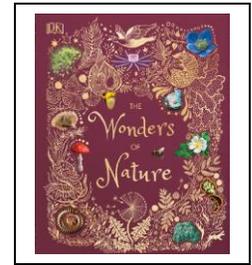
**Author:** Ben Hoare

**Publisher:** DK Publishing

**Publication Date:** September 3, 2019

**ISBN:** 978-1465485366

**Grade Level:** 2-4



## Description

Discover the wonders of planet Earth and learn about some of the most amazing animals, plants, rocks and minerals, and microscopic life that live here.

The storybook descriptions and close-up images let you discover the myths and legends of living creatures and minerals, as well as key facts about their natural history. Find out how the prowling jaguar uses spots to avoid being spotted, why a sticky sundew means big trouble for insects, and what on Earth a radiolarian is. From opals to orchids and tapirs to toadstools, this beautiful collection brings more than 100 remarkable items from the natural world to life.

## Themes

Biology, Earth, Geology, Life, Nature, Science

## Author Information

Penguin Random House: "Ben Hoare is an editor and author of books on nature and natural history, including Eyewitness: Endangered Animals, Trees and Leaves, and Pond Life. A fellow of the Zoological Society of London, his work can also be seen published in BBC Wildlife and Birdlife magazines, and on several BBC websites."

Penguin Random House author page: <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/262550/ben-hoare>

Goodreads author page: [https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/196908.Ben\\_Hoare](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/196908.Ben_Hoare)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/benhoare5?lang=en>

## Discussion Questions

1. Which section of the book (rocks & minerals, microscopic life, plants, or animals) was most interesting to you and why?
2. Which section of the book (rocks & minerals, microscopic life, plants, or animals) was most unfamiliar to you? Tell us something you learned from it?
3. Have you had any first hand experiences with any of the natural wonders talked about in this book? What happened?
4. Many of the natural wonders in the book depend on other natural wonders for survival. What natural wonders do you depend on?
5. How do our actions affect the natural wonders around us?

## Activities

1. Go on a nature walk and keep a journal, or photo journal natural wonders you find along the way. Nature Journaling with kids <https://theartofsimple.net/nature-journaling-with-kids/>.
2. Go rock hounding, or bring in rock samples to explore together. You can do a scratch test to see where the rocks fit on Mohs' scale, or bring along some vinegar and use it to test for limestone. 3 rock experiments <https://learning-center.homesciencetools.com/article/rock-cycle-project/>. Mohs' scale for kids [https://kids.kiddle.co/Mohs\\_scale\\_of\\_mineral\\_hardness](https://kids.kiddle.co/Mohs_scale_of_mineral_hardness).



3. Pick a section of the book and create your own page for the book about a natural wonder that fits in that category, but was not included in the book.
4. Make a chart comparing the items in a section of the book. You can do it by size, life-span, habitat, location, or any other characteristic you can think of.
5. Do a craft project with natural materials. This link contains 50 different suggestions for nature crafts, appropriate for elementary students <https://www.artycraftykids.com/craft/50-nature-crafts-kids/>

### **More Resources**

- Utah Geological Survey – Rock hounding <https://geology.utah.gov/popular/places-to-go/rock-mineral-collecting-sites/>
- Rock hounding in Utah <https://utah.com/rockhounding>
- Utah's Online Library <http://OnlineLibrary.uen.org>
- iNaturalist.org <https://www.inaturalist.org/>

### **Similar Books**

- *An Anthology of Intriguing Animals* by Ben Hoare
- *Natural world: a visual compendium of wonders from nature* by Amanda Wood
- *Botanicum* by K.J. Willis
- *The Wonder Garden: wander through the world's wildest habitats to discover 80 amazing animals* by Kristjana S. Williams
- *My Book of Rocks and Minerals* by Devin Dennie

### **Related Fiction**

- *Zoe in Wonderland* by Brenda Woods
- *Wild Rescue* (series) by Jan Burchett
- *The Seismic Seven* by Katie Silvensky
- *Beetle Boy* by M.G. Leonard
- *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* by Jacqueline Kelly