

BIBLIOGRAPHY

USING NONFICTION BOOKS FOR OCEAN LITERACY: Classroom-Ready Resources that Kids Love

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Bibliography Available Online:

<https://elizabethshreeve.com/educational-resources/>

CRITERIA FOR THIS BIBLIOGRAPHY: STEM nonfiction books for children (Grades K-8) from major trade publishers, generally released within the last five years and readily available in libraries and bookstores. I've included a range, from browsable survey volumes to biographies and read-alouds.

EMPHASIS: Books with **related curriculum**, all available free through author or other websites, that together reinforce Ocean Literacy Principles:

Ocean Literacy Principle #1: The Earth has one big ocean with many features.

Ocean Literacy Principle #2: The ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of Earth.

Ocean Literacy Principle #3: The ocean is a major influence on weather and climate.

Ocean Literacy Principle #4: The ocean made the Earth habitable.

Ocean Literacy Principle #5: The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.

Ocean Literacy Principle #6: The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.

Ocean Literacy Principle #7: The ocean is largely unexplored.

This is not a complete bibliography but rather a starting point of outstanding, recent nonfiction books with related educator resources.

Lots of other great books about the ocean are out there! Check out this list from [Ocean Conservancy](#) for more.

This bibliography is organized by grade levels, from younger to older (most books can be used for multiple grade levels).

Highlights indicate books with more detailed curriculum and ocean literacy tie-ins.

	Strong Ocean Literacy Connections and related curriculum
	Good connections, some related curriculum
	Good connections, curriculum limited or not yet identified

Title Author & Illustrator	Publisher Date	Ocean Literacy Principles Highlighted	Grade Level/ Age	Link to Curriculum or Other Resources	Notes on Books & Curriculum
LOWER ELEMENTARY (PK-3)					
GIANT SQUID, by Candace Fleming	Neal Porter, 2022	#5 - The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems. #7: The ocean is largely unexplored.	Grades PK-3; ages 4-8	Author website link	Beautifully written picture book. Detailed curriculum linking STEM, NGSS, Common Core and language arts
THE TIDE POOL WAITS, by Candace Fleming	Neal Porter, 2022	#5 - The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.	Grades PK-3; ages 4-8		Lovely new book; curriculum not posted but suggest checking author's website
OCEAN! WAVES FOR ALL, by Stacy McAnulty	Henry Holt, 2020	<u>ALL</u>	Grades K-2; ages 5- 7		Excellent read-aloud for ocean literacy. Part of "Our Universe" series. No curriculum on author website yet
FREAKY, FUNKY FISH, by Debra Kempf Shumaker	Running Press Kids, 2021	#5 - The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.	Grades PK-3; ages 4-8	Author website link More resources	Fun, colorful book about fish; detailed curriculum with inquiry-driven activities that align to CCSS and NGSS.
SOLVING THE PUZZLE UNDER THE SEA, by Robert Burleigh	Simon & Schuster, 2016	#2: The ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of Earth. #7: The ocean is largely unexplored.	Grades PK-3; ages 4-8		Inspiring picture book biography of scientist Marie Tharp who mapped the sea floor.

RIVERS OF SUNLIGHT by Molly Bang	Blue Sky, 2017	#1: The Earth has one big ocean with many features. #2: The ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of Earth. #3: The ocean is a major influence on weather and climate. #5: The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.	Grades PK-3; ages 4-8	Author-Illustrator website link	Explains how the sun moves ocean currents around the Earth; well-grounded science. Extensions offer variety of activities for this book and others in the series.
OCEAN SUNLIGHT, by Molly Bang and Penny Chisholm	Blue Sky, 2012	#1: The Earth has one big ocean with many features. #2: The ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of Earth. #3: The ocean is a major influence on weather and climate. #4: The ocean made the Earth habitable. #5: The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.	Grades PK-3; ages 4-8	Author-Illustrator website link	Explores how tiny plants feed the seas; well-grounded science. Extensions offer variety of activities for this book and others in the series.
YOSHI AND THE OCEAN, by Lindsay Moore	Greenwillow Books, 2022	#5 - The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems. #6 - The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.	Grades K-2; ages 4-8	Author website link	Chronicles true story of Yoshi, a loggerhead sea turtle who traveled 25,000 miles after rehabilitated. Resources on ocean literacy on website
IF POLAR BEARS DISAPPEARED, by Lily Williams	Roaring Brook Press, 2018	#5 - The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems. #6 - The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.	Grades K-2; ages 4-8	Author website link	Book is part of the author's excellent "If Animals Disappeared" series on endangered species (including sharks)
OTIS AND WILL DISCOVER THE DEEP, by Barb Rosenstock	Little, Brown Book, 2018	#5: The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems. #7: The ocean is largely unexplored.	Grades PK-3; ages 4-8	Author website link	Book tells the exciting story of an early deep ocean dive inside a bathysphere. Educational guide correlates STEM and Common Core.
FLYING DEEP, by Michelle Cusolito	Charlesbridge, 2018	#1: The Earth has one big ocean with many features. #5: The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.	Grades K-4; ages 5-9	Author website link	Book follows a day in the life of an Alvin pilot. Teacher resources include videos and interviews.

		#7: The ocean is largely unexplored.			
WALRUS SONG, by Janet Lawler	Candlewick, 2021	#5 - The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.	Grades K-3; ages 5-8	Publisher website teacher tips	Lyrical celebration of walrus makes a great read-aloud, science-based.

MID-ELEMENTARY (grades 1-5)

Title Author & Illustrator	Publisher Date	Ocean Literacy Principles Highlighted	Grade Level/ Age	Link to Curriculum or Other Resources	Notes on Books & Curriculum
SHARK LADY, by Jess Keating	Sourcebooks Explore, 2017	#5 - The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems. #7: The ocean is largely unexplored.	Grades K-4; ages 5-9	Author website link	Inspiring picture book biography of Eugenie Clark, ocean scientist. Activity kit available on author website.
OUT OF THE BLUE: HOW ANIMALS EVOLVED FROM PREHISTORIC SEAS, by Elizabeth Shreeve	Candlewick, 2021	#2: The ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of Earth. #4 - The ocean made Earth habitable. #5 - The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.	Grades 1-5; ages 6-10.	Author website link LitLinks Blog link	Book and curriculum address evolution of life from ocean to land through Earth history. Detailed five-part curriculum with activities and videos aligned with NGSS and Common Core. Ideal for Grade 3 NGSS (Earth history, evolution)
DUCKS OVERBOARD! by Markus Motum	Candlewick, 2021	#1: The Earth has one big ocean with many features. #5: The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems. #6 - The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.	Grades 2-5; ages 7-10	Publisher website-teacher tips	Uses the real-life story of shipwrecked rubber ducks to discover more about ocean litter. A few teacher tips available and lots to learn.
KIDS FIGHT PLASTIC, by Martin Dorey	Candlewick, 2020	#6: The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.	Grades 2-5; ages 7-10	Publisher website link	A call to action for kids to help fight plastic in oceans and elsewhere. Detailed activity kit.
THE STRANGEST THING IN THE SEA, by Rachel Poliquin	Kids Can Press, 2021	#5 - The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.	Grades 2-5; ages 7-10	Author website link	A fun book about ocean creatures with a unique presentation. General additional information on author website.

UPPER ELEMENTARY to MIDDLE SCHOOL (grades 3-8)

Title Author & Illustrator	Publisher Date	Ocean Literacy Principles Highlighted	Grade Level/ Age	Link to Curriculum or Other Resources	Notes on Books & Curriculum
PLASTIC AHOY! by Patricia Newman	Millbrook, 2014	#6 - The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected	Grades 3-7; ages 8- 12	Author website link Ocean Clean-Up Design Challenge	Curriculum guide includes waste audit analysis to help kids look at what they throw away. Covers NGSS
ASTRONAUT, AQUANAUT by Jennifer Swanson	National Geographic Kids, 2018	#1: The Earth has one big ocean with many features. #2: The ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of Earth. #6: The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected. #7: The ocean is largely unexplored.	Grades 3-7; ages 8- 12	Author website link	Book explores parallels between deep- sea and space explorers. Teacher guide by National Geographic emphasizes NGSS, grades 2-middle school
PLANET OCEAN, by Patricia Newman	Millbrook, 2021	#1 - The Earth has one big ocean with many features. #5 - The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems. #6 - The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.	Grades 4-8; ages 9- 14	Author website link	Book and curriculum explore ocean regions and climate-related issues/solutions, with excellent photographs. Detailed curriculum for Grades 4-8 addresses Ocean Literacy, NGSS and Common Core Standards.
SEA OTTER HEROES, by Patricia Newman	Millbrook, 2017	#5 - The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems. #6 - The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.	Grades 4-8; ages 9- 14	Author website link	Book and detailed curriculum connect students to endangered species and the importance of trophic cascades in nature, classroom activities integrate STEM and language arts.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED REFERENCE & SURVEY BOOKS

Title Author & Illustrator	Publisher Date	Ocean Literacy Principles Highlighted	Grade Level/ Age	Link to Curriculum or Other Resources	Notes on Books & Curriculum
CREATURE FEATURES: OCEAN, by Natasha Durley	Big Picture Press, 2020	#5: The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.	PK-2; ages 3-7		Vibrant illustrations of ocean creatures, organized by features.
THE BIG BOOK OF BLUE, by Yuval Zommer	Thames & Hudson, 2018	#5: The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems. #6: The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.	Grades PK-3; ages 3-8		Wonderful large-format survey book.
HIDDEN HABITAT: WATER, by Lily Murray	Big Picture Press, 2021	#5: The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.	Grades K-3; ages 5- 8		Beautiful lift-the-flap book revealing various ocean habitats.
FISH EVERYWHERE, by Britta Techenstrup	Big Picture Press, 2019	#5: The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.	Grades 1-4; ages 6- 9		Celebrates the diversity and history of fish in different ocean ecosystems
OCEAN ANIMALS: WHO'S WHO IN THE DEEP BLUE BY Johnna Rizzo	National Geographic, 2016	<u>ALL</u>	Grades 3-7; ages 8- 12		Excellent survey book from National Geographic with an introduction by Sylvia Earle
OCEANARIUM, by Loveday Trinick	Big Picture Press, 2022	#5: The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems. #6: The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.	Grades 3-7; ages 8- 12.		Gorgeous and informative source book written by a marine biologist with the Ocean Conservation Trust.
MY ENCYCLOPEDIA OF VERY IMPORTANT OCEANS	DK Children, 2021	#2: The ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of Earth. #3: The ocean is a major influence on weather and climate. #5: The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems. #6: The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.	Grades K-2; ages 5- 7		A colorful and appealing child's encyclopedia covering a range of ocean features. Part of a series.

OCEAN ANATOMY, by Julia Rothman	Storey Publishing, 2020	<u>ALL</u>	Ages 8 and up.		Excellent guide to wonders of the sea that covers all ocean literacy principles. Part of the Anatomy nature series.
MAPS OF THE WORLD'S OCEANS, by Enrico Lavagno	Black Dog & Leventhal, 2019	#2: The ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of Earth. #3: The ocean is a major influence on weather and climate. #5: The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.	Grades 3-7; ages 8-12		Beautiful set of maps and abundant information about ocean basins, especially appealing for visually oriented learners.
EYEWITNESS OCEAN, by Miranda MacQuitty	DK Children, 2021	#1: The Earth has one big ocean with many features. #2: The ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of Earth. #3: The ocean is a major influence on weather and climate. #5: The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems. #6 - The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.	Grades 4-7; ages 9-12		Comprehensive reference book with photographs

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES for Nonfiction Science Books with Related Curriculum

Resource	Description	Link	Notes
LITLINKS Guest Blog Patricia Newman, Children's Book Author	Blog highlighting connections between STEM & language arts, with guest posts by educators, authors, scientists	https://www.patriciamnewman.com/blog-4/	Excellent source for new science nonfiction books with classroom activities; updated frequently. Individual books and special topics such as biographies
PERFECT PAIRS, GRADES 3-5 by Melissa Stewart and Nancy Chesley (Stenhouse, 2016)	Book of resources for using fiction and nonfiction picture books to teach life science. Includes classroom activities	https://www.melissa-stewart.com/books/teachers/bk_perfect_pairs_3-5.html https://www.stenhouse.com/content/perfect-pairs-grades-3-5	Version for Grades K-2 also available: https://www.stenhouse.com/content/perfect-pairs-grades-k-2

STEM TUESDAY	Online blog about new middle grade science books and related activities	https://fromthemixedupfiles.com/category/stem-tuesday/ Author websites with activity guides	Includes a list of author websites with discussion/activity guides
Curious City	Website with Children’s Book Engagement Tools including teacher guides for STEM	https://www.curiouscitydpw.com/tag/stem-steam	
Teachers Pay Teachers	Additional teacher resources	https://www.teacherspayteachers.com	Materials available for modest fees
NSTA Resources Science and Children: Teaching	Many online resources for members	Literacy Topics Science and Children: Teaching Through Trade Books (monthly column) Picture-Perfect Science Teaching Science Through Trade Books (reference book, 2012)	
CCBC Choices –Children’s Cooperative Book Center	Annotated Booklist, including best-of-year Science, Technology and the Natural World	Link here https://uwmadison.app.box.com/s/pvpuft57quq4yx3x6nmys6ydudsodvp3	Published annually by University of Wisconsin-Madison
Blueberry Awards	New awards program from Evanston Public Library for kids’ books that inspire a love of nature & action for Earth	https://www.epl.org/booklist/the-blueberry-award-winner-and-honors/	Great source for brand new nonfiction science books
School Library Journal Fuse 8 Best Science and Nature Books	List of 31 best books by Elizabeth Bird	https://blogs.slj.com/afuse8production/2021/12/24/31-days-31-lists-2021-science-and-nature-books/	Published annually; great source for newly released nonfiction science books
School Library Journal Book Reviews	Reviews books especially suited for school libraries	https://www.slj.com/section/reviews	Check for starred reviews
Other nonfiction books awards	Check author and publisher websites for teaching materials prepared for books winning Sibert, Subaru, and other awards		