

Examining Living Things

Web links

[All About Snails](http://www.kiddyhouse.com/Snails/)

This website offers extensive background information on land and pond snails in a format that is easy to navigate. It also includes links to other snail related activities that are appropriate for younger students.

(<http://www.kiddyhouse.com/Snails/>)

[Welcome to Snail City](http://www.zephyrus.co.uk/)

A kid-friendly website that provides information about snails and their habitat.

(<http://www.zephyrus.co.uk/>)

[Snails, Slugs and Worms](http://www.gardensafari.net/english/snails.htm)

Provides background teacher information about snails, slugs, and worms.

(<http://www.gardensafari.net/english/snails.htm>)

[Apple Snails](http://www.applesnail.net/)

This website is an excellent resource to use for background information about the apple snail, a common aquatic snail that is sold in many pet stores.

(<http://www.applesnail.net/>)

[Project Feeder Watch](http://feederwatch.org/)

Project Feeder Watch provides an opportunity for your class to submit observations about the birds that visit your class feeder from November through April. By joining (\$15 fee), you will receive an instruction booklet, a handbook, a subscription to the newsletter, a colorful wall calendar, a bird identification poster, and more.

(<http://feederwatch.org/>)

[Singing Insects of North America](http://entomology.ifas.ufl.edu/walker/buzz/)

This is an awesome site with recordings of all sorts of insects – including several species of crickets.

(<http://entomology.ifas.ufl.edu/walker/buzz/>)

[ARKive Education](http://www.arkive.org/education/resources)

ARKive's free fun-packed teaching resources cover a range of key science and biology subjects including: adaptation, food chains, Darwin and natural selection, classification, identification, conservation and biodiversity.

(<http://www.arkive.org/education/resources>)

[WildEarth.TV ... it's in your nature](#)

In this website you will find several 'windows' into our wild and beautiful earth. Safari.tv takes you on a LIVE presenter led safari at Djuma in South Africa twice per day. PixController provides you with a glimpse into the wild Pennsylvanian woods. Hancock Wildlife Foundation are experts at sharing wild Canadian wildlife like bald eagles, salmon and even bears. HornbyEagles.com curate one of the worlds most famous and popular wildlife webcams watching a pair of bald eagles near Vancouver Island. Operation Migration are an amazing group of people that are busy saving the endangered whooping crane, watch them LIVE as they migrate across America. whooping crane, watch them LIVE as they migrate across America.
(<http://www.wildearth.tv/home>)

[Faunapolis | Can't we all just get along?](#)

Faunapolis is a place where you can share interesting photos and stories about animals that live in this new kind of jungle we call town, city, or even backyard. If you have a photo of an animal and need to find its species, this is the place to post that picture and get help. These creatures are learning to live with us, and new symbiotic relations between them and us are creating an entirely different ecosystem. Will we ever be able to coexist?
(<http://faunapolis.org/>)

[Welcome to the Animal Science Image Gallery](#)

This site is designed to provide images, animations, and video for classroom and outreach learning. To supplement the visual information, each file has a description and metadata including the origins and ownership for the image.
(<http://anscigallery.nal.usda.gov/>)

[Build Your Own Caterpillar](#)

What does a caterpillar need in order to fit into its environment and survive in the Costa Rican rain forest? Build a specialized caterpillar that fits the scene and at the end of the activity, you can print out your creations!
(http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/explorer/ecosystems/be_an_explorer/map/form_caterpillars.htm)

[Endangered Ecosystems: Build a Food Web](#)

In this activity, children will investigate some of the animals in the Mexican ecosystem. Figure out who are the predators and who are their prey and build your own food web. At the end of this activity, children can print a Food Web Certificate of Achievement!
(http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/explorer/ecosystems/be_an_explorer/map/form_wildcats.htm)

[Animal Games for Kids – Kids Corner](#)

A great child-friendly website that offers a variety of animal games to reinforce what children have learned in the classroom. Game topics include: animal classification, producers and consumers, food chain, animal diet, endangered animals, and animal characteristics.
(<http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/content/animals/kidscorner/gamesforkids.htm>)

[National Wildlife Week](#)

Children, young and old, will love learning about animals as they turn investigator and conduct animal research, dig up details about worms, go on a BioBlitz and watch Webcam broadcasts from zoos and aquariums around the U.S. and the world. Take a look at this great variety of attention-grabbing resources from Thinkfinity!
(<http://www.thinkfinity.org/?q=national-wildlife-week>)

[Search for Your Favorite Animals — National Geographic Kids](#)

Children can click on a photograph of a variety of different animals to learn about a particular animal through fact sheets, videos, images, and maps. They even have the option of printing a collectors card with a picture and facts about the selected organism.
(<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/animals/creaturefeature>)

[Animal Videos, Photos, Facts –National Geographic Kids](#)

This website offers numerous photographs, videos, and background information on a wide range of animals. Animals & Nature Stories — National Geographic Kids
(<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/...>) Children and teachers can use this website to read stories about a variety of interesting animals.
(<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/animals>)

[WolfQuest](#)

An immersive, 3D wildlife simulation game, WolfQuest challenges players to learn about wolf ecology by living the life of a wild wolf in Yellowstone National Park.
(<http://www.wolfquest.org/>)

[San Diego Zoo’s Kid Territory](#)

An interactive website with games, activities, videos, and information about the animals at the San Diego Zoo.
(<http://kids.sandiegozoo.org/>)

[National Geographic: CritterCam and WildCam](#)

National Geographic’s Crittercam is a research tool designed to be worn by wild animals. It combines video and audio recording with collection of environmental data such as depth, temperature, and acceleration. National Geographic’s WildCam program is a conservation initiative that uses the Internet to connect people to Earth’s last remaining wild places. Using

streaming video technology, WildCam Africa brings viewers from all over the world to the remote Pete's Pond in Botswana where animals go about their daily lives. And because it's live, you never know what may happen next!

(<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/crittercam-wildcam/>)

[Animals – Wildlife – Kids Coloring Pages – Animal Fact Guide](#)

Here at Animal Fact Guide you can learn all sorts of interesting facts about the animals roaming our planet on our Animal Facts page. You can also download free coloring pages, word searches, mazes, and desktop wallpapers on our Fun Stuff page or check out cool animal videos, photos, and news on our Wildlife Blog

(<http://www.animalfactguide.com/index.php>)

[ZooBorns](#)

This website shows the newest and cutest exotic baby animals from zoos around the world.

(<http://www.zooborns.com/>)

[The Big Picture: Scenes from the Zoo](#)

Check out these amazing photos! This website shares photographs from zoos and aquariums around the world from the past couple of months.

(http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2009/04/scenes_from_the_zoo.html)

[Animal Database By KidsBiology.com](#)

Learn about hundreds of different animals offered on this website.

(<http://www.kidsbiology.com/animals-for-children.php>)

[World Wildlife Fund](#)

This website includes animal games, free E-cards, wallpaper, and photos.

(<http://www.worldwildlife.org/how/fun/index.html>)

[Animal Diversity Web](#)

Browse this website to learn more about each Animal kingdom. Subtopics include background information, pictures, specimens, sounds, and classification.

(<http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/index.html>)

*********[Infrared Zoo Gallery](#)

Infrared light shows the heat radiated by the world around us. On this website, you can view animals with a thermal infrared camera, to actually “see” the differences between warm and cold-blooded animals. Infrared also allows us to study how well feathers, fur and blubber insulate animals.

(coolcosmos.ipac.caltech.edu/...ir_zoo)

[Welcome to ZipcodeZoo](#)

ZipcodeZoo works to bring the natural world to armchair, amateur, and professional naturalists who want to learn more about the plants and animals in their local environment.
(<http://zipcodezoo.com/>)

[FETCH! Link-O-Vision](#)

In this fun, interactive game, children are given clues about different animals and have to decide which clues match which animal. May be too advanced for younger children, depending on reading level, but it can be a teacher directed game.
(<http://pbskids.org/fetch/games/linkovision/game.html>)

[Leonardo da Vinci](#)

Leonardo da Vinci was a famous inventor who looked to the natural world for ideas for his amazing inventions.
(<http://www.leonardoda-vinci.org/>)

[What is a Flower?](#)

Produced by an elementary classroom on the ThinkQuest web site, this link to “What is a Flower?” provides clear drawings and child-friendly cartoons that illustrate some basic topics about flowers.
(<http://library.thinkquest.org/3715/flower.html>)

[ARKive Education](#)

ARKive’s free fun-packed teaching resources cover a range of key science and biology subjects including: adaptation, food chains, Darwin and natural selection, classification, identification, conservation and biodiversity.
(<http://www.arkive.org/education/resources>)

[Flower Photos](#)

If you are looking for photos of flowers, visit this web site from the University of Hawaii Botany Department. After you select the name of a plant family, you receive information and thumbnail photo images for all of its members. Click on the thumbnail image, and you will get a beautiful, full-sized photo.
(<http://www.botany.hawaii.edu/faculty/carr/fpfamilies.htm>)

[Kid’s Valley Garden](#)

This link provides information on planning a garden, when to plant seeds, how to keep plants healthy, how to enter flowers into competitions, and much more. It is a visually appealing site with lots of useful information.
(<http://www.typodermic.com/garden/>)

Life Cycles of Plants

The Missouri Botanical Garden offers a kid-friendly web site that focuses on the life cycles of plants. It includes full color photos and drawings that illustrate the parts of a flower, descriptions of how bees pollinate flowers, and lyrics to a song, "How Do Plants Pollinate," sung to the tune of "This Land is Your Land." (Print the words, and sing it with your class!) (<http://www.mbgnet.net/bioplants/>)

Examining Living Things

Books

General

Animals in the Zoo (Rookie Read-About Science)

By Allen Fowler. (2000, Children's Press)

Examines a variety of zoo animals and their housing, including elephants, bears, reptiles, and killer whales.

Arms, Legs, and Other Limbs (Rookie Read-About Science)

By Allan Fowler. (1999, Children's Press)

Discusses how different animals use their arms, legs, paws, wings, or flippers to move. This volume is illustrated with clear, bright photographs. A glossary with pictures helps children learn the new words.

How Do Animals Move? (The Science of Living Things)

By Niki Walker and Bobbie Kalman. (2000, Crabtree Publishing Company)

A good reference book that encourages children to compare how animals move. It emphasizes that how an animal moves depends on the structure of its body and where the animal lives. Features information about snails, slugs, and fish.

On the Move (Curious Creatures)

By Joyce Pope. (1992, Heinemann Library)

Describes the different methods various animals use to move from place to place in order to find living space, food, and mates. Reading level ages 9-12.

What's Alive? (Let's-Read-And-Find-Out Science 1)

By Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld; illustrated by Nadine Bernard Westcott. (1995, Collins)

By interacting with plants, her cat, and her dog, a little girl learns that humans are similar to living things that grow and need food, water, and air, as well as how we differ.

The Zoo (Field Trips)

By Stuart A. Kallen. (1997, Checkerboard Books)

One of a series of books designed to prepare elementary school children for field trips. Written at a second-grade reading level, the question and answer format captures interest for reading aloud.

Zoo Animals: A Smithsonian Guide

By Michael H. Robinson, David Challinor, and Holly Weber. (1995, Macmillan Publishing Co.)
Introduces readers to the modern zoo, profiling over 250 animals and their habitats. Special features reveal life in a sand dune, the survival strategies of baby animals, and more. Includes over 350 photos and illustrations, including maps of 15 major zoos. A good teacher reference.

Snails and Slugs

Are You a Snail? (Backyard Buddies)

By Judy Allen and Tudor Humphries. (2003, Kingfisher)
Introduces young children to the world of the snail with accurate and witty text. Ideal for reading aloud or as a first reader, with colorful illustrations that bring the snail to life.

The Biggest House in the World

By Leo Lionni. (1973, Dragonfly Books)
This story is about a young snail who realizes that his house just might not be the perfect fit. The art is bold and colorful, and the text is simple and rich.

Slugs and Snails (Minibeast Pets)

By Theresa Greenaway and Tim Hayward. (1999, Hodder Wayland)
Provides information on the identification, life cycle, and habitats of slugs and snails, as well as on how to collect and care for them as pets.

Snailology (Backyard Buddies)

By Michael Elson Ross. (1996, Carolrhoda Books)
Although written for somewhat older children, this book is a tremendous resource for lower grades. It offers abundant information about garden snails, as well as numerous activities and experiments that children can do to learn more about snail behavior.

A Snail's Pace (Rookie Read-About Science)

By Allan Fowler. (1999, Children's Press)

Discusses different varieties of snails and slugs, how they move, what they eat, how big or small they are, and which ones end up on dinner plates. Clear photos convey scale; a photo glossary reviews terms.

The Snail's Spell

By Joanne Ryder; illustrated by Lynne Cherry. (1988, Puffin)

An unnamed, sleeping, pajama-clad boy is invited into a garden teeming with wildlife. The boy gradually shrinks until he is so small he experiences things as a snail would. Uses brilliant illustrations and a short text.

Some Smug Slug

By Pamela Duncan Edwards. (1998, Katherine Tegen Books)

A fun book that tells a tale of a slug and other “s” animals and their movements. The language and illustrations are age-appropriate and inviting.

Crickets and other Insects and Bugs

Bugs: A Closer Look at the World's Tiny Creatures

By Jinny Johnson. (2005, Reader's Digest)

An oversized book with two-page spreads that feature an enlarged drawing of an insect, with informative labels and text surrounding the picture.

Bugs! Bugs! Bugs! (Eyewitness Readers, Level 2)

By Jennifer Dusling. (2001, Turtleback Books)

This age-appropriate book accentuates reading skills at the same time it captivates its readers with the life stories of different insects.

Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!

By Bob Barner. (1999, Chronicle Books)

This book is filled with rhyming word poetry that teaches children about different bugs while having lyrical fun at the same time. It is a different approach to reading that may capture a different audience than the Dusling book.

Chirping Crickets (Let's-Read-And-Find-Out Science 2)

By Melvin Berger; illustrated by Megan Lloyd. (1998, Collins)

Describes the physical characteristics, behavior, and life cycle of crickets while giving particular emphasis to how they chirp. A well-rounded book, appropriate for reading aloud.

Cricketology

By Michael Elson Ross. (1996, Carolrhoda Books)

Although written for older children, this book is a tremendous resource for lower grades. It offers abundant information about crickets, as well as numerous activities and experiments that children can do to learn more about cricket behavior.

Peterson First Guide to Insects of North America

By Christopher Leahy; illustrated by Richard E. White. (1998, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

A concise field guide to 203 common and conspicuous insects of North America. Includes introductory sections on observing insects, parts of insects, and more.

Pet Bugs: A Kid's Guide to Catching and Keeping Touchable Insects

By Sally Stenhouse Kneidel; illustrated by Mauro Magellan. (1994, Jossey-Bass)

Explains how to recognize, find, catch, and keep 26 common insects that are safe to touch and fun to watch, including crickets.

Secret Forests: A Collection of Hidden Creepy Crawly Bugs and Insects

By Michael Gaffney. (1994, Golden Books)

An exploration of insects and their forest habitats. Alternates pages of information about selected insects with exquisitely detailed illustrations in which the insects are hidden as they might be in their natural environment. Includes a section called "Leaf Litter Creatures."

The Very Quiet Cricket

By Eric Carle. (1990, Philomel)

With Eric Carle's characteristically bold and colorful art, and repetitive text that is easily learned, this book is excellent for reading aloud or for beginning independent readers. The story recounts a cricket that tried to chirp in answer to others, "...but nothing happened. Not a sound." That is, until he matures and meets a female cricket, who elicits "the most beautiful sound he had ever heard."

Fish

What's It Like to Be a Fish? (Let's Read and Find Out Science 1)

By Wendy Pfeffer; illustrated by Holly Keller. (1996, Collins)

Describes how a fish's sleek body, fins, scales, and gills are designed perfectly for living in water. Appropriate for reading aloud, or for independent readers to browse.

Plants

The Carrot Seed

By Ruth Krauss; illustrated by Crockett Johnson.
(2004, HarpersCollins)

A classic and brief story in which a young boy plants a carrot seed that everyone says will not grow. He carefully tends the seed and eventually harvests a carrot whose size is in direct proportion to his unflappable faith in it.

Dandelion Adventures

By L. Patricia Kate; illustrated by Anca Hariton. (1998, The Millbrook Press)

An illustrated story about seven dandelion seeds that parachute through the air when the wind blows. Where will each seed land?

Flowers (Eyewitness Explorers)

By David Burnie. (1996, Dorling Kindersley Publishers Ltd.)

Describes the physical characteristics and life cycles of flowers and examines different kinds of garden flowers, woodland flowers, desert flowers, and others. Offers clear photographs of flowers and their habitats.

From Seed to Plant

By Gail Gibbons. (1993, Holiday House)

Explains that seeds are different shapes, sizes, and colors, and all grow into the same kind of plant that made them. Describes the parts of flowers, and the various ways plants disperse seeds.

From Seed to Sunflower (Lifecycles)

By Gerald Legg; illustrated by Carolyn Scrace. (1998, Children's Press)

Large illustrations and simple text present the life cycle of a sunflower from seed to flower.

How a Plant Grows (Crabapples)

By Bobby Kalman. (1996, Crabtree Pub.)

A clear introduction to the life cycle of plants, illustrated with color photographs. Cross-sectional views show a bean plant's roots developing as its leaves and stems grow above the surface.

How a Seed Grows (Let's Read-and-Find-Out Science 1)

By Helene J. Jordan; illustrated by Loretta Krupinski. (1992, Collins)

Illustrates the simple steps that turn a packet of bean seeds into a garden.

How Seeds Travel

By Cynthia Overbeck. (1990, Lerner Publications)

Describes how seeds are moved from place to place by wind, water, and animals, and how they function in plant reproduction.

I Am a Leaf (Hello Science Reader, Level 1)

By Jean Marzollo. (1999, Cartwheel)

Excellent use of rhyme and repetition that follows the life cycle of a leaf. The text and illustrations make this an excellent book for emergent readers as well as strong readers. Children will develop an appreciation for leaves as indicators of the seasons as well as contributors to nature's beauty.

I'm a Seed (Hello Science Reader, Level 1)

By Jean Marzollo; illustrated by Judith Moffatt. (1996, Cartwheel)

Two newly planted seeds, the first a marigold, the second a mystery seed, discuss the changes that take place as they grow. The second seed delightedly becomes a pumpkin plant with five baby pumpkins.

The Life and Times of the Apple

By Charles Micucci. (1995, Scholastic)

Describes the life cycle of an apple, from seed to tree to flower to fruit. It also incorporates geography, history, science, and math.

The Life and Times of the Peanut

By Charles Micucci. (2000, Sandpiper)

Same as above, but with a peanut. Very informative and fun.

The Magic School Bus Plants Seeds: A Book about How Living Things Grow

By Joanna Cole. (1995, Scholastic)

The class decides to plant a garden, and Ms. Frizzle takes them on a zany trip back to Phoebe's old school where they learn about the life cycle of a plant and how living things grow.

Oh Say Can You Seed: All About Flowering Plants (Cat in the Hat's Learning Library)

By Bonnie Worth; illustrated by Aristides Ruiz. (2001, Random House)

With the able assistance of Thing 1 and Thing 2—and a fleet of Rube Goldberg-like vehicles—the Cat in the Hat examines the various parts of plants, seeds, and flowers; basic photosynthesis and pollination; and seed dispersal.

One Bean

By Anne Rockwell; illustrated by Megan Halsey. (1999, Walker Books)

Beginning with the image of a hand holding a single bean, the story journeys full circle from soaking, planting, and watering, to flowering, harvesting, and eating.

Plants and Flowers (It's Science)

By Sally Hewitt (1999, Children's Press)

Discusses what makes plants grow, the structure of flowering plants, and the way they reproduce. Includes experiments and activities.

The Pumpkin Patch

By Elizabeth King. (1996, Puffin)

Color photos combine with simple, non-scientific text that describes the stages of plowing, planting, cultivating, and harvesting pumpkins.

The Reason for a Flower (World of Nature)

By Ruth Heller. (1999, Puffin)

Brief, rhyming text and lavish, accurate illustrations clearly explain pollination, plant reproduction, and the purpose of a flower.

Seeds Grow (My First Hello Reader)

By Angela Shelf Medearis; illustrated by Jill Dublin. (2000, Cartwheel Books)

“We plant some seeds in the ground. We sprinkle water all around...” Easy rhyming text and colorful artwork capture the process of growing sunflowers.

Stems (Growing Flowers)

By Gail Saunders-Smith (2000, Capstone Press)

Describes the different kinds of roots and stems flowers may have, and their importance in helping flowers grow.

Sunflower House

By Eve Bunting; illustrated by Kathryn Hewitt. (1999, Sandpiper)

A rhyming, first-person tale follows a boy and his two friends as they sow sunflower seeds in a circle, and carefully tend them until they grow into a sunflower house. When summer’s over, and the sunflowers fall, the friends save the seeds to plant next spring.

Taking Root (Rookie Read-About Science)

By Allan Fowler. (2000, Children’s Press)

Describes what roots look like and how they function in plants.

The Tiny Seed

By Eric Carle. (2009, Little Simon)

Dazzlingly colorful collage illustrations and simple but dramatic text tell the story of the life cycle of a flower in terms of a tiny seed.

Why Do Leaves Change Color? (Let’s Read-and-Find-Out Science, Stage 2)

By Betsy Maestro. (1994, Collins)

Explains many concepts about leaves in a clear manner and with nice illustrations. Also includes suggestions for activities with leaves.