
Gardening with Children involves the young reader and adult gardening companion in enjoyment that will become a life practice with very little encouragement on the adult’s part. The authors speak to their audience so that the food chain and soil composition are covered in clear language. Garden plans are provided as well. Root view gardens and chlorophyll prints are just two activities that add dimension to the important reality that plants are essential for life. Plant parts are explained, leading to the process of photosynthesis and the role of plants in the food chain. The book includes the water cycle and age-appropriate activities such as making a rain gauge and constructing a terrarium in a plastic container.

The child gardener itching to get hands in the soil is offered ideas such as how to make a wildlife garden and is reminded to use native plants and include a small pond or water source for visiting wildlife. If the plan is to grow plants for food, then the knee-high garden for knee-high gardeners offers a garden for cool season vegetables as well as plants that do well in a summer garden (including a salsa recipe with ingredients from one’s own garden).

Many of the plants cultivated in our gardens come from around the world and tips on saving seeds from plants that can be planted the following year are offered. Mulching, composting, and recycling are constant themes so that nutrients and water are conserved.

Teachers at the elementary level will welcome the inexpensive activities and experiments conveniently listed in the back of the book that will engage young learners. Chapter 1, “Living in a Community,” presents the partnership between the people and the world in an attempt to diminish the societal trend of “plant blindness.” As the authors point out at the conclusion of the book,

... children from all academic and economic levels of our society have lost any concept that even the food we eat is directly connected to the natural world. To many children, food comes from the grocery store and is just always there.

My guess is that the adult reader will find this gardening primer as much an incentive to grow something as it will the proud young child who has just harvested a first-grown cucumber.

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As you read these stories, just imagine. Imagine what it would be like, at or about your age, to travel to a far-off unexplored land. ... Imagine the joy ... (p. x)

Into the Jungle is a book about scientific high-adventure recounting the journeys and discoveries of a dozen scientists who dared storms, shipwreck, sickness, disease, headhunters, poisonous snakes, bandits, floods, animal attacks, deprivation, barren deserts, steamy rain forests, frigid arctic waters, scouring sand storms, and bloody war zones, whose passion for scientific discovery have shed light on “the mystery of mysteries.” Not just a book about evolution or a collection of anecdote-filled biographies, Sean Carroll has written an exposé on how paradigm-shaping science is really done, including the important role played by luck and serendipity. He has “fleshed out” the science with the personalities and life-circumstances of the discoverers, often using diaries, personal letters, and published works.
Divided into four parts and nine chapters, *Into the Jungle* carries the reader from Darwin to DNA with pauses for espionage, atomic bombs, and Nobel Prizes.

Part 1 recounts the adventures and discoveries of three evolutionary pioneers. Chapter 1 tells the familiar story of Charles Darwin’s around-the-world voyage aboard the *HMS Beagle*, and the genesis of his key idea of natural selection. As a biology teacher of many years, and a Darwinian connoisseur, I was delighted to discover quirky factoids in Carroll’s narrative, such as Darwin’s childhood nickname of “Gas” (a tidbit greatly enjoyed by my students). Chapter 2 follows Alfred Russell Wallace through Amazonian and Malaysian jungles, his independent discovery of natural selection, his tracing of the “Wallace Line,” and his founding of biogeography. Chapter 3 traps Henry Walter Bates in the Amazon for 11 years of hardship where he collected 14,712 animal species (8,000 of whom were new to science) and 550 different species of butterflies, which led to the discovery of Batesian mimicry.

Part 2 unfolds the stories of two determined fossil hunters. Chapter 4 recounts Eugene Dubois’ tireless search through Sumatra and Java before discovering the type specimen for *Homo erectus*. In chapter 5, Roy Chapman Andrews (the real “Indiana Jones?”) leads massive expeditions into Mongolia and the Gobi desert to discover the first dinosaur eggs.

Part 3 tells the stories of two surprising modern discoveries. Chapter 6 describes how Luis and Walter Alvarez’s discovery of iridium in the Cretaceous/Triassic (K-T) boundary clays led to the hypothesis that a meteorite impact doomed the last of the dinosaurs. Chapter 7 recounts Marjorie Latimer’s discovery of the decomposing carcass of the first *Coelacanth* aboard a South African fishing trawler and the subsequent search for living specimens.

Part 4 contains two stories of evolution in action. Chapter 8 follows Tony Allison on his “sickle-cell safari” across Africa to discover the link between sickle cell disease and increased malaria resistance. Chapter 9 chronicles the many arctic voyages of Ditlef Rustad, Johan Ruud, and Arthur DeVries spanning more than 75 years to collect, understand, and explain the evolution of the hemoglobin-less icicfish and unlock the secrets of its DNA. The only technical material in the book is a treatise on icicfish blood-serum genetics on pages 177-178. Some familiarity with euarkyotic chromosomal structure is helpful here in understanding the discussion.

The stories are followed by review and discussion questions, and a chapter-by-chapter guide to references and further reading suggestions. The index appears complete and includes the names of several hundred individuals mentioned in the book. Free online supplemental resources are available at www.aw-bc.com/carroll.

*Into the Jungle* is a fast, delightful read, with crisp prose and a personal style. Entertaining epigraphs begin every chapter. While the book was written to be enjoyed by nonscience students (p. xi), it speaks to scientists and teachers as well. My reading was slowed only by my constant desire to underline, highlight, and marginally note so many interesting facts. The richness and flavor of the narratives have already changed the way I teach several of these concepts. Science teachers at all levels who feel stifled by a narrowed, standardized-test-driven curriculum will find this book refreshing and inspiring. *Into the Jungle* opens a window and lets in the fresh air.

As Carroll reminds us, Rudyard Kipling said “If history [or science] were taught in the form of stories, it would never be forgotten.” This book is great pedagogy!

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