

toxicity. The author describes how group living makes it possible to withstand adverse weather conditions.

His discussion of how insects and some other animals synchronize their activities to coincide with food resources and how they gang up on their food if it fights back—be it animal or vegetable—is excellent and insightful. The section concerning the swarms of billions of migrating locusts—the ultimate in group behavior—was very fascinating and enjoyable. He also provides a history lesson in how man has dealt with the plagues of locusts and other insects from recorded time.

Towards the end of the book he discusses how group activities help find members of the opposite sex, activities that range from frequenting the insect equivalent of a singles bar to massing together to amplify visual or auditory signals that attract potential mates. In the final chapter, Waldbauer considers the ultimate in adaptive togetherness, the formation of cooperating groups that include two or more species.

The book contains an extensive selective readings list for each chapter which you will find very useful for more in-depth reading.


I highly recommend this book to all biology teachers as a good source book on adaptive group behavior. The walk he takes the reader through is very easy to follow. The groups he discusses are very familiar to us all, and the terminology can be understood by everyone. The book was thoroughly enjoyable.

John H. Zimmerman
Science Department Head
Norfolk Collegiate School
Norfolk, VA 23505

YOUNG SCIENCE

Porpoises. By Andrew Read. 1999. (World Life Library). Voyageur Press (123 North Second St., Stillwater, MN 55082). 72 pp. Paperback \$16.95.

An Island Scrapbook. By Virginia Wright-Frierson. 1998. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers (1230 Avenue of the Americas, NY 10020). 34 pp. Hardback \$16.00 (age 6+).

 **Porpoises** is a fact-filled book about the lives of those fascinating marine creatures. It tells us about the dangers they face because of man's activities and suggests how they can be protected. The book is filled with beautiful photographs and it was enjoyed equally by students in


grades 3, 4 and 5 at Mor-Gan School in Grenada. Younger students will enjoy the photos and older children would find it sophisticated enough for their liking.

An Island Scrapbook was also read by the children of Mor-Gan School and their response was interesting. It is a story about going out onto the beach in North Carolina and discovering the various flora and fauna characteristic of the area. The children loved this book and want to do the same thing here on our beaches in Grenada. Their teacher plans to develop a lesson where they will do just that. While the individual species will differ, they will discover parallel niches with plants and animals living lives similar to those in North Carolina. As one of the children said, "It is like a reference book which is written in short notes and pictures. This makes it more interesting."

Linda K. Ellis, Instructor
St. George's University
St. George's, Grenada; West Indies


Spiderology. By Michael Elsohn Ross. 2000. Carolrhoda Books, Inc. (241 First Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55401). 48 pp. Hardback \$19.93. (The book also comes in softcover.)

Millipedeology. By Michael Elsohn Ross. (Same as above) (ages 4–8).

 These two books are the seventh and eighth in a series called **Backyard Buddies**. The books are similar in format and are easy to read. Ross gives his young readers an up-close-and-personal look at these extraordinary creatures. Spiders and millipedes can be learned about through simple, entertaining activities that can be done at home or in the classroom using simple and inexpensive materials. Every page contains a hands-on activity that young naturalists will find exciting. He asks inquiry-based questions that will help young scientists discover more about spiders and millipedes. Ross includes great illustrations and photographs which will help his young readers understand these amazing creatures. He provides a series of experiments that other young people and scientists have done so the reader can find out more about spiders and millipedes. I highly recommend these two books to children who want to explore their backyards. They would also be a great addition to any elementary student library.

John H. Zimmerman
Science Department Head
Norfolk Collegiate School
Norfolk, VA 23505

The Amazing Magic Fact Machine. By Jay Young. 2000. Sterling Publishing Co., Inc. (387 Park Ave. South, NY 10016-8810). 30 pp. Hardback \$19.95.

 Suitable for players from age 8 to adults, this clever little game book uses a magic hand to point to questions about our world and then this same magic hand placed on another page will supply the written answer.

This book is designed with facing pages of questions and answers displayed along the circumference of a circle. At the center of each circle is a round depression fitted to receive a central disk supporting a robot's hand with extended index finger. The finger of the dial is turned to the question, then it is moved to the middle of the answer circle on the facing sheet. Provided that the book is situated on a flat horizontal surface . . . the finger will spin around and point to the correct answer.

Richly illustrated and covering topics in Technology, Our Planet, The Human Body, The Plant and Animal Worlds, Space, Fact and Fiction among others; this is a game book that will enthrall the participants. Some sample questions include: Which planet has the most moons? Why is aluminum used to build aircraft? What is the smallest bone in the body? What is the most common element on Earth? What is a slowworm? What is a meander?

First, it will pique curiosity as to how the finger 'knows' the answers, and then it will involve the readers in discussions about the answers. This little book will involve the readers with both its workings and its contents. It can be 'read' individually or in groups. The book will engage users during school activities, home leisure time, and as family entertainment.

Prof. R. Hoots
Science Department
Woodland College
Woodland, CA 95776

www.nabt.org
www.nabt.org
www.nabt.org