

answered on the next page. Because of this structure, the book can be read all at once or a few pages at a time. In addition to a wealth of information on natural history and biology of zooplankton, this book contains interesting information about how zooplankton affect humans. My children especially liked the explanation of how large numbers of zooplankton can effectively hide something as large as a submarine from sonar. Young and old alike will appreciate the great photos, and older students (the text is aimed at grades 3-7) will find the text interesting.

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**My Season With Penguins.** By Sophie Webb. 2000. Houghton Mifflin Company. (ISBN 0-395-92291-7). 48 pp. Hardback \$15.00.

**The Nature of Penguins.** By Jonathan Chester. 2001. Ten Speed Press. (ISBN 1-58761-120-1). 112 pp. Paperback \$17.95.

Written for ages 10 and up, **My Season With Penguins** is a journal written and illustrated by the author during a field study in Antarctica. This delightful book is filled with watercolor paintings depicting Adélie Penguins and their habitat. Webb's journal gives the reader an insight into doing field studies. It describes the living conditions and considerations made when living in Antarctica. Webb explains different procedures employed to study the penguins. She includes descriptions of catching, tagging, counting and monitoring penguins. Penguin behavior, including courtship display, feeding and child rearing, are explained. This book would be an excellent choice for demonstrating a field study.

For the reader who is looking for a more biological look at penguins, **The Nature of Penguins** is an outstanding choice. Chester, a photo-journalist and naturalist, fills this book with stunning photographs of penguins and fascinating facts. **The Nature of Penguins** not only covers the ecological and zoological aspects of penguins, it also discusses the impact of people on penguins. Each species of penguin is discussed in detail and photographed. The impact of people on penguins includes historical uses of penguins and their eggs, as well as the current impact man has on them. Maps depicting current habitats are included. This book would be a wonderful addition to any classroom collection of books about animals.

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## CHILDREN'S SCIENCE

**Spiders and Their Web Sites.** By Margery Facklam; illustrated by Alan Male. 2001. Little, Brown & Co. (ISBN 0-316-27329-5). 32pp. Hardback \$15.95. (ages 4-8)

Facklam's and Male's introductory book on spiders for children is a delight! Using illustrations that are eye-catching and realistic without

being frightening, it takes young readers on a tour of the world of these amazing arthropods that introduces them to everything from basic anatomy and physiology to common misconceptions and exotic behaviors. What child's attention, for instance, would not be captured by the story of how the indigenous people of the South Pacific use the giant webs of the golden silk spiders, Nephila, as fishing nets?

The book provides information on 12 general categories of spiders, including all the "classics" (tarantulas, "widows" and the recluses), and the habits and habitats of more common spiders like the garden and the jumping. Less familiar ones such as the fishing and the bola get equal attention and fair treatment. Even the commonly mistaken Daddy Longlegs gets its own page to help young readers understand why these relatives of spiders are not actually spiders themselves. Add in a nice, age-appropriate glossary and good "Further Reading" list, and there is nothing not to like about this book. I recommend it highly for any elementary school librarian or classroom teacher who wants to give children an exciting and exceptional introduction into this fascinating subject.

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