

money grabbers profiting from marketing drugs developed through taxpayer-funded research.

As the book progresses, the narrative becomes repetitive. Their argument about the inadequate mechanism for tissue patenting is somewhat questionable. Their discussion of policy issues never becomes clear enough for the reader to make a sound judgment. Given the numerous instances of profit involving tissue and/or gene patenting, they fail to discourage anyone from engaging in such activities when the payoff seems so seductive. The legal aspects are obscure and unconvincing.

The book is intended for an audience with some fundamental knowledge of genetics. Any instructor of biology will be able to fully understand the material presented. However, not much of the book's contents can be useful for a secondary or college biology course. I can hardly recommend this book, given its price and limited contents. After finishing reading *Body Bazaar*, one may wonder about Andrews' and Nelkin's motives for this writing fiasco.

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## CHILDREN'S BOOKS

**Our Earth** By Anne Rockwell. 1998. Harcourt Brace & Co. (ISBN 0-15-201679-1). 24 pp. Hardback \$13.00. (ages 4 - 8)

A fun book for children, *Our Earth* provides a tour of the Earth and its varied landscapes. Land formations and land sculpting events such as glacier movement and volcanoes are presented to children with simplicity and a conservation of words. Wonderfully vivid illustrations are accompanied by simple and clear-to-read captions. Geographic diversity and the beauty

of Earth are nicely presented in a book that is a great introduction to our planet for beginning readers.

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**Biomes Series** (Five Books)—  
**Deserts** (ISBN 0-73-983560-2),  
**Forests** (ISBN 0-73-983561-0),  
**Grasslands** (ISBN 0-73-983562-9),  
**Oceans** (ISBN 0-73-983564-5),  
**Tundra** (ISBN 0-73-983565-3).  
Eileen Robinson, Editor. 2001. Steck-Vaughn Co. 32 pp. each book. Hardback \$15.98 per book; \$79.90 complete set. (ages 8 - 10)

This series by three authors (Christy Steele — **Deserts, Oceans**; Julie Nelson — **Forests, Tundra**; Matt Doeden — **Grasslands**) attempts to cover the five biomes making up the biosphere for young readers. Each book describes the particular biome, with a chapter for its plants, one for its animals, and one for how it is affected by people. Included in each book is a glossary, useful Internet sites and addresses, and an index. Each book is illustrated with color photographs and diagrams.

Much is made of the word adaptation and each book consistently uses the same definition. However, each book just as consistently avoids the use of the term evolution or the verb, evolves. Without this unifying concept or theme running through the series, the reader is left to his own imagination in figuring out how an organism changes 'over time to fit in a special environment'.

To reach and interest a younger reader, it is necessary to leave out overly technical terminology but in regard to wolves in the Tundra, defining a pack as "a group of something" may be carrying over-

simplification a little too far. Terms such as migrate, community, gas and others are to my opinion greatly oversimplified in their definitions. Erroneously referring to gills as assisting fish to breathe leaves it to the biology teacher later on to set the record straight. Addition of a biology consultant, early childhood consultant and reading specialist to the list of consultants would have been helpful. For example, in *Forests*, the omission of forests in the Rocky Mountains on the map of forests of the world would have been caught with a little more proofreading.

I applaud the attempt of these writers to reach our young people. I especially am appreciative of the chapter on how people can adversely affect each of the biomes. However, I would not recommend buying the books, which are overpriced.

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