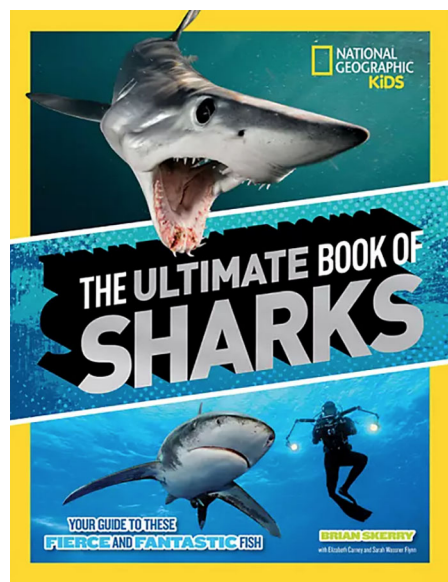


Also hidden in the pages are neat little mini-experiments that can be done at home with resources that are common, including modeling ocean waves, designing a fish, and exploring the deep. This was definitely much better than I had expected, and I will be using it at home as well as with my students!

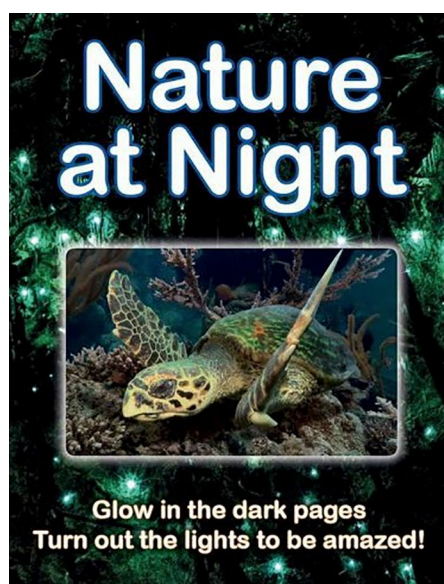


The Ultimate Book of Sharks. By Brian Skerry with Elizabeth Carney and Sarah Wassner Flynn. 2020. National Geographic Kids. (ISBN 978-1-4263-3071-1). 190 pp. Hardcover, \$19.99.

I have always been a big fan of the National Geographic “Big Book of ___” series. Each of these books is a journey into a targeted topic with the quality of scientific accuracy and imagery we all expect from National Geographic. This “Ultimate” book is no exception, highlighting the work of Brian Skerry, a photojournalist for National Geographic and other publications. The book is not only a collection of incredible images he has collected over a 20-year career in photography, it is also essentially a young scientists’ encyclopedia of sharks! It features a wide range of species, from fan favorites (great whites, tiger sharks) to smaller species (angels, dogfish). In addition to current sharks and their whereabouts, the book takes a trip through the fossil record to look at the evolution of sharks and how ancestral species lived and hunted. In addition to types of sharks, there are full chapters on anatomy and physiology as well as the secret lives of sharks in the ocean. My favorite chapters are found at the end of the book. In one of these

chapters, Skerry tackles common myths about sharks – like their interactions with people, how they select food, and those bites. Another is a chapter on “super sharks,” delving into the superlatives of the shark world – such as the best camo, the deepest dweller, and the fastest swimmer. And most important is a chapter calling for the defense of sharks through conservation and protection of the oceans!

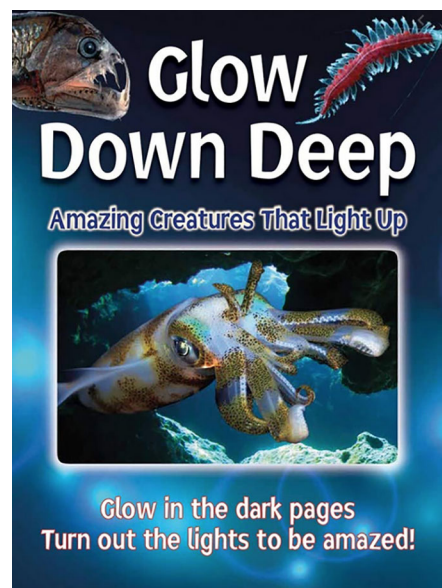
Overall, this book is a fantastic look at the world of sharks, infused with the experiences of someone who has photographed them over a career. Each chapter has great “Moments of AHHHHH!” built in to tell a story beyond just the facts about these magnificent creatures.



Nature at Night. By Lisa Regan. 2020. Firefly. (ISBN 978-0-2281-0254-0). 49 pp. Softcover, \$12.95.

Glow Down Deep. By Lisa Regan. 2020. Firefly. (ISBN 978-0-2281-0252-6). 49 pp. Softcover, \$12.95.

These two books are part of a series of glow-in-the-dark picture books for young people. Gracing each cover is a 3D image that captures some of the organisms in the books. Within the pages are short vignettes that cover over a dozen organisms that can be found on land or water. While there are short introductions that tell about the life of the organism, the main feature of the books is that they center on living things that possess the ability to luminesce, bright colorings that appear to glow, or the ability to



perceive light and luminescence. The pictures are beautiful and the pages are thick, on high-quality paper. When placed under a UV light, the pages come to life, showcasing the glowing nature of these organisms, their surroundings, or how they use the ability to see light in special ways to mate and thrive. While the books are beautiful, the cost is somewhat higher than expected for a softcover with limited pages. However, the images themselves provide great enjoyment to young and old alike.



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