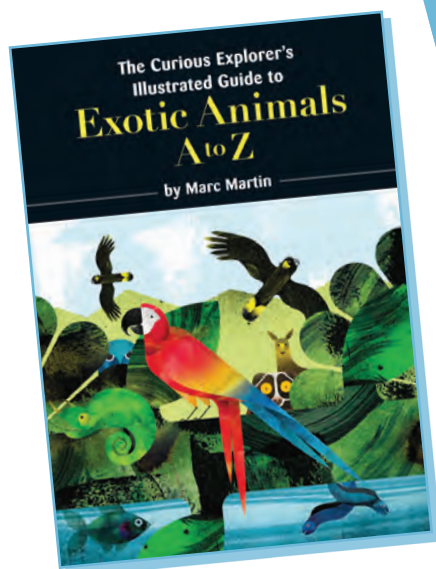


# NONFICTION STANDING ORDER



## FEATURED BOOK:

### The Curious Explorer's Illustrated Guide to Exotic Animals

For information about our featured book, please visit our website: [australianstandingorders.com.au](http://australianstandingorders.com.au)

Happy New Year and welcome to our first Nonfiction standing order for 2013! We've had such a great response to our nonfiction titles over the last year that we've decided to increase our number of standing orders to six for 2013. Remember, if there are particular subjects you'd like me to look out for, just let me know by emailing our Customer Service team.

**The Curious Explorer's Illustrated Guide to Exotic Animals** is written and illustrated by Marc Martin and is our featured book this month. It's a simple and beautifully illustrated look at some of the world's most exotic animals – from the Galapagos Giant Tortoise, to Narwhals, to the X-ray fish and more. There is information at the end of the book about each of the animals. Suitable for Lower to Mid Primary.

There are two new titles in the **CloseUps** series – **Polar Bears** and **Penguins**. Suitable for Lower to Mid Primary, the books in this series use vivid photography and simple text to provide information about the given topics. There's also a glossary at the end. The photographs are, as always, magnificent.

**Survival at 40°C Above** is a picture book-style narrative about life in the Simpson Desert. The author and illustrator take readers on a journey to one of the hottest places in the world where we learn about the unique creatures that live there. It's a good introduction to life in the desert and the strange and wonderful forms of life that survive there. Suitable for Mid to Upper Primary.

**Everything You Need to Know About Science** is a one-volume encyclopedia all about science, suitable for Mid to Upper Primary. The book is arranged thematically into five core topics: Numbers and Shapes; The Way the World Works; The World of Materials; Living Things; and Space. A range of informative and interactive features enhance and consolidate each section.

We've had quite a few requests for books about gardening and art and craft, so this year we're looking hard to find titles on this topic for you. **Garden Projects** combines both gardening and art and craft (clever us!). Put together by the Royal Horticultural Society, the book encourages children to get out into the garden by providing lots of ideas – from cooking, to craft, to growing your own plants. Suitable for Lower to Mid Primary.

Don't forget to look out for your free ASO compendium (for subscribers) in the March standing orders. Perfect for filing the 2013 Teacher Notes.

Happy reading.



#### SCIS

Don't forget that all ASO selections have been allocated SCIS numbers. These can be found on our website:

[www.australianstandingorders.com.au](http://www.australianstandingorders.com.au)

## COMING NEXT ISSUE

### DISCOVER MORE: WORLD WAR II

#### OF ICE, WIND AND ROCK: MAWSON IN THE ANTARCTIC

– Peter Gouldthorpe

#### FOR VALOUR: AUSTRALIA'S VICTORIA CROSS WINNERS (OUR STORIES)

– Nicholas Brasch

#### FUNNY BUMS

– Dr Mark Norman

#### THE PROMISE: THE TOWN THAT NEVER FORGETS

– Derek Guilee and Kaff-Eine

#### EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW: ANIMALS

#### CARBON CLOSEUP

#### ENDANGERED CLOSEUP

#### AUSTRALIA'S FLAGS AND EMBLEMS (OUR STORIES)

– Karen Tayleur

# THE CURIOUS EXPLORER'S ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO EXOTIC ANIMALS

MARC MARTIN

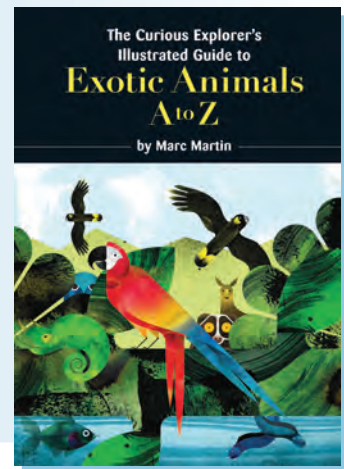
**The Curious Explorer's Illustrated Guide to Exotic Animals A to Z** is a collection of full-page illustrations of some of the more unusual and intriguing creatures in our big, beautiful world. Hailing from all around the globe, these exotic animals have been brought to life in Marc's trademark mix of hand-rendered and digital media. The endpapers locate each animal on the world map, perfect for young explorers to pore over, and the back of the book features a fascinating collection of facts to sate the curiosity of any animal fan.

**Curriculum links:** Art, History, Science

**Cross-curriculum link:** Sustainability

**ISBN: 9780670076468**

**RRP: \$24.99**



## TEACHER NOTES

- Look carefully at the illustrations of each animal. What do the colours, backgrounds or features of the animals reveal about them? For example, do they come from a hot climate or a cold climate? Are they land animals or sea animals? What adaptations have these animals made to suit their environments (eg camouflage)?
- Cut out shapes of these animals and place each animal on a world map where you think it belongs. Look at the end pages and the map. How accurate were you in your placement of the animals?
- What continents do these animals come from? Do any continents have a greater variety of animals than others? Are there more animals from the northern or southern hemisphere? Why do you think this is?
- Make a list of six facts about each animal:
  - o Description
  - o Habitat
  - o Diet
  - o Adaptations
  - o Population
  - o Location.How accurate were your predictions from examining the illustrations?
- What does the term extinct mean? Which of these animals is now extinct? Can you list any other animals that are now extinct?
- What does endangered mean? Which of these animals is currently endangered? What is their greatest threat? Make posters about how to save or protect these endangered animals.
- Classify and group these animals according to their characteristics:
  - o land animals, sea animals and birds
  - o cold climate animals and hot climate animals
  - o herbivores and carnivores
  - o poisonous/dangerous and non-threatening.
- Find another exotic animal for each letter of the alphabet. Research six facts about your animal. Draw a stylised picture of your animal that depicts information about its characteristics and habitat as they were in this book. Have other students determine information about your animal from your illustration and place it on the map. Consider how accurate they were.

# EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SCIENCE

MIKE GOLDSMITH

**Everything You Need to Know about Science** explores all aspects of science. From numbers and shapes, time, computers, robots and the internet, to the worlds of materials and living things, and some of the simple scientific laws that control the world we live in, the encyclopedia is a comprehensive reference book. Themes such as colour, sound, force and motion are explored along with topics including energy, machines, magnetism and telecommunication. The encyclopedia is illustrated with striking colour photography and artwork.

**Curriculum links:** Science, Maths, History, English, Geography

**Cross-curriculum link:** Sustainability

**ISBN: 9780753436509**

**RRP: \$19.99**



## TEACHER NOTES

- There are short biographies of more than 20 people in this book. Choose five you would like to interview. What would you ask them? Can you find the answers?
- Look at the shapes and angles on pp 20-21. Design a poster showing many different shapes and angles.
- Read pp 34-35. Then use the pictures you can see throughout the book to write a poem about one colour.
- Find ten facts about water in this book. Use them to prepare a two-minute talk.
- Pages 48-49 show machines. Find other machines in this book and make a bar chart (see pp 18-19) of different types, such as land, sea and air machines. Can you use the information to make a different chart?
- There are facts about Earth throughout this book, including on pp 136-137. Pretend you are working for an alien TV channel and make a short report about the planet.
- Choose one animal, two facts and two objects in this book. Use them to create a character and events in a story.
- Use the index to find the six pages where heat is mentioned in this book. Write a short report using all this information.
- Make up a 'True or False' quiz from the information in this book. Test out your friends or your parents.

## POLAR BEARS CLOSEUP

MELISSA KEIL

Polar bears are one of the largest predators in the world, and they are the world's largest land predators. Polar bears are capable of swimming large distances. They are also capable of great bursts of speed. This helps them as hunters and predators. They feed on fish and seals. The cubs are tiny when they are born and stay with the mother for a substantial period before becoming independent. Polar bears are well adapted to a chilly environment, which makes them vulnerable to global warming.

ISBN: 9781742035611

RRP: \$14.99



### TEACHER NOTES

**Curriculum link:** English/Creative Arts

#### Before reading:

- Brainstorm what students know about polar bears.
- What is the students' first response when they look at the cover of the book?
- How do they think polar bears would feel to touch? Would it be safe to touch a polar bear?

#### While reading:

Ask students to keep a table of the features that help polar bears live in their environment. In one column put the feature and in the second column write how the feature helps the polar bear.

#### After reading:

Ask students to reflect on the words they would use to describe polar bears and the words that have been used in the book to describe polar bears. Ask them to draw up a list of words that can be used to describe polar bears.

**Curriculum link:** Science and technology:

#### After reading the book ask:

- How are polar bears and penguins similar and different in the way they have adapted to the cold environments in which they live? Ask students to draw up a table comparing polar bears and penguins.

- Polar bears are carnivores and predators; they eat other animals. They are also prey for other animals. Ask the students to research the meaning of carnivore, predator and prey. What other animals are carnivores? Are carnivores always large animals?

**Curriculum Theme:** Sustainability

Why are polar bears important to the environment? Why are predators important to the environment? Why are polar bears endangered? How will polar bears be affected by climate change? What is an indicator species? Ask students to brainstorm/research reasons why polar bears are endangered (habitat destruction, eating plastic waste, oil spills and other forms of pollution) and what is being done to protect them. Have students think about why polar bears are important and what the world might be like without them. Ask students to create a poster outlining their findings.

#### Find out more

- Polar Bears International: <http://www.polarbearsinternational.org/about-polar-bears/essentials>
- World Wildlife Fund: <http://worldwildlife.org/species/polar-bear>

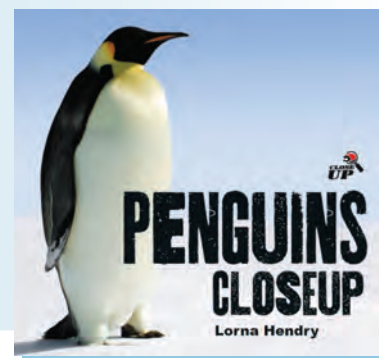
## PENGUINS CLOSEUP

LORNA HENDRY

There are seventeen kinds of penguin. All are flightless but penguins can swim faster and dive deeper than any other bird. Their wings are used as flippers when they are swimming. Some live in the coldest place on Earth. Each species has adaptations to suit them to their environment. Penguins are threatened by activities of people and some species are endangered.

ISBN: 9781742035529

RRP: \$14.99



### TEACHER NOTES

**Curriculum link:** English/Creative Arts

- Explain to students that when you use several words in a row that begin with the same sound (plucky playful penguins), you call this alliteration. How many words can they come up with that begin with a 'p' sound and describe penguins? Ask them to arrange the words into phrases that describe penguins.

**Curriculum link:** Science and Technology:

- Before reading, brainstorm some of the following:
  - o Where do penguins live?
  - o What do penguins eat?
  - o What colours are penguins? Why might penguins be coloured liked this?
  - o What type of animal is a penguin? (Note: a penguin is a bird.)
- After reading, ask students to list all the things they have learnt about penguins from this book.
- Ask students to choose one species of penguin using **Penguins Closeup** to help them. Ask them to research their chosen species and list five facts that they discover, eg where is it found? How big can it grow? What does it eat?

- Penguins are carnivores and predators; they eat other animals. They are also prey for other animals. Ask the students to research the meaning of carnivore, predator and prey. What other animals are carnivores?

**Curriculum Theme:** Sustainability

Why are penguins important to the environment? Why are predators important to the environment? Which penguins are endangered? Ask the students to brainstorm/research reasons why penguins are endangered (habitat destruction, eating plastic waste, oil spills and other forms of pollution) and what is being done to protect them. Get them to think about why penguins are important and what the world might be like without them. Ask students to create a poster outlining their findings.

#### Finding out more

- International Penguin Conservation Work Group <http://www.penguins.cl/>
- The Penguin Parade (Phillip Island) <http://www.penguins.org.au/>



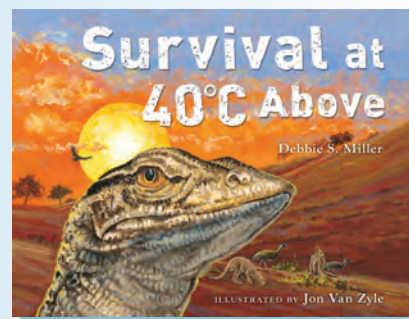
## SURVIVAL AT 40°C ABOVE

DEBBIE S. MILLER | JON VAN ZYLE (ILLUSTRATOR)

The secret life of the Australian desert is captured in a text which creates an atmosphere of wonder as it also informs young readers. The colours of the sand and sky; the strange habits of the desert creatures including the sand goanna, emu, brown snake, skink, mulgara, dingo and ningau; the idiosyncrasies of the predatory and protective behaviours of these animals; and the effect of rain on this environment are all told with a sense of awe and respect.

ISBN: 9781408190296

RRP: \$14.99



### TEACHER NOTES:

- **Curriculum link:** Mathematics
  - Discuss temperatures and work out the highest and lowest recorded temperatures in the Simpson Desert and the variance between them.
  - How large is the Simpson Desert? What percentage is it of the entire landmass of Australia?
- **Curriculum link:** Science
  - The biological quirks of nature are often stranger than fiction! Discuss some of the 'supernatural' capacities of various forms of wildlife in the desert.
  - 'Withered roots welcome the rain like a dry kitchen sponge. Now the desert is really wet!' (p 6). What is unique about desert ecology? Invite students to make a list of features.
  - The Simpson Desert is said to be one of the hottest places on Earth. Discuss the challenges of surviving in this environment. Has climate change or global warming had any marked effect on this desert in Australia?
  - In 2009-10 some of the heaviest rain in decades fell in the desert and the terrain was transformed into a sea of flowers and wildlife. Research this further and examine photos online of this spectacular transformation.
- **Curriculum Link:** Humanity and Social Sciences
  - Aboriginal people inhabited parts of the Simpson Desert well before explorers arrived on the scene. Teachers might read 'Aboriginal Occupation of the Simpson Desert' at [http://austhrutuime.com/simpson\\_desert\\_aboriginal\\_occupation.htm](http://austhrutuime.com/simpson_desert_aboriginal_occupation.htm) and encourage students to explore the history of the region.
- **Curriculum Link:** The Arts
  - Study the style of painting used in this visual text. The artist worked from photos taken by the author during her time in the desert with a group of scientists. Invite students to choose one of the paintings in this book and create their own rendition of it in any medium or style and using any palette of colours you consider appropriate to the subject.
  - Encourage students to create a short dramatised mime version of one of the scenes in the book. Design elaborate masks to indicate which animal/reptile or bird they are playing. Choose atmospheric music which might enhance the improvised performance. Read the text carefully as it does give an indication of the noises one might hear in the desert which might be added to the 'soundscape' for your performance.

## GARDEN PROJECTS

Bursting with garden projects to make, cook and create, **Garden Projects** is full of different projects for children to get excited about. From making their own garden buddy to baking a blueberry cheesecake; from lemonade lollies to Wild-West cacti, **Garden Projects** is chock-full of inspiring ideas. Each project and recipe is easy to make and has clear steps to follow.

**Curriculum links:** Science, Art, English, Geography

**Cross-curriculum link:** Sustainability

ISBN: 9781409324942

RRP: \$19.99



### TEACHER NOTES

- What do plants need to grow? What sorts of plants grow best in different climates? Which plants need a lot of rainfall and which can survive in dry areas? How do plants adapt to ensure they can survive in their different climates or conditions? Make a chart of plants that grow in warm climates and those that grow best in hot climates.
- Grow your own seeds in cottonwool (bean sprouts or alfalfa work best for this). Place them in different areas around the room. Give each plant different amounts of water. Which seeds grew successfully? What did you learn about the amount of light and water plants need to survive? What happens if they have too much light and water? What happens if they do not receive enough?
- What is pollination? Why do bees need flowers? Why do flowers need bees? Are there any other animals that are useful to plants?
- What do we call peppers? What do we call courgettes? Can you think of any other foods that have different names in different parts of the world?
- What features do you usually find in a fairy garden? Using craft materials, make your own red and white spotted toadstools to put in your fairy garden.
- What are carnivorous plants? What do they eat? What types of carnivorous plants are there? What different types of mechanism do these plants use in order to catch their prey?
- Choose a patch of land at school or at home in which you can make your own garden. Consider the location of the garden. How much sunlight does it get each day? What is the soil like – chalky, clay, sandy? Is the site well drained or quite damp? What would be the best plants to establish in your garden? Will you have herbs, vegetables or flowers in your garden? Plant your own garden and decorate it using some of the activities in this book – eg labels, a scarecrow, a pond, a path. What other activities can you think of to do in the garden?
- What benefits do gardens provide for people? (Consider aspects such as health benefits, environmental benefits and food quality.) Make posters to encourage people to plant their own gardens and grow their own foods.