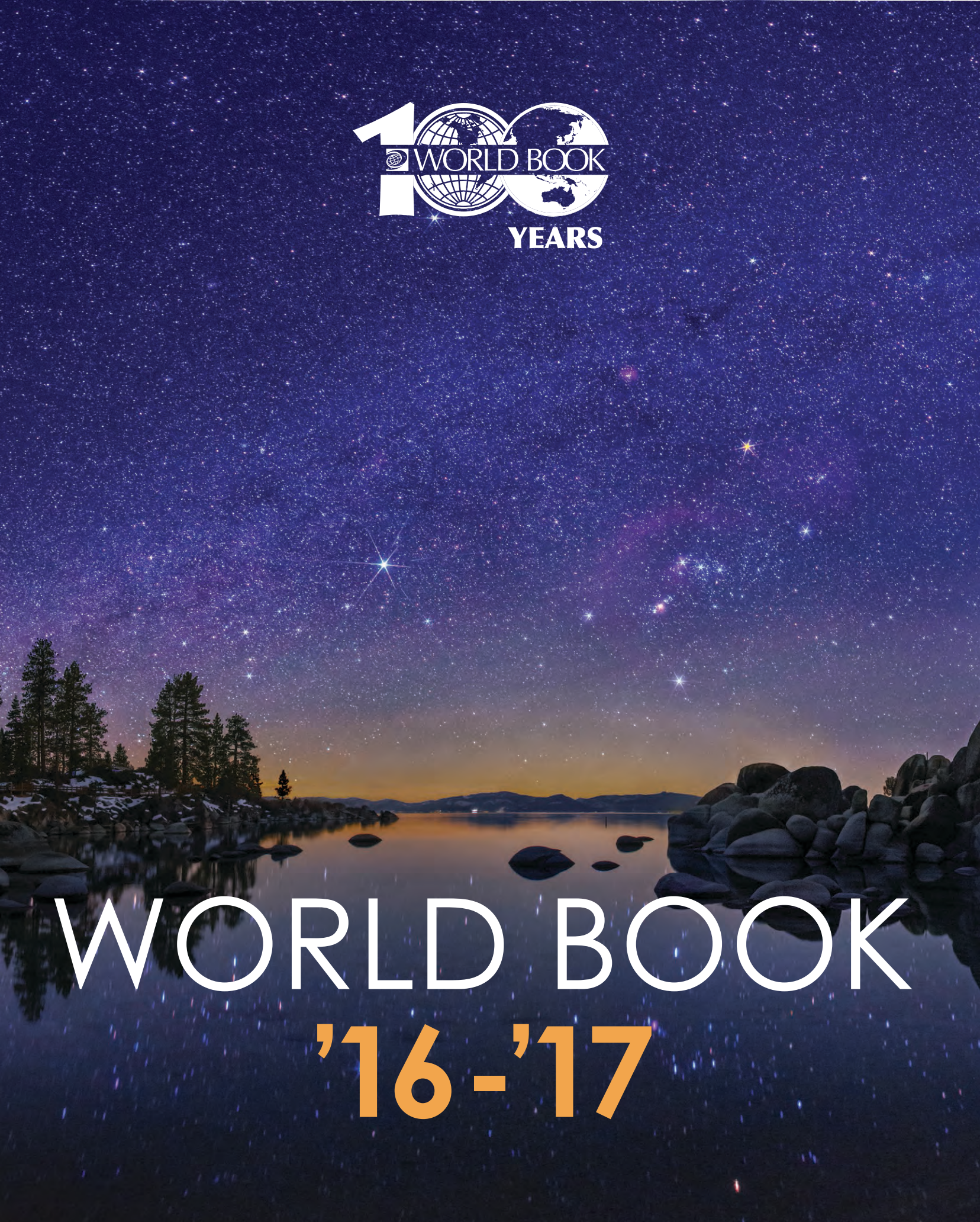
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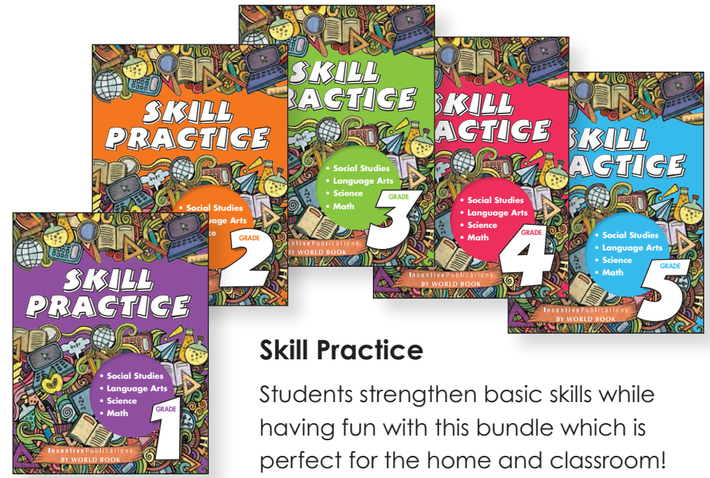

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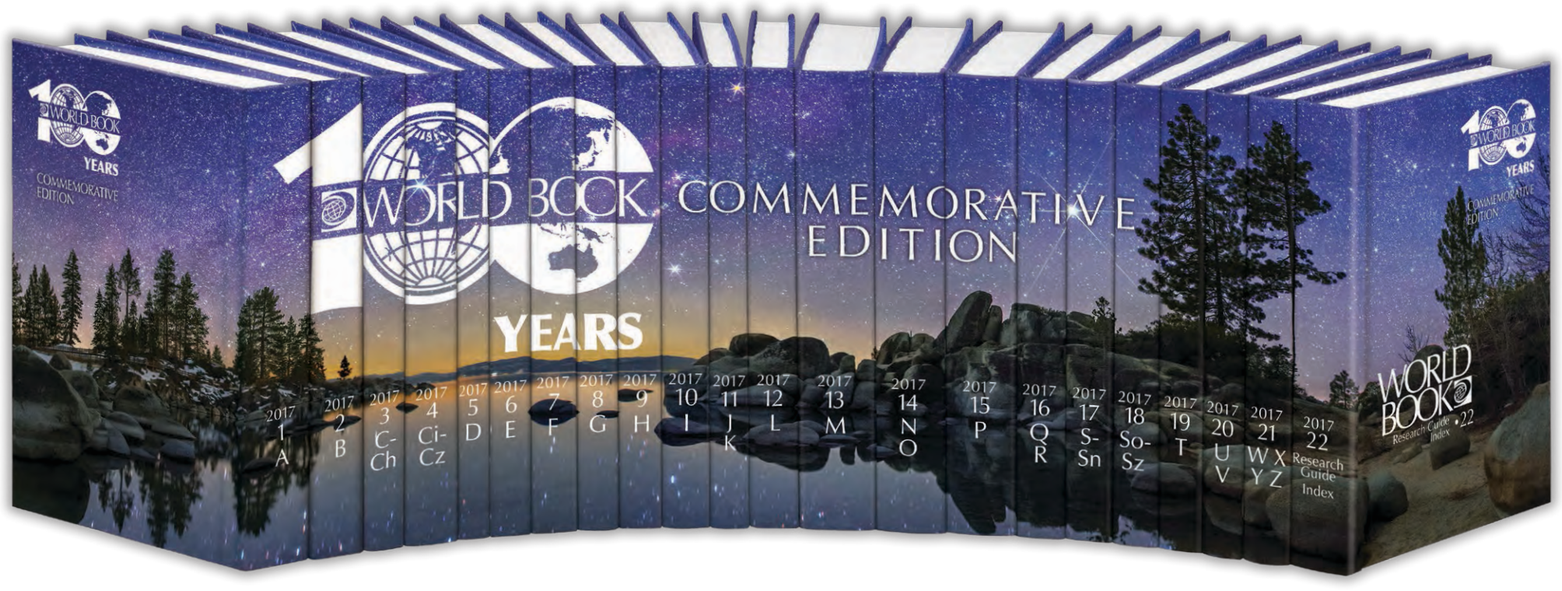

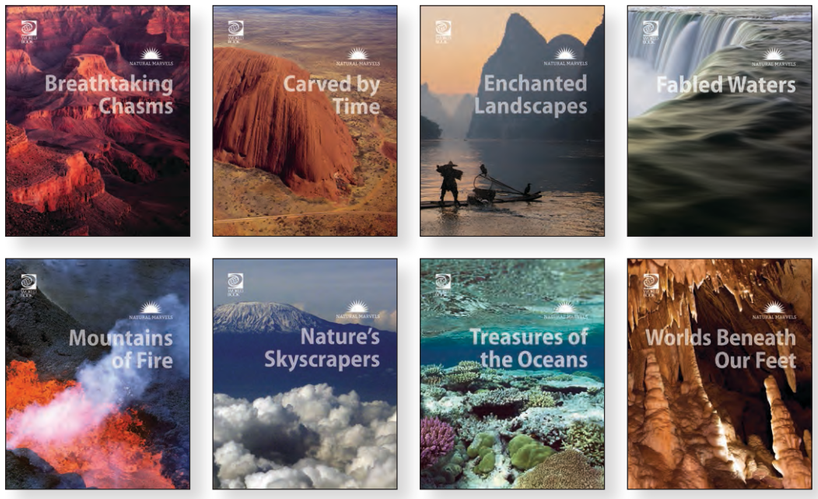





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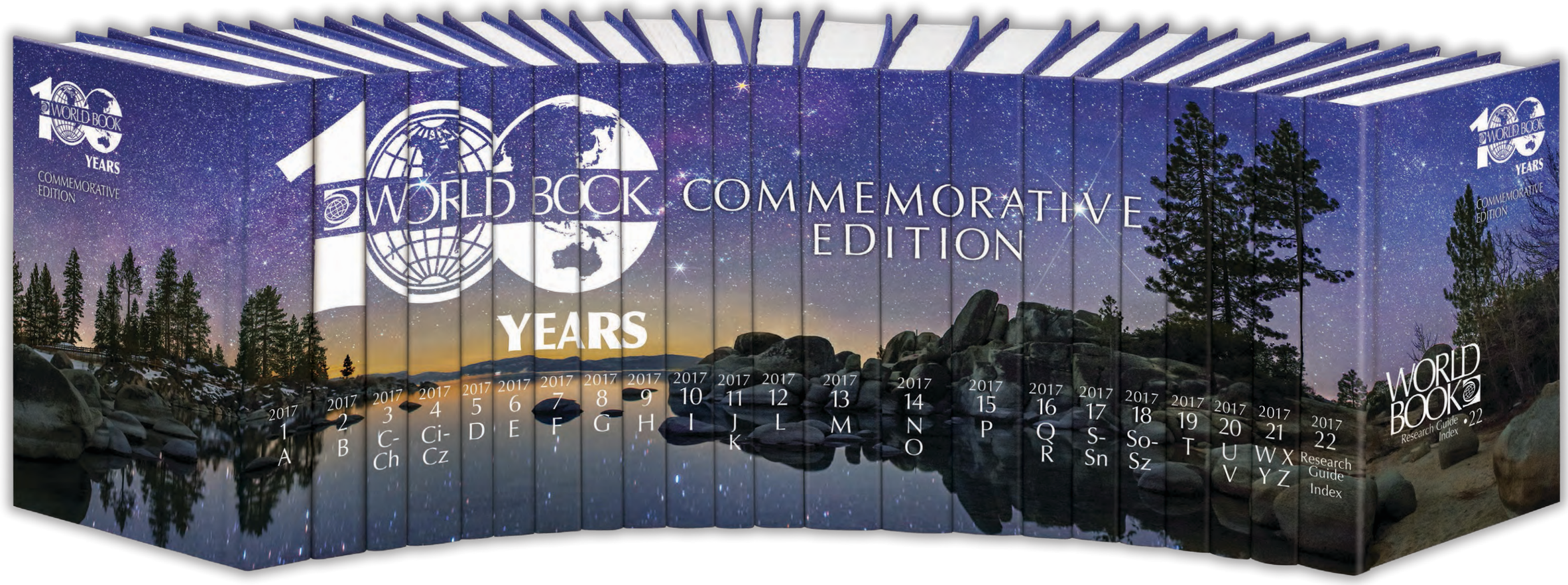

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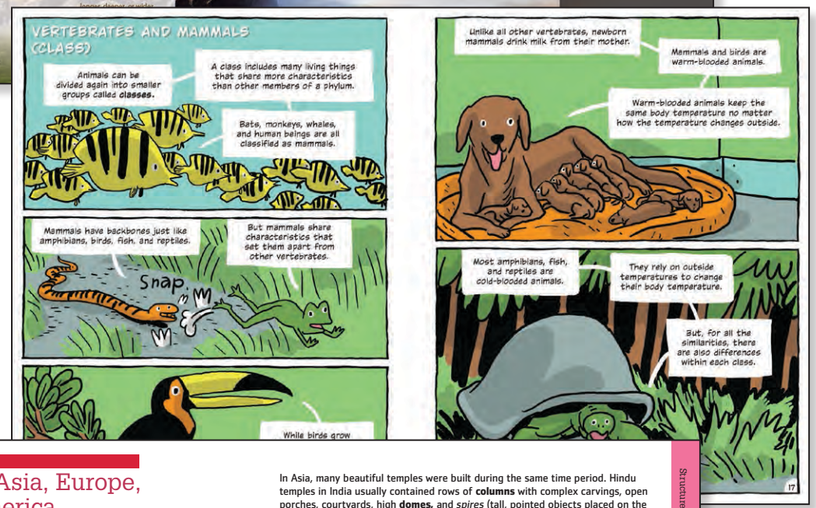

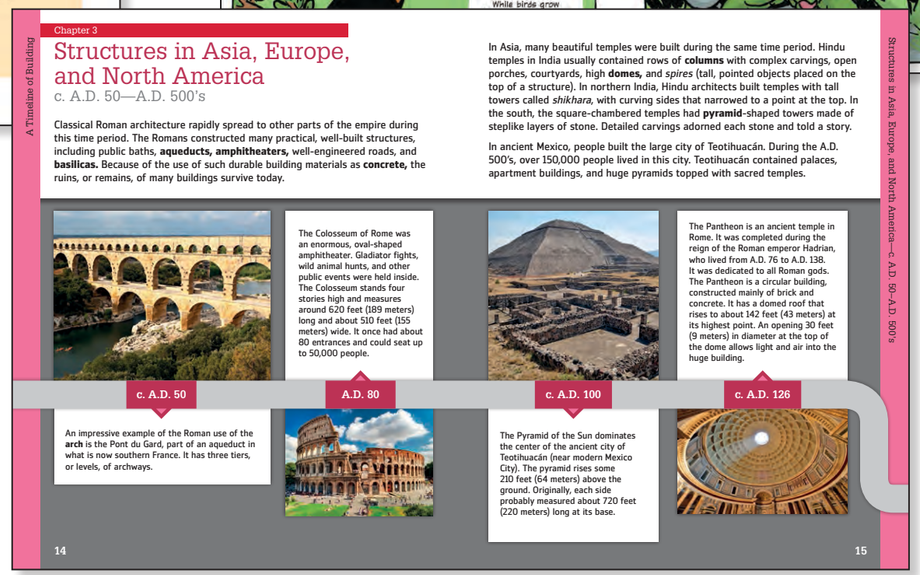

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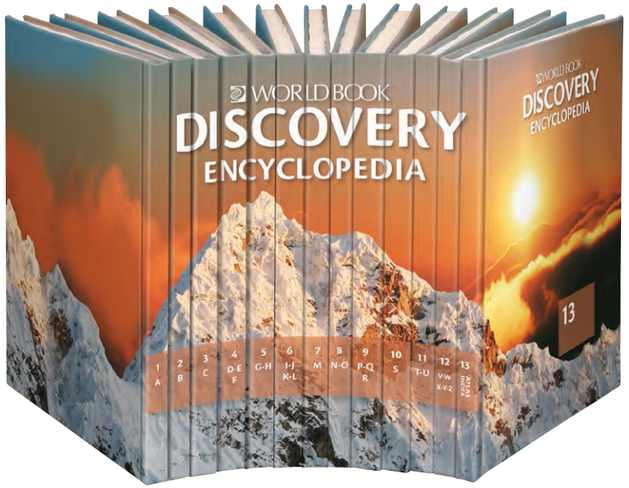

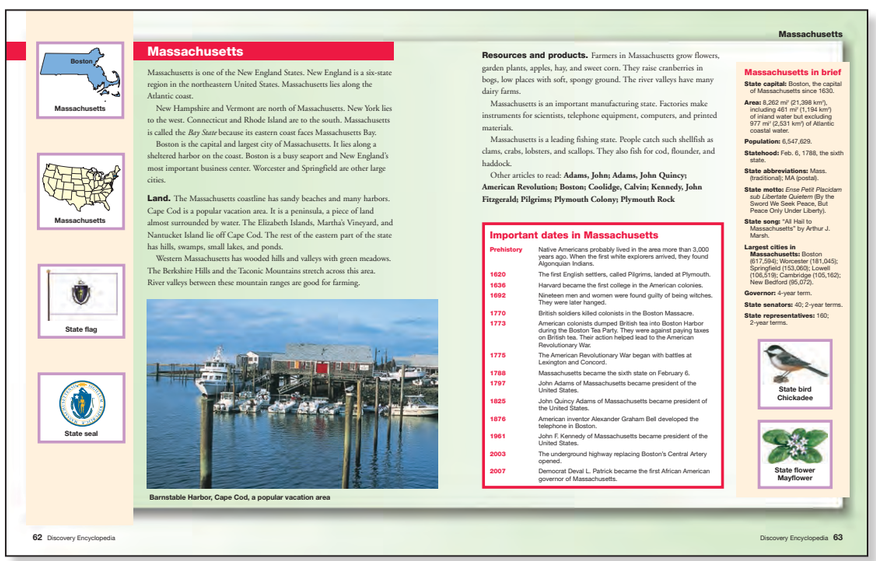

Massachusetts

Massachusetts

Massachusetts is one of the New England States. New England is a six-state region in the northeastern United States. Massachusetts lies along the Atlantic coast.

New Hampshire and Vermont are north of Massachusetts. New York lies to the west. Connecticut and Rhode Island are to the south. Massachusetts is called the *Bay State* because its eastern coast faces Massachusetts Bay.

Boston is the capital and largest city of Massachusetts. It lies along a sheltered harbor on the coast. Boston is a busy seaport and New England's most important business center. Worcester and Springfield are other large cities.

Land. The Massachusetts coastline has sandy beaches and many harbors. Cape Cod is a popular vacation area. It is a peninsula, a piece of land almost surrounded by water. The Elizabeth Islands, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket Island lie off Cape Cod. The rest of the eastern part of the state has hills, swamps, small lakes, and ponds.

Western Massachusetts has wooded hills and valleys with green meadows. The Berkshire Hills and the Taconic Mountains stretch across this area. River valleys between these mountain ranges are good for farming.

Resources and products. Farmers in Massachusetts grow flowers, garden plants, apples, hay, and sweet corn. They raise cranberries in bogs, low places with soft, spongy ground. The river valleys have many dairy farms.

Massachusetts is an important manufacturing state. Factories make instruments for scientists, telephone equipment, computers, and printed materials.

Massachusetts is a leading fishing state. People catch such shellfish as clams, crabs, lobsters, and scallops. They also fish for cod, flounder, and haddock.

Other articles to read: **Adams, John; Adams, John Quincy; American Revolution; Boston; Coolidge, Calvin; Kennedy, John Fitzgerald; Pilgrims; Plymouth Colony; Plymouth Rock**

Massachusetts in brief

State capital: Boston, the capital of Massachusetts since 1630.

Area: 8,262 mi² (21,398 km²), including 481 mi² (1,194 km²) of inland water but excluding 977 mi² (2,531 km²) of Atlantic coastal water.

Population: 6,547,629.

Statehood: Feb. 6, 1788, the sixth state.

State abbreviations: Mass. (traditional); MA (postal).

State motto: *Ense Petit Placidam sub Libertate Quietem* (By the Sword We Seek Peace, But Peace Only Under Liberty).

State song: "All Hail to Massachusetts" by Arthur J. Marsh.

Largest cities in Massachusetts: Boston (617,594); Worcester (181,045); Springfield (153,060); Lowell (106,519); Cambridge (105,162); New Bedford (95,072).

Governor: 4-year term.

State senators: 40; 2-year terms.

State representatives: 160; 2-year terms.

Important dates in Massachusetts

Prehistory	Native Americans probably lived in the area more than 3,000 years ago. When the first white explorers arrived, they found Algonquian Indians.
1620	The first English settlers, called Pilgrims, landed at Plymouth.
1636	Harvard became the first college in the American colonies.
1692	Nineteen men and women were found guilty of being witches. They were later hanged.
1770	British soldiers killed colonists in the Boston Massacre.
1773	American colonists dumped British tea into Boston Harbor during the Boston Tea Party. They were against paying taxes on British tea. Their action helped lead to the American Revolutionary War.
1775	The American Revolutionary War began with battles at Lexington and Concord.
1788	Massachusetts became the sixth state on February 6.
1797	John Adams of Massachusetts became president of the United States.
1825	John Quincy Adams of Massachusetts became president of the United States.
1876	American inventor Alexander Graham Bell developed the telephone in Boston.
1961	John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts became president of the United States.
2003	The underground highway replacing Boston's Central Artery opened.
2007	Democrat Deval L. Patrick became the first African American governor of Massachusetts.

Boston
Massachusetts
Massachusetts
State flag
State seal
State bird Chickadee
State flower Mayflower

Barnstable Harbor, Cape Cod, a popular vacation area

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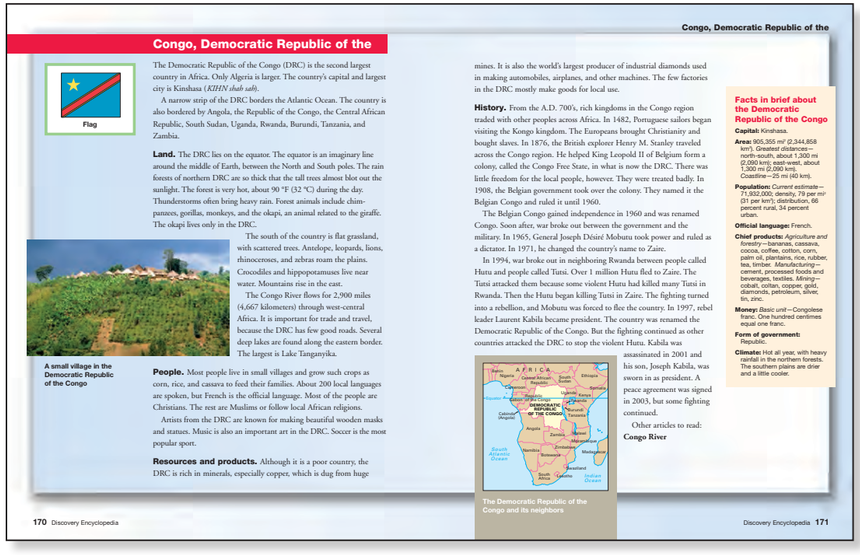

Congo, Democratic Republic of the

Flag

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is the second largest country in Africa. Only Algeria is larger. The country's capital and largest city is Kinshasa (*KIHN shah sah*).

A narrow strip of the DRC borders the Atlantic Ocean. The country is also bordered by Angola, the Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, and Zambia.

Land. The DRC lies on the equator. The equator is an imaginary line around the middle of Earth, between the North and South poles. The rain forests of northern DRC are so thick that the tall trees almost blot out the sunlight. The forest is very hot, about 90 °F (32 °C) during the day. Thunderstorms often bring heavy rain. Forest animals include chimpanzees, gorillas, monkeys, and the okapi, an animal related to the giraffe. The okapi lives only in the DRC.

The south of the country is flat grassland, with scattered trees. Antelope, leopards, lions, rhinoceroses, and zebras roam the plains. Crocodiles and hippopotamuses live near water. Mountains rise in the east.

The Congo River flows for 2,900 miles (4,667 kilometers) through west-central Africa. It is important for trade and travel, because the DRC has few good roads. Several deep lakes are found along the eastern border. The largest is Lake Tanganyika.

A small village in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

People. Most people live in small villages and grow such crops as corn, rice, and cassava to feed their families. About 200 local languages are spoken, but French is the official language. Most of the people are Christians. The rest are Muslims or follow local African religions.

Artists from the DRC are known for making beautiful wooden masks and statues. Music is also an important art in the DRC. Soccer is the most popular sport.

Resources and products. Although it is a poor country, the DRC is rich in minerals, especially copper, which is dug from huge mines. It is also the world's largest producer of industrial diamonds used in making automobiles, airplanes, and other machines. The few factories in the DRC mostly make goods for local use.

History. From the A.D. 700's, rich kingdoms in the Congo region traded with other peoples across Africa. In 1482, Portuguese sailors began visiting the Kongo kingdom. The Europeans brought Christianity and bought slaves. In 1876, the British explorer Henry M. Stanley traveled across the Congo region. He helped King Leopold II of Belgium form a colony, called the Congo Free State, in what is now the DRC. There was little freedom for the local people, however. They were treated badly. In 1908, the Belgian government took over the colony. They named it the Belgian Congo and ruled it until 1960.

The Belgian Congo gained independence in 1960 and was renamed Congo. Soon after, war broke out between the government and the military. In 1965, General Joseph Désiré Mobutu took power and ruled as a dictator. In 1971, he changed the country's name to Zaire.

In 1994, war broke out in neighboring Rwanda between people called Hutu and people called Tutsi. Over 1 million Hutu fled to Zaire. The Tutsi attacked them because some violent Hutu had killed many Tutsi in Rwanda. Then the Hutu began killing Tutsi in Zaire. The fighting turned into a rebellion, and Mobutu was forced to flee the country. In 1997, rebel leader Laurent Kabila became president. The country was renamed the Democratic Republic of the Congo. But the fighting continued as other countries attacked the DRC to stop the violent Hutu. Kabila was assassinated in 2001 and his son, Joseph Kabila, was sworn in as president. A peace agreement was signed in 2003, but some fighting continued.

Other articles to read: **Congo River**

The Democratic Republic of the Congo and its neighbors

Facts in brief about the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Capital: Kinshasa.

Area: 905,355 mi² (2,344,858 km²). *Greatest distances*—north-south, about 1,300 mi (2,092 km); east-west, about 1,300 mi (2,092 km). *Coastline*—25 mi (40 km).

Population: *Current estimate*—71,932,000; density, 79 per mi² (31 per km²); distribution, 66 percent rural, 34 percent urban.

Official language: French.

Chief products: *Agriculture and forestry*—bananas, cassava, cocoa, coffee, cotton, corn, palm oil, plantains, rice, rubber, tea, timber. *Manufacturing*—cement, processed foods and beverages, textiles. *Mining*—cobalt, coltan, copper, gold, diamonds, petroleum, silver, tin, zinc.

Money: *Basic unit*—Congolese franc. One hundred centimes equal one franc.

Form of government: Republic.

Climate: Hot all year, with heavy rainfall in the northern forests. The southern plains are drier and a little cooler.

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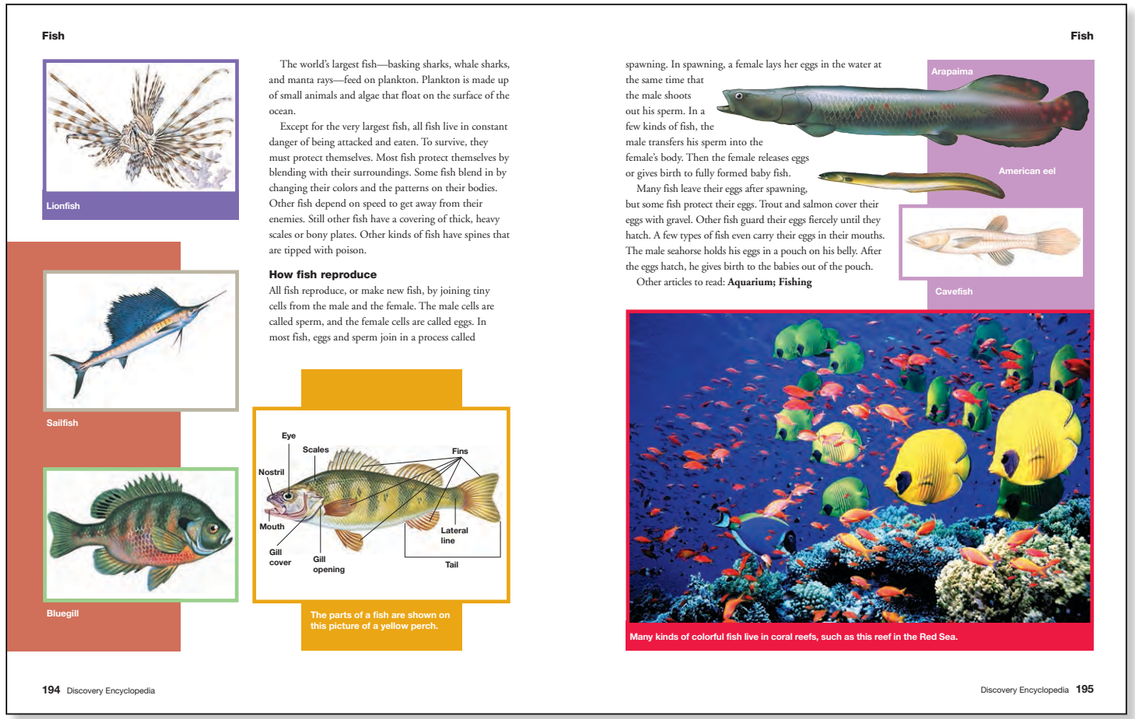

Fish

Fish

Lionfish

The world's largest fish—basking sharks, whale sharks, and manta rays—feed on plankton. Plankton is made up of small animals and algae that float on the surface of the ocean.

Except for the very largest fish, all fish live in constant danger of being attacked and eaten. To survive, they must protect themselves. Most fish protect themselves by blending with their surroundings. Some fish blend in by changing their colors and the patterns on their bodies. Other fish depend on speed to get away from their enemies. Still other fish have a covering of thick, heavy scales or bony plates. Other kinds of fish have spines that are tipped with poison.

How fish reproduce

All fish reproduce, or make new fish, by joining tiny cells from the male and the female. The male cells are called sperm, and the female cells are called eggs. In most fish, eggs and sperm join in a process called spawning. In spawning, a female lays her eggs in the water at the same time that the male shoots out his sperm. In a few kinds of fish, the male transfers his sperm into the female's body. Then the female releases eggs or gives birth to fully formed baby fish.

Arapaima

American eel

Cavefish

Many fish leave their eggs after spawning, but some fish protect their eggs. Trout and salmon cover their eggs with gravel. Other fish guard their eggs fiercely until they hatch. A few types of fish even carry their eggs in their mouths. The male seahorse holds his eggs in a pouch on his belly. After the eggs hatch, he gives birth to the babies out of the pouch.

Other articles to read: **Aquarium; Fishing**

Sailfish

Bluegill

Eye
Scales
Fins
Nostril
Mouth
Gill cover
Gill opening
Lateral line
Tail

The parts of a fish are shown on this picture of a yellow perch.

Many kinds of colorful fish live in coral reefs, such as this reef in the Red Sea.

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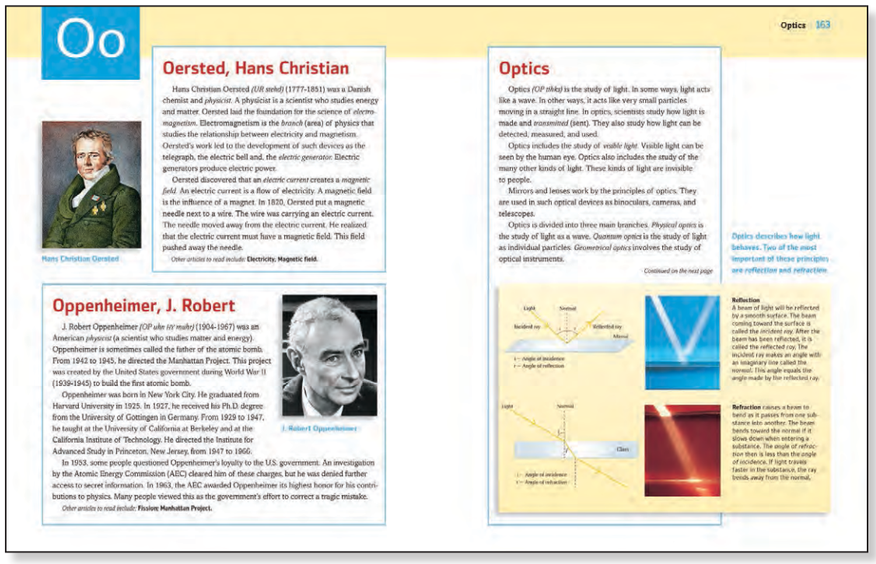

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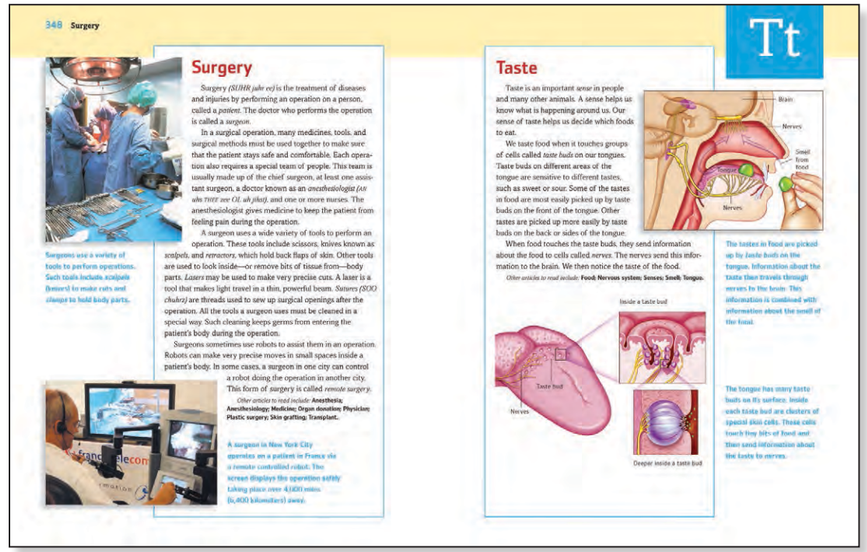

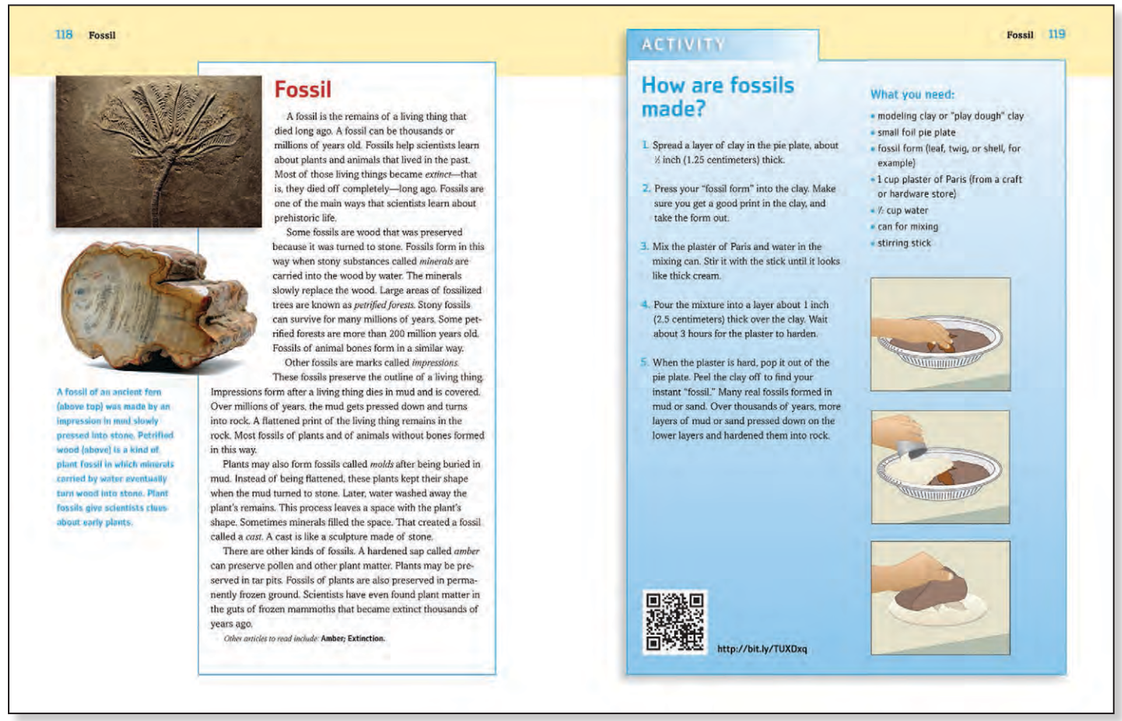

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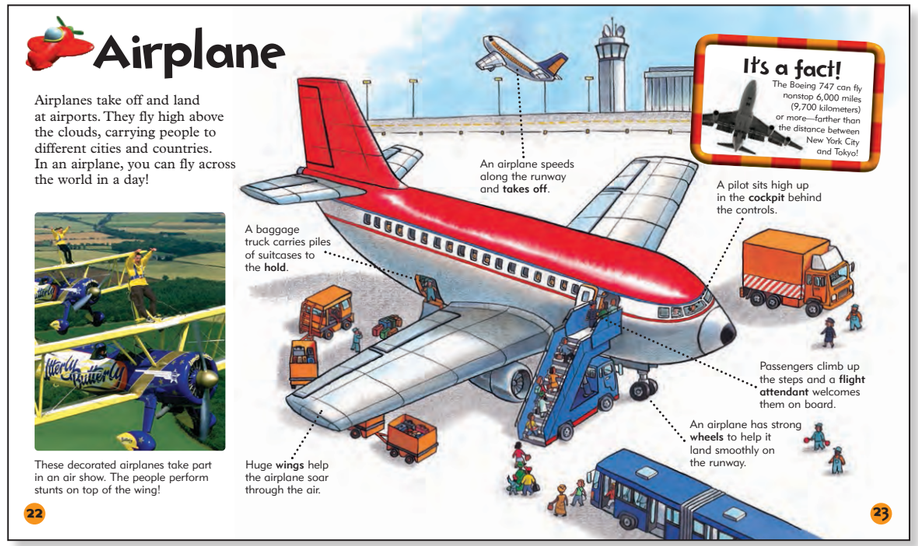

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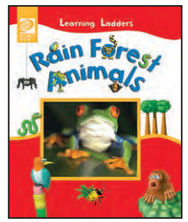

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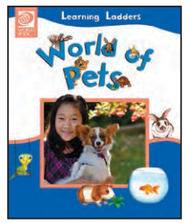

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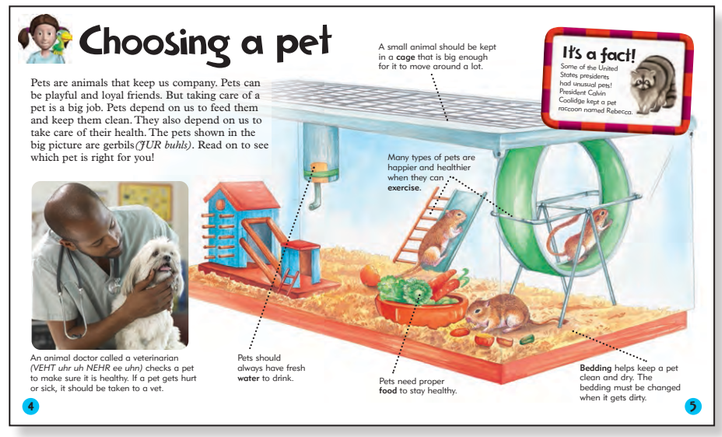

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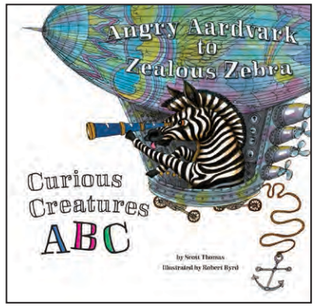



Angry Aardvark to Zealous Zebra*
Dr. Mollie Cule Reboots the Robot*
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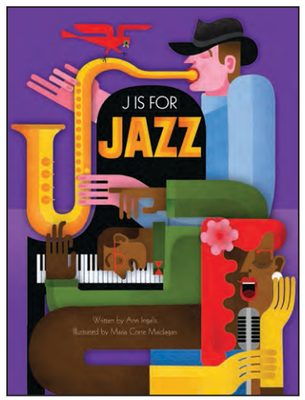

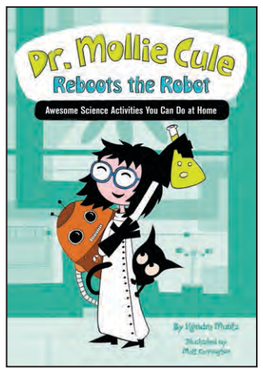

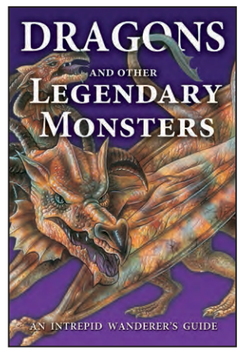

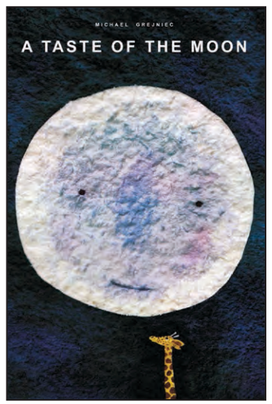

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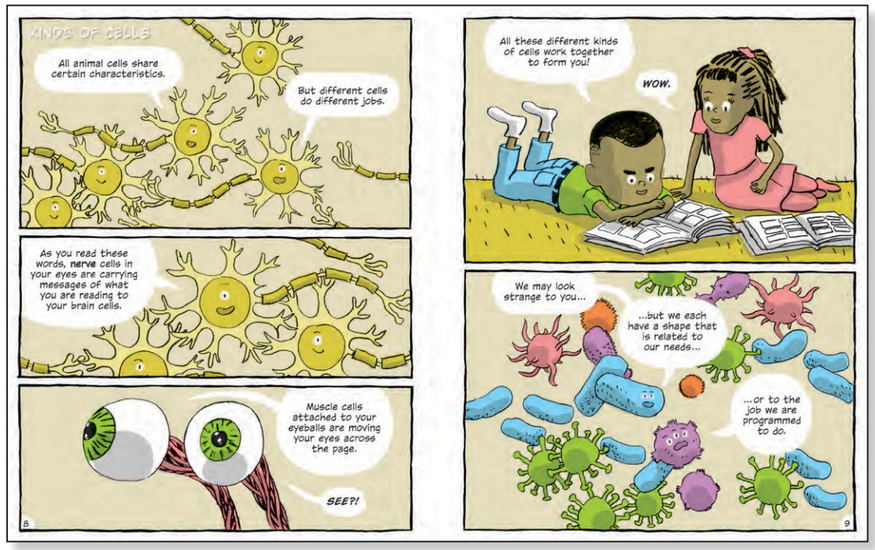
SET 1

Go deep inside the human body to learn about organs, structures, and systems in this offbeat but effective approach to science!



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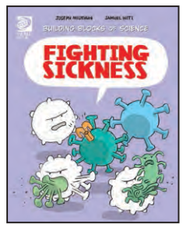

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Fighting Sickness
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The Respiratory System
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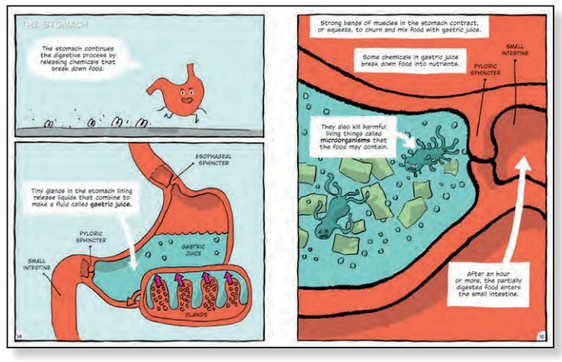
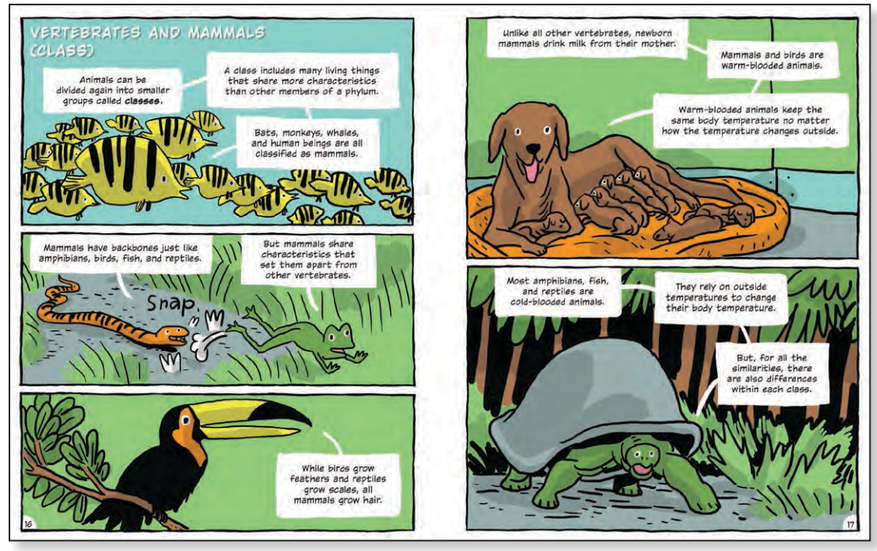


Created by Samuel Hiti and Joseph Midthun.
Art by Samuel Hiti. Text by Joseph Midthun.

BUILDING BLOCKS OF LIFE SCIENCE

SET 2

Animal and plant behaviors, life cycles, and more take center stage in this continuation of the popular *Building Blocks of Science* series that makes science fun and approachable.



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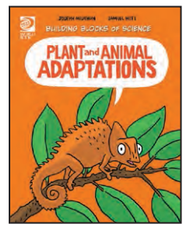

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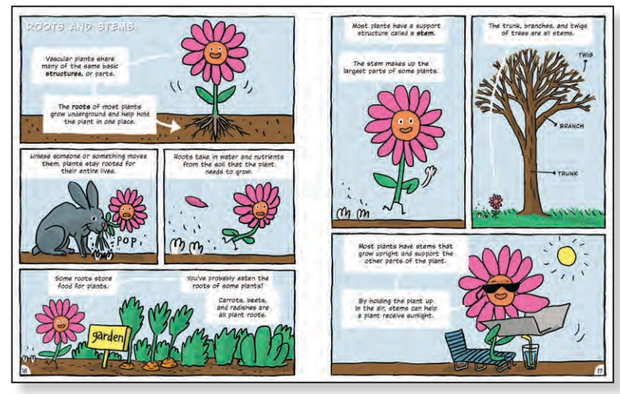

BUILDING BLOCKS OF PHYSICAL SCIENCE

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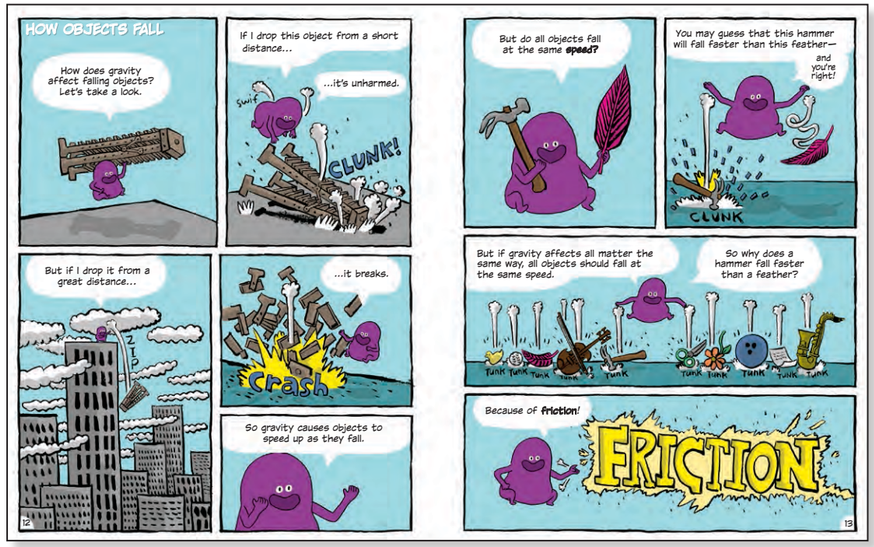
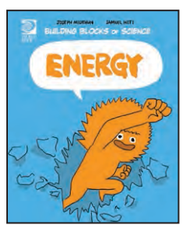


"You can't go wrong with this series for either struggling scientists or kids just starting to wrap their minds around the basics."

–Booklist



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- **Light**
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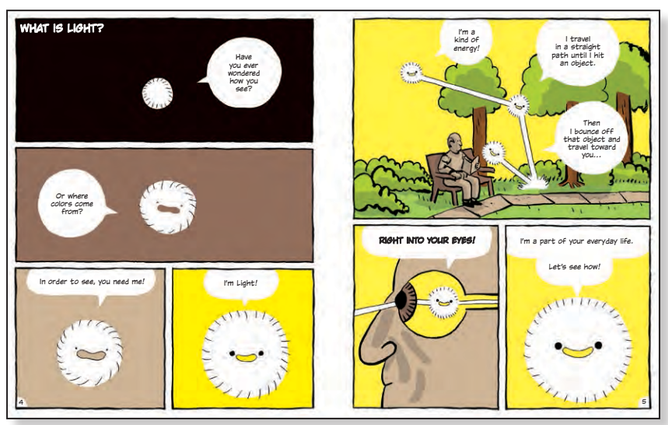

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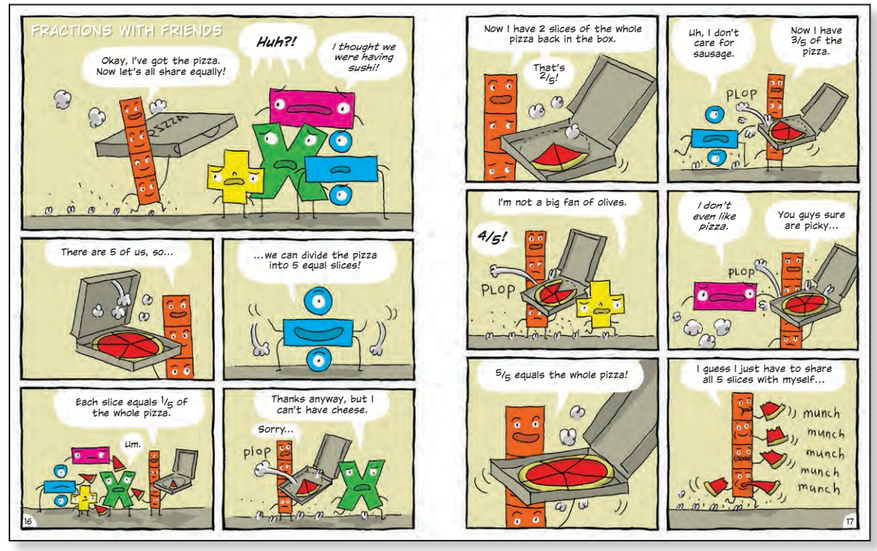

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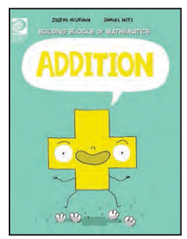

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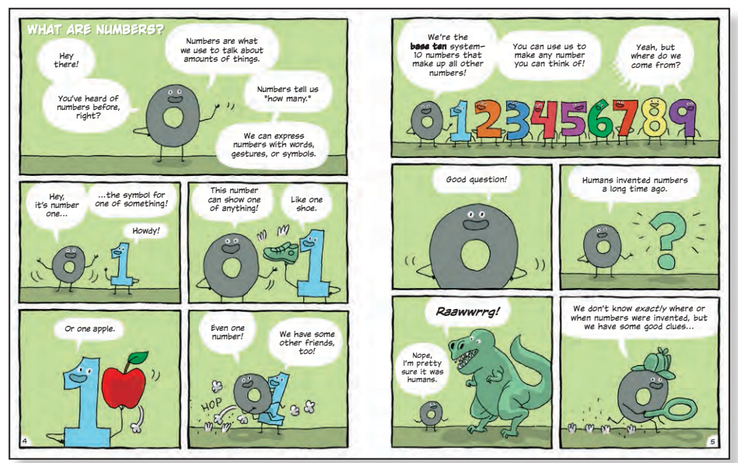

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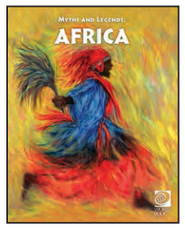

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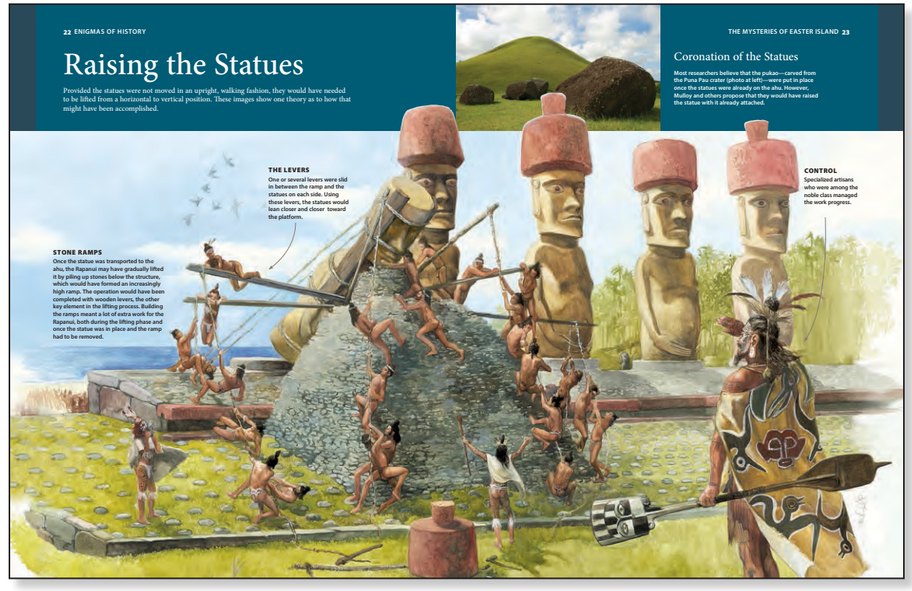

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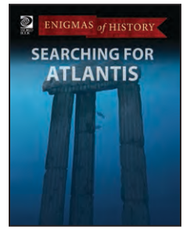

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- The Mysteries of Stonehenge
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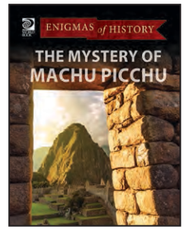

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- The Bermuda Triangle and Other Mysteries of the Deep
- The Mysteries in the Nazca Desert
- The Mysteries of Egypt's Pyramids
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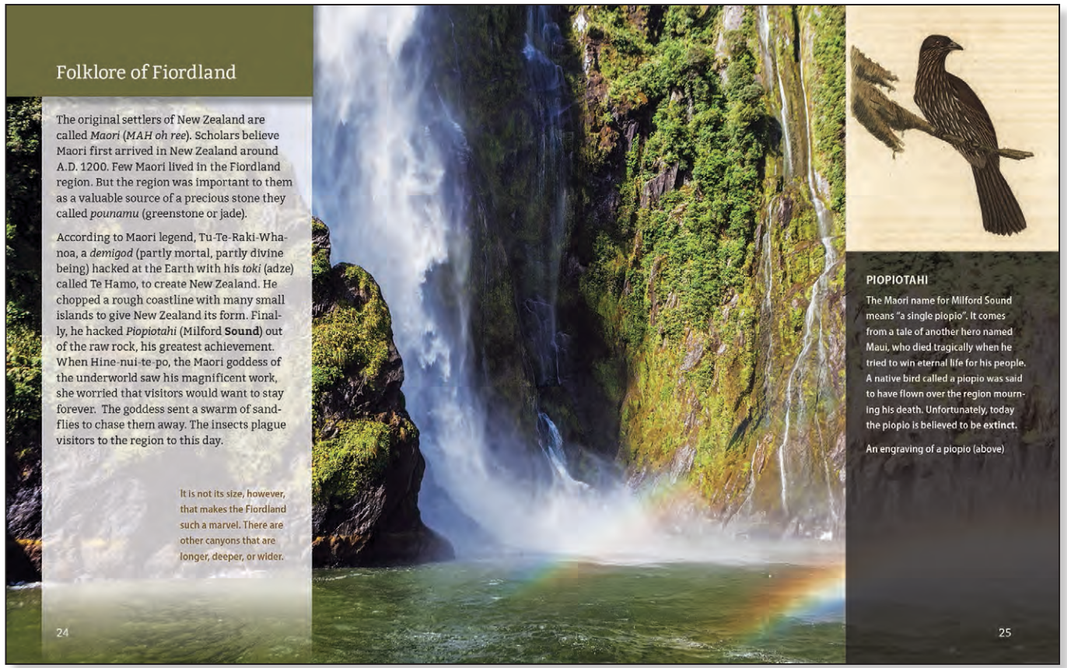

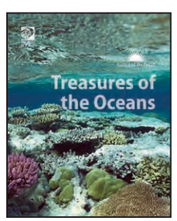

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Enchanted Landscapes
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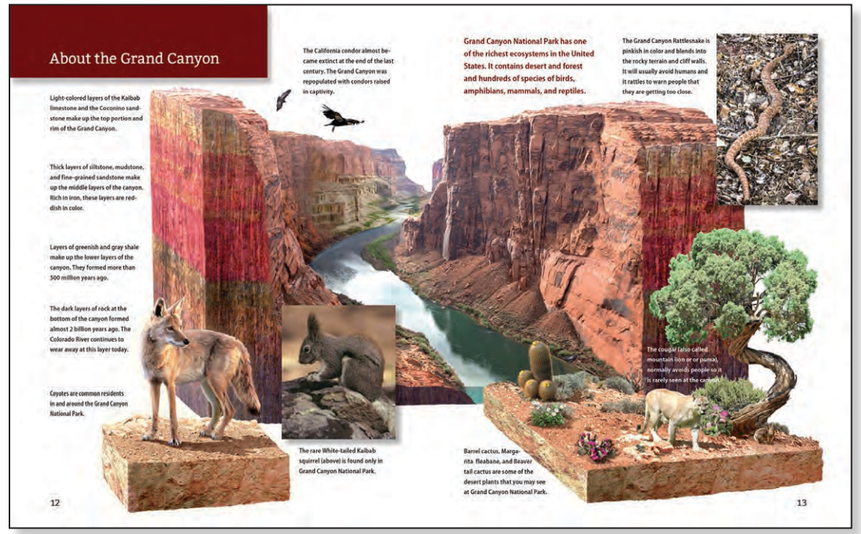

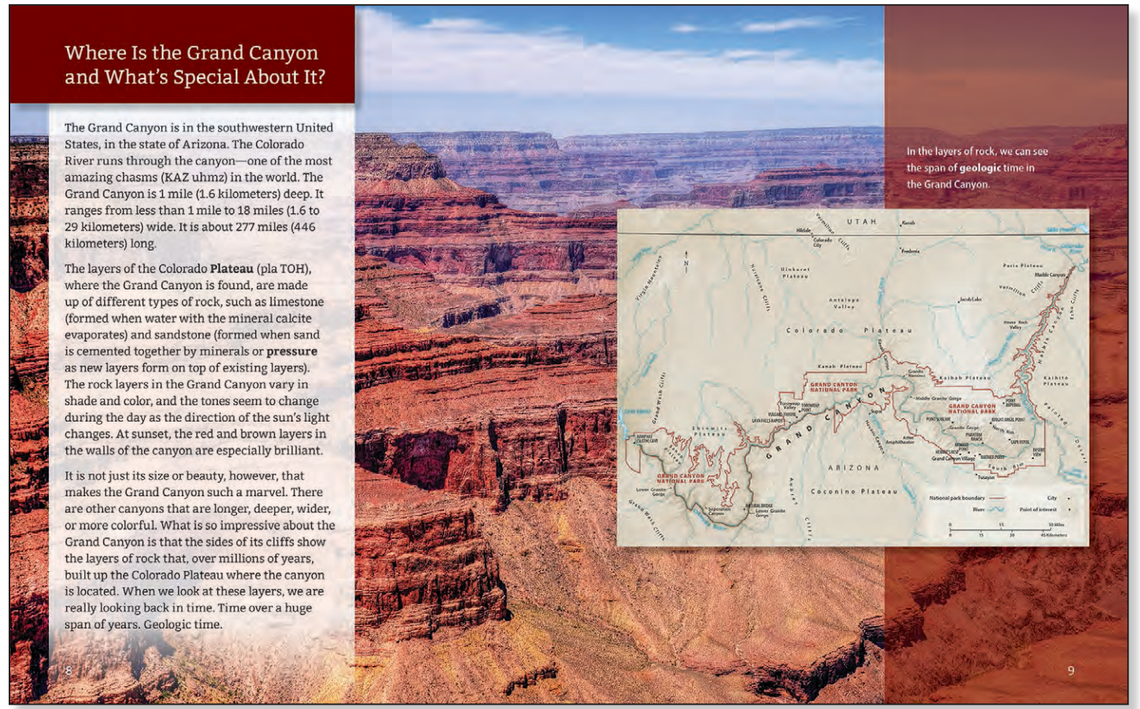

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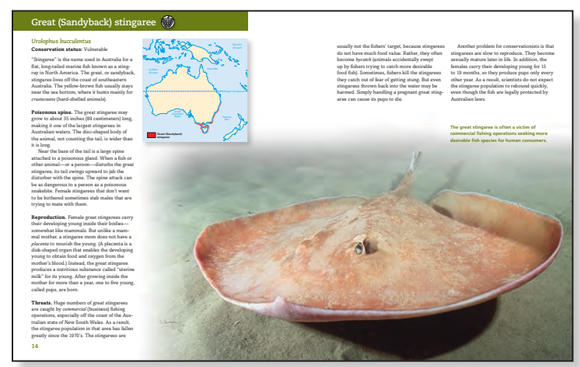
Endangered Animals of the Oceans
Extinct!



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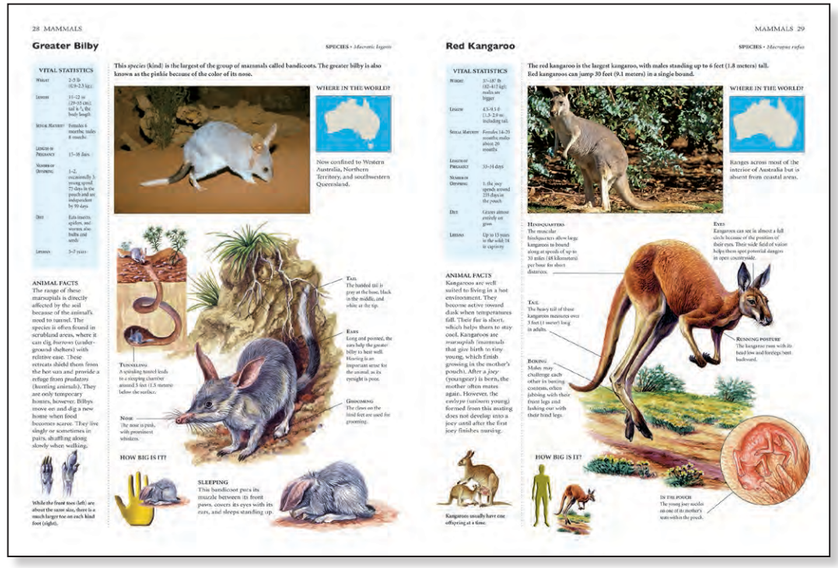



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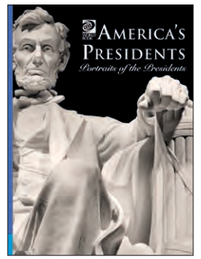

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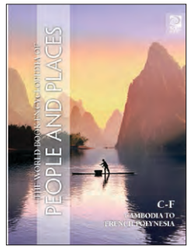

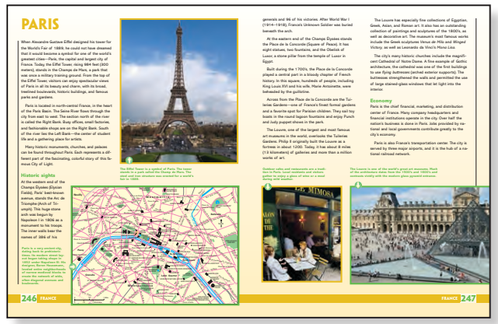

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"... interesting and likely to stimulate further questions from the readers. **Highly recommended."**

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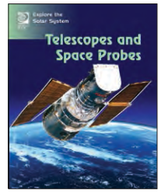

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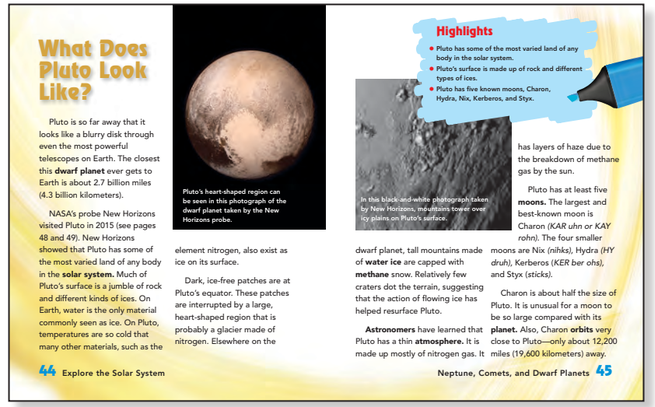

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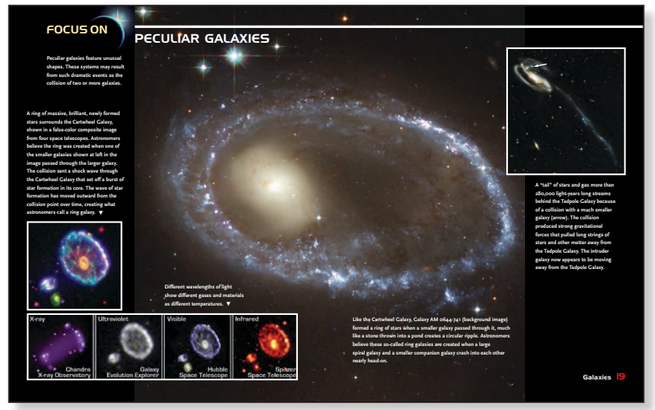

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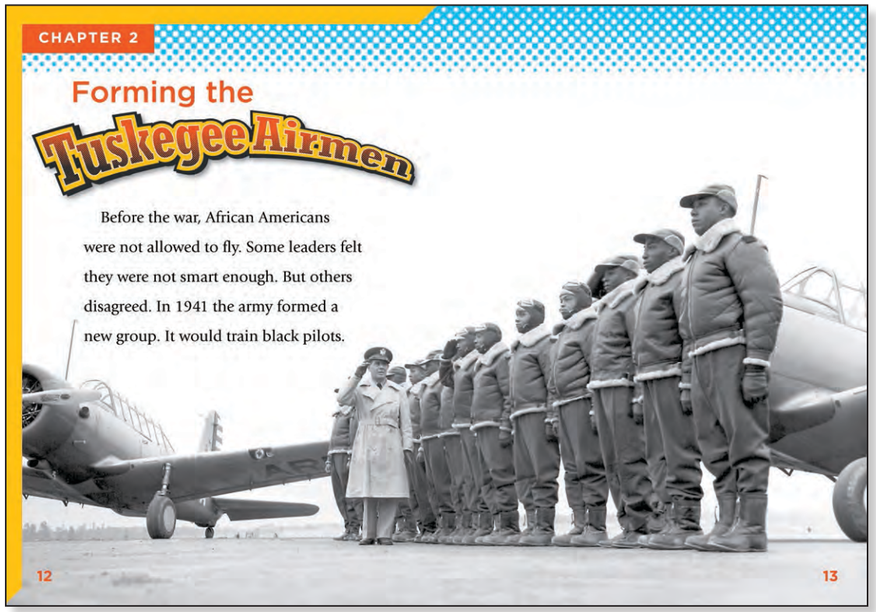



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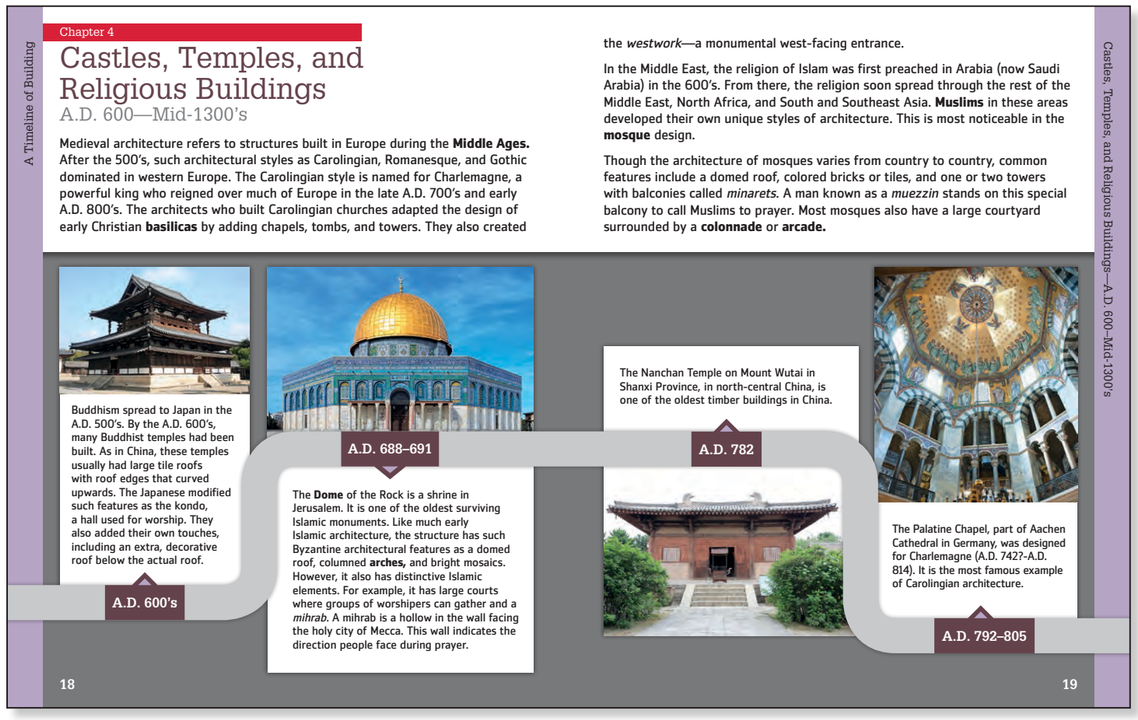

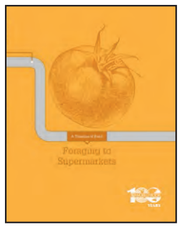

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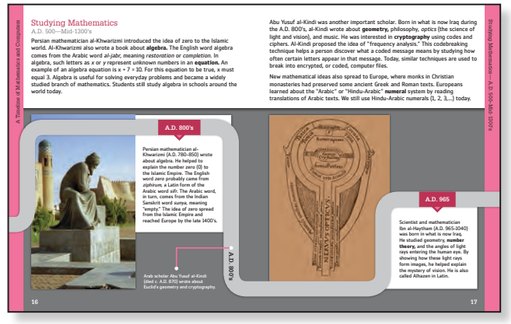

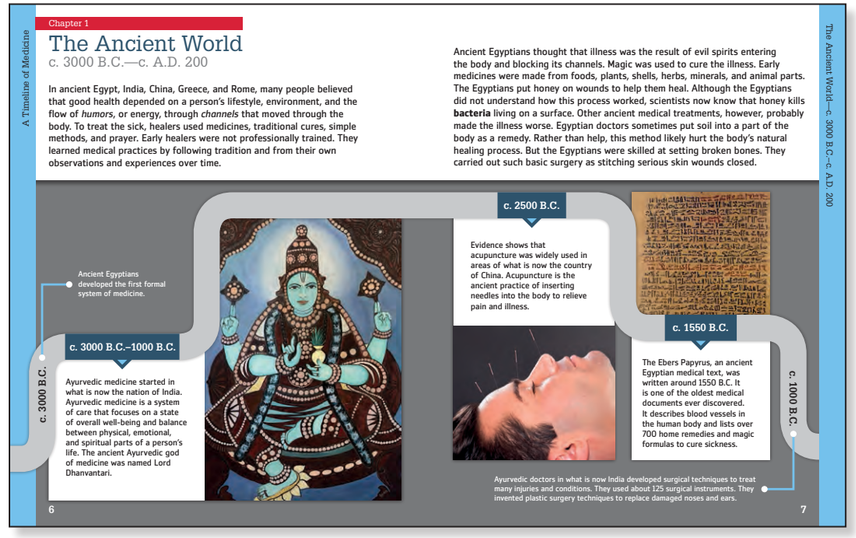

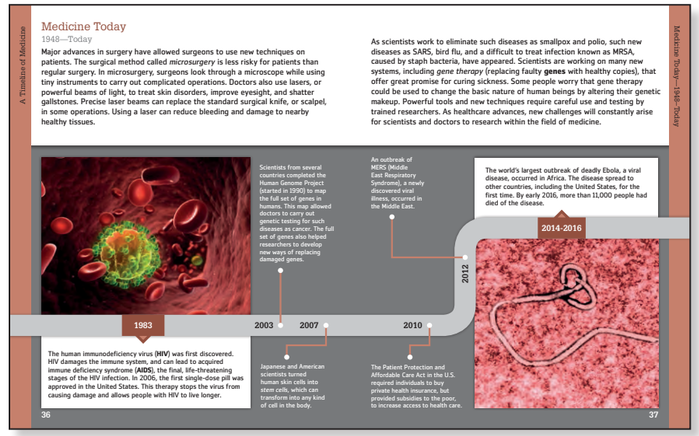

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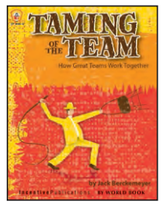







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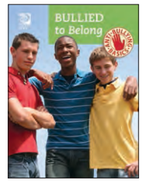

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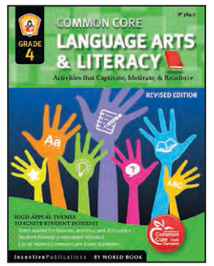

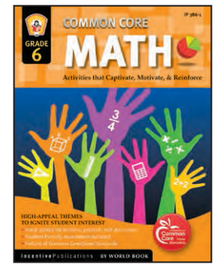

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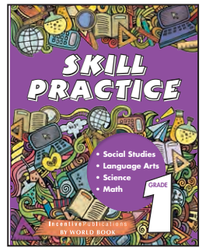

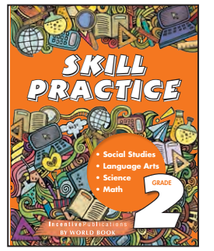

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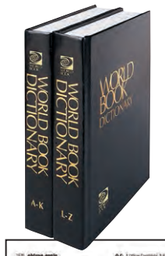





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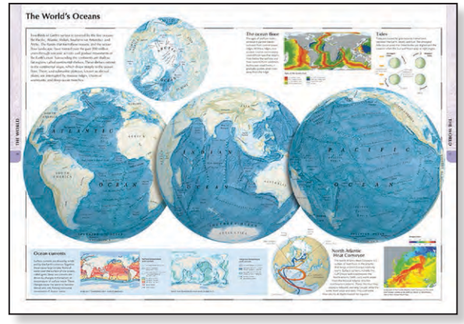

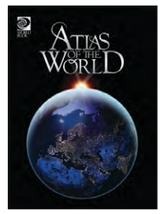

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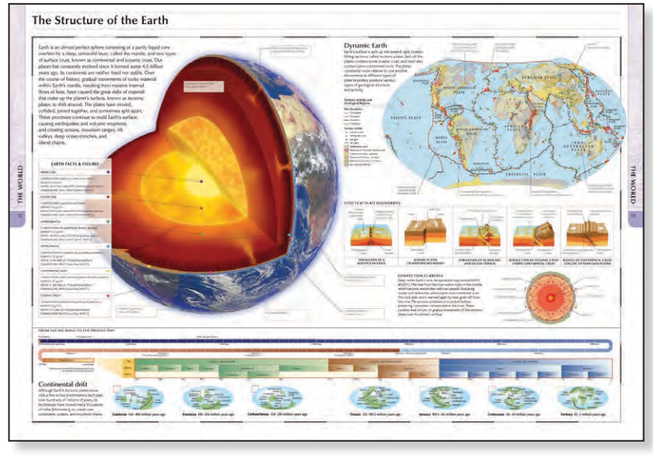

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37	Common Core Bundle Grades K-5	60306	—	12	$159 (US) $179 (CAN)	$190 (US) $210 (CAN)		
37	Common Core Bundle Grades 6-8	60301	—	6	$79 (US) $89 (CAN)	$95 (US) $105 (CAN)		
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12-13	Discovery Science Encyclopedia	20360	978-0-7166-7526-6	9	$365 (US) $399 (CAN)	$439 (US) $479 (CAN)		
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23	Enigmas of History Set 2	20356	978-0-7166-2670-1	8	$209 (US) $225 (CAN)	$249 (US) $269 (CAN)		
31	Explore the Solar System	20337	978-0-7166-2549-0	10	$269 (US) $295 (CAN)	$325 (US) $355 (CAN)	Yes	Yes
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42	Living Green	20374	978-0-7166-2346-5	9	$155 (US) $169 (CAN)	$185 (US) $205 (CAN)	Yes	Yes
24-25	Natural Marvels ***NEW!***	20369	978-0-7166-3363-1	8	$175 (US) $195 (CAN)	$210 (US) $235 (CAN)		
30	People and Places	20291	978-0-7166-3760-8	7	$359 (US) $395 (CAN)	$429 (US) $475 (CAN)		
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16	Young Readers Bundle	60302	—	8	$89 (US) $99 (CAN)	$105 (US) $119 (CAN)		Yes**

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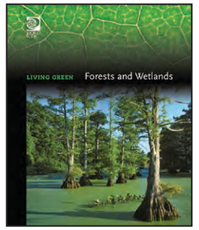

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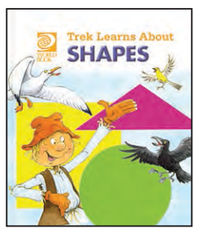

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