

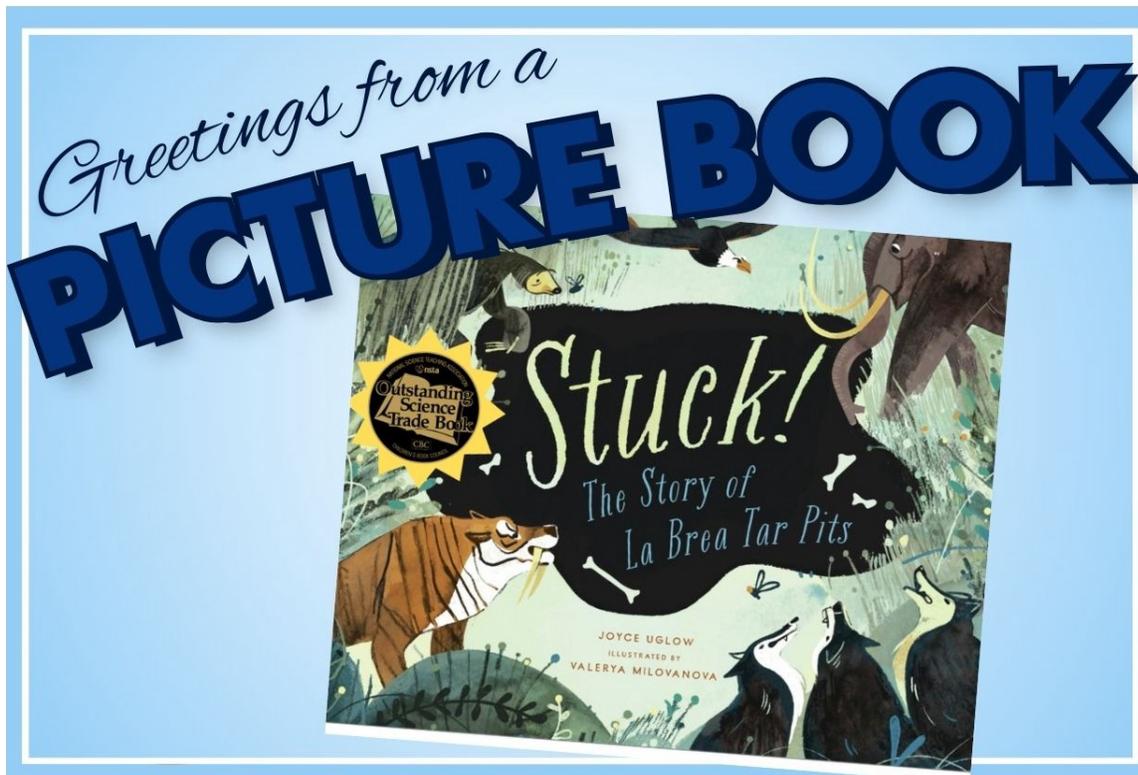
A ROUND UP OF PICTURE BOOKS: TEACHING ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

Book list compiled by Joyce P. Uglow

“Look again at that dot. That’s here. That’s home. That’s us ... a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam ... the only home we’ve ever known.” — Carl Sagan, *Pale Blue Dot* (1994)

NCTE Position Statement Role of Nonfiction

<https://ncte.org/statement/role-of-nonfiction-literature-k-12/>



Picture Book Postcard - AprilBerryBooks.com - Picture Book Postcard - AprilBerryBooks.com - Picture Book Postcard

Questions to Consider When Using Picture Books to Teach About Our Planet

Why should we care about the environment?

What are some of the ways we rely on nature?

How do our choices affect the planet?

How does this book help us to think differently about our surroundings?

Notice and Wonder

This is How You Know: How Science Happens by Kirsten W. Larson, illustrated by Cornelia Li

Think about parks, gardens, hiking grounds, lakes, oceans, and other natural landscapes, or places that allow you to interact with plants and animals such as nature preserves, museums, or zoos.

As a class, discuss some of the locations that you'd like to recommend for people visiting your area. Did classmates suggest any places that you'd never heard of before? Why might it be important for people to be able to access the outdoors and spend time in nature?

Gather information about animal habitats as they relate to the climate crisis.

How are the environments changing?

Talking points... Billions of people around the world rely on water from glaciers. Today, Earth has just two ice sheets left. One covers most of Greenland, the largest island in the world, and other stretches across Antarctica.

How the animals adjusting?

Which animals are endangered? Protected? Extinct?

Create a list of ways you could help protect plants and animals.

Draw a picture of the environment the plants and/or animals currently have next to the one they need to survive. Hang the drawings around your school or classroom to help spread awareness about protecting the planet.

Earth Science (NGSS examples)

- K-ESS2-1 Use and share observations of local weather conditions to describe patterns over time
- K-ESS2-2 Construct an argument supported by evidence for how plants and animals (including humans) can change the environment to meet their needs.
- 3-ESS2-2 Obtain and combine information to describe climates in different regions of the world
- 3 ESS2.D Weather and Climate (Climate describes a range of an area's typical weather conditions and the extent to which those conditions vary over years.)

Life Science (NGSS examples)

- LS2.A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems (Plants depend on water and light to grow.)
- LS4-1: Observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats

Common Core State Standards: Writing example

- W2.8 Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.
-

A ROUND UP OF PICTURE BOOKS: TEACHING ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

Book list compiled by Joyce Uglow

<https://joyceuglowauthor.com> <https://jpuglow.substack.com/>
<https://ugronews.substack.com/> Email: jpuglow@gmail.com

Be A Tree by Maria Gianferrari, illustrated by Felicita Sala

Bee Dance by Rick Chrustowski

Bird Girl: Gene Stratton-Porter Shares Her Love of Nature with the World by Jill Esbaum, illustrated by Rebecca Gibbon

Bird Lore: The Iridescent Life of Florence Merriam Bailey by Jess Keating, illustrated by Devon Holzwarth

Caves by Nell Cross Beckerman, illustrated by Kalen Chock

Dear Acorn Love, Oak: Letter Poems to Friends by Joyce Sidman, illustrated by Melissa Sweet

Desert Song by Laekan Zea Kemp, illustrated by Beatriz Guitiérrez Hernández

Every Little Seed by Cynthia Schumerth, illustrated by Elisa Paganelli

Gift of Dust: How Saharan Plumes Feed the Planet by Martha Brockenbrough, illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal

Great Gusts: Winds of the World and the Science Behind Them by Melanie Crowder and Megan Benedict, illustrated by Khoa Le

The Great Lakes: Our Freshwater Treasure by Barb Rosenstock, illustrated by Jamey Christoph

Hello Earth: Poems to Our Planet by Joyce Sidman, illustrated by Miren Asiain Lora

Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera by Candace Fleming, illustrated by Eric Rohmann

Nature is a Sculptor: Weathering and Erosion by Heather Ferranti Kinser

One Day This Tree Will Fall by Leslie Barnard Booth, illustrated by Stephanie Fizer Coleman

Park to Playa: The Trails That Connect Us by Nell Cross Beckerman, illustrated by Sophie Diao

River of Dust: The Life-Giving Link Between North Africa and the Amazon by Jilanne Hoffman, illustrated by Eugenia Mello

Stalactite & Stalagmite by Drew Beckmeyer

[*Stuck! The Story of La Brea Tar Pits*](#) by Joyce Uglow, illustrated by Valerya Milovanova

Trees: Haiku From Roots to Leaves by Sally M. Walker, illustrated by Angela McKay

Volcanoes by Nell Cross Beckerman, illustrated by Kalen Chock

Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt by Kate Messner, illustrated by Christopher Silas Neal

Watersong by Tim McCanna

Waverly Braves the Breeze: The Story of a Galápagos Albatross by Samantha Cora, illustrated by Rosie Eve

What Can You Do with a Rock? By Pat Zietlow Miller, illustrated by Katie Kath

“You are responsible for how people remember you—or don’t. So don’t take it lightly.” – Kobe Bryant