



# Discovering the World Page by Page: Why Kids Need Non-Fiction

[www.kidsacademy.mobi](http://www.kidsacademy.mobi)

As a child progresses through school, non-fiction books become more important in their learning journey. However, oftentimes children are not exposed to appropriate non-fiction books at an early age. Non-fiction selections are a great choice for young readers, leading them to gain exciting knowledge about the real world. For kids in elementary school, especially those budding readers in second grade who are now starting to read to learn, non-fiction pieces are a great way to expand a child's knowledge about the world.


Kids Academy offers a bunch of excellent interactive [Non-fiction Comprehension Quizzes](#) developed to improve children's skills of working with informational texts. Click on the gif below to check out the quizzes!

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Look at the illustration and choose all the descriptions that match a stegosaurus.



**Stegosaurus**



**It has...**

bony plates on its back and tail.

wings to help it fly.

fur.

back legs that are longer than its front legs.



Confirm

There are many benefits to exposing students in lower grades to non-fiction books:

- Children who are learning to read in second grade, can grasp a better understanding of many subjects, making learning in all areas more accessible and enjoyable.
- Young children can gain a special vocabulary which can help them express their thoughts and questions about the world. And prepare them for upper grades.
- Non-fiction teaches critical thinking skills, encouraging children to analyze information, differentiate between fact and opinion, and draw conclusions.
- Through different types of books, children can gain an understanding of different cultures, perspectives, and experiences. All while developing empathy and compassion for others.

### Picking the Perfect Non-fiction Books

With non-fiction books not typically being accessible to children at a younger age, it is important to select options that are not overwhelming and make learning feel like an adventure rather than a chore.

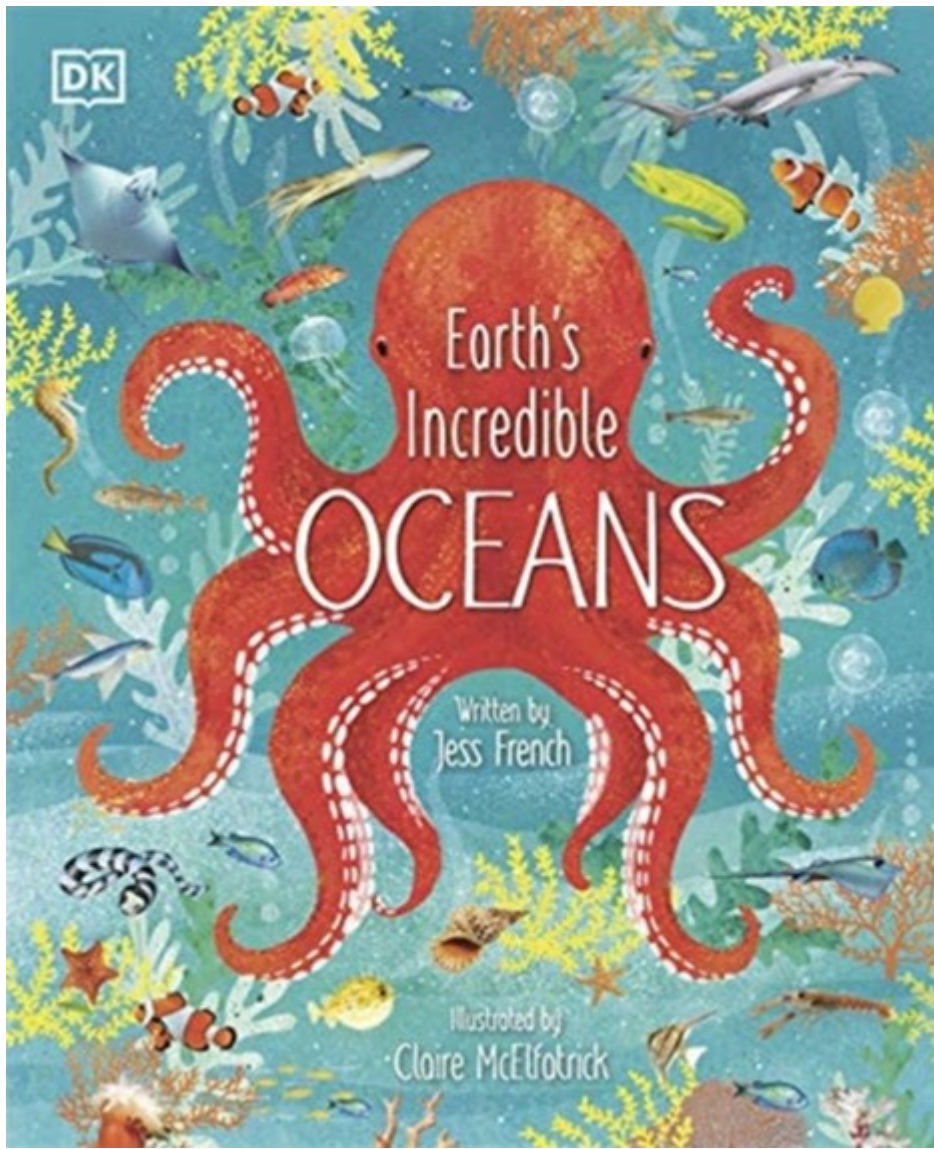
- Talk to your child about topics that they are interested in. They will be more engaged if it is a topic they enjoy. If your child loves sea life they might like to read a book like "Earth's Incredible Oceans" by Jess French. Or if they enjoy playing video games they could want to explore how one man changed the way video games were played in the book "Jerry Changed the Game!" by Don Tate



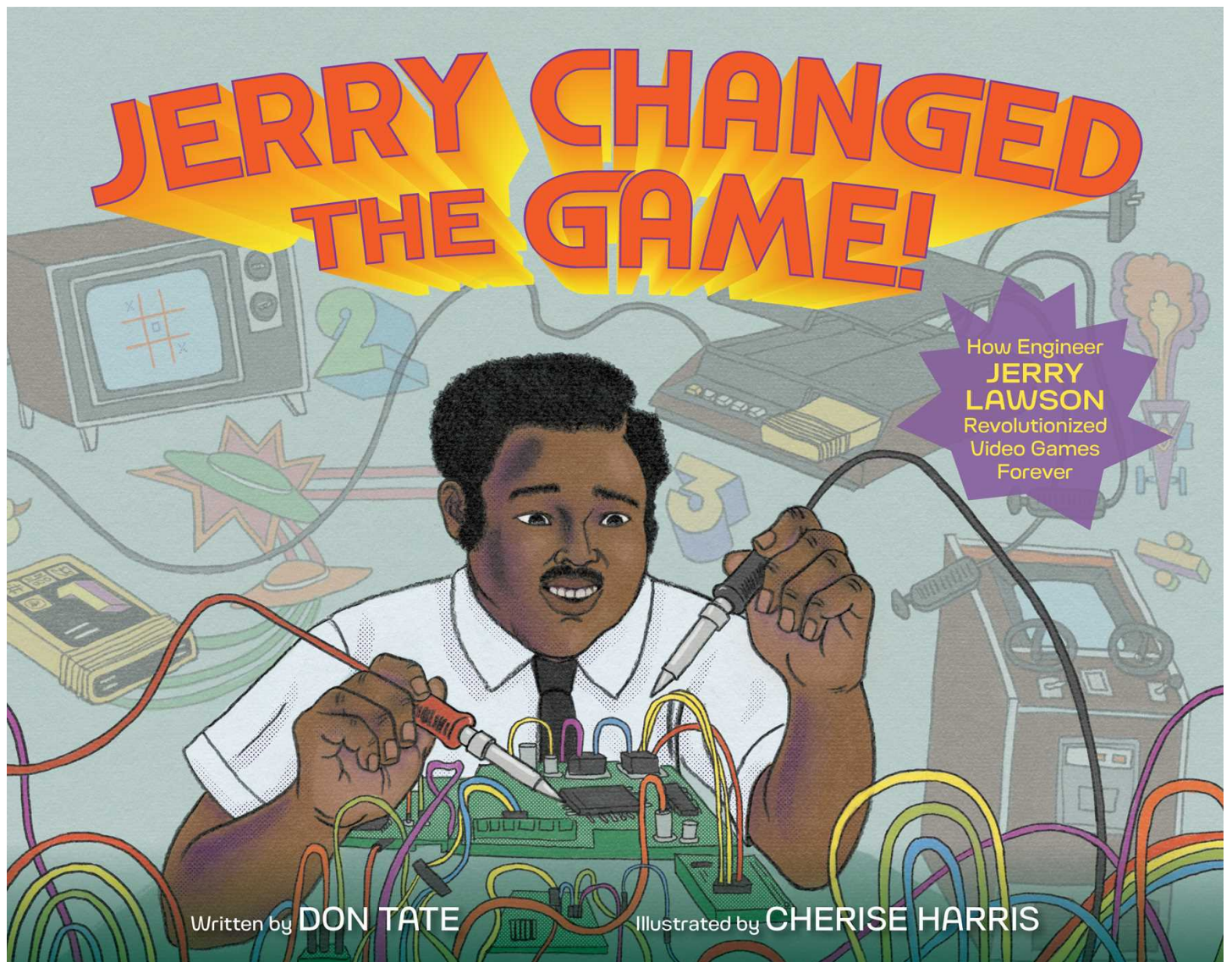
# Earth's Incredible OCEANS

Written by  
Jess French

Illustrated by  
Claire McElfotrick







- Make connections to what is going on in their life. If you notice your child has been pointing out different types of bugs when outside, then giving them a book like “Bugs (A Day in the Life): What Do Bees, Ants, and Dragonflies Get Up to All Day?” might pique their interest and expand their learning on bugs.



A DAY IN THE LIFE

# Bugs

WHAT DO BEES, ANTS, AND DRAGONFLIES  
GET UP TO ALL DAY?



DR JESSICA L. WARE

NEON  SQUID

CHAAYA PRABHAT



VOICES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

PACIFIC ISLANDS

# FIJI



by Tarisi Vunidilo

- Pair their favorite fiction story with a non-fiction book. If your child loves the story of “Moana”, they may enjoy the non-fiction book “Fiji” by Tarisi Vunidilo, as it talks about the island the movie is inspired by.

When picking out non-fiction books for a your child, remember it's not just about getting them busy with reading. It's also about sparking their curiosity, raising their confidence, and promoting a lifelong love for learning.

## Fun Ways to Dive Into Non-fiction

Digging into a non-fiction book doesn't have to be boring. Working with kids on non-fiction books is all about making the experience interactive and fun. Like mentioned before, start by choosing a book that is interesting to them. Once you have the right book, there are many ways you can enhance their learning through non-fiction books.

- As you read, pause to chat about interesting facts or ask questions like, "What do you think happens next?" or "Why do you think that's important?"
- Use interactive learning worksheets. Our collection of [2nd grade reading worksheets](#) is all about making learning exciting, with cool topics and questions that get kids thinking. Is your child interested in protecting the planet? Have them check out [Changes to the Amazon](#) worksheet after reading about the rain forest to reinforce their learning. There are questions that check for their understanding and get them to make cause and effect connections. Or do they want to know more about our largest planet in the solar system? Our [Jupiter Facts](#) worksheet will give them some cool information about the planet as well as testing their understanding with a true or false check. Click on the worksheets to download them or complete online!

# CHANGES TO THE AMAZON

1. Read the text. Look for **cause** and **effect** relationships.

The Amazon Rainforest is one of the most important ecosystems in the world. It is home to thousands of species of plants and animals. This unique habitat is in danger. Climate change has caused changes in weather patterns which has harmed the delicate ecosystem. Deforestation (massive amounts of trees being cut down) has taken away the habitat of many unique animals that can only survive in the Amazon. Humans must reduce their impact on the environment or we will lose this valuable natural resource.



2. Check off the cause and effect in the passage.

**Cause:** Humans are cutting down trees and pollution is causing climate change.

☐

**Effect:** The Amazon Rainforest is in trouble.

**Cause:** The rainforest is a unique ecosystem.

☐

**Effect:** People are cutting down the trees.

**Cause:** The Amazon is home to many plants and animals.

☐

**Effect:** Climate change is causing changes to weather patterns.





# Jupiter Facts



Read the Jupiter facts below.  
Then, check the statements as True or False.

Jupiter is the largest planet in our Solar System. It has thick, colorful clouds of gases around it. At the center of Jupiter is a rocky core.

Jupiter spins very quickly on its axis. A day on Jupiter lasts only 9 hours and 55 minutes.

Jupiter has over 50 moons. It also has rings, just like Saturn, but you can't see them all that well.

Jupiter is famous for its Great Red Spot. The Red Spot is a huge storm that has been raging for over 150 years.



Earth is bigger than Jupiter.

☐

True

☐

False

A day on Jupiter is longer than a day on Earth.

☐

True

☐

False

Jupiter has many more moons than Earth.

☐

True

☐

False

- Make topics relatable by connecting them to your child's daily life and personal experiences. Whether it's through hands-on activities like planting a seed after reading about plants, using interactive maps to explore distant locations mentioned in books, or undertaking personal projects related to their readings, such as creating a poster about the solar system.
- Incorporate technology into your 2nd grader's non-fiction exploration. Websites like National Geographic Kids, BrainPOP Jr. or [Kids Academy](#) provide educational movies, quizzes, games, and activities on a wide range of topics, from science and social studies to reading and writing.

Non-fiction books are more than just educational tools; they can expose children of young ages to a wide variety of subjects preparing them for their later years in school. By selecting books that align with their interests and incorporating interactive elements, we can transform reading into an exciting adventure. This approach not only deepens their knowledge but fosters a lifelong passion for learning.

