



Be a (Reading) Champion for Change

Science is sensational—especially when you can use what you learn to effect positive change! These are activities to complete before, during, and after reading books with environmental themes, including the five books pictured. Feel free to print out these materials for each book you read.

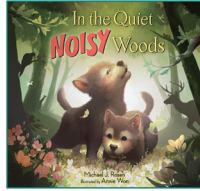
You can jot notes in the workspace, or simply talk through the questions.



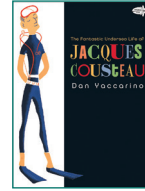
Kate Who Tamed the Wind
Liz Garton Scanlon
illustrated by Lee White



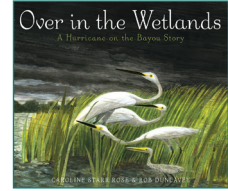
Emma and the Whale
Julie Case
illustrated by Lee White



In the Quiet, Noisy Woods
Michael J. Rosen
illustrated by Annie Won



The Fantastic Undersea Life of Jacques Cousteau
Dan Yaccarino



Over in the Wetlands
Caroline Starr Rose
illustrated by Rob Dunlavey

Before Reading

1. Read the definitions below. Look at the covers of the book you are using, and discuss which branch of science you think the book relates to. Support your answer with evidence (details you see on the covers).

- Environmental science is about how the earth works. Environmental scientists often study how humans have impacted the earth and how we can reduce that impact.
- Geology deals with the history of the earth and its life, especially as recorded in rocks.
- Marine biology studies oceans and the plants and animals that live there.
- Zoology investigates animals and their behavior.

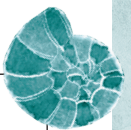


BOOK TITLE AND AUTHOR	TYPE(S) OF SCIENCE I THINK I'LL FIND IN THIS BOOK	COVER DETAILS THAT SUPPORT MY ANSWER

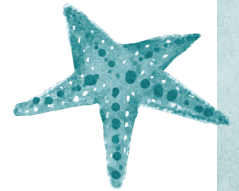
While You Read

2. As you read, make a list of actions and materials in the text that are helpful to the earth, and make a list of actions and materials that are harmful to the earth.

HELPFUL	HARMFUL



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After Reading

3. Who or what had an effect on the environment in the book you read?

4. What could you do to minimize the harm?

5. Complete an at-home project to help the environment.

- **Start a compost bin:**

- Use a bucket or a bin. If your bin has a lid, put holes in it to keep air circulating. (Compost needs lots of air).
- Find a spot for your bin. Composts are best placed outside in an easily accessible location, and ideally close to a water source.
- Composts must be damp, and adding water to your compost, just enough to moisten it, is something you will do regularly. Add soil to line the bottom of the bin and enough water to dampen the soil.
- Collect food scraps (including coffee grounds, vegetable peels, fruit scraps, and eggshells) and add them to the bin. Add water to dampen the compost whenever necessary. Over time, microorganisms will work to break your food scraps and soil into fertilizer! Do not add meat or other types of food waste—only the ones listed above—or outdoor critters might dig up your compost.
- In three months, your compost can be used as a natural fertilizer for plants—indoor and outdoor—and can help you minimize your food waste. Always aim to waste less food!

- **Art installation:** Many people do not realize that loose bottle caps cannot be recycled. Make a piece of art with your bottle caps and place it in your house to serve as a friendly reminder of the number of plastic bottles we use. You could collect them in a jar, or string them together. If you have enough, you could even write a message about recycling using the bottle caps!

- **Monitor electricity and water use:** Make a table listing all the devices that regularly use electricity or water in your household, along with the approximate number of minutes you use them each day. Update the table over the course of a week while you try to minimize usage. Make it a personal or whole-house challenge: How much electricity or water can you save? Who in the house can use the least electricity or water?

